

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 52 No. 50

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

December 17, 2003

Survey says

Holiday message
to deployed
troops
Page 2



Helping hands



Community thanked
for contributions
Page 9

Hail and farewell



General's wife
gets welcome
Page 10

Getting technical



Rocket sled train
sets world record
Page 12

Win or lose



West Point turns to
veteran coach
Page 22

Sky cameras give view for troops

Surveillance equipment
going to Iraq after test

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

The Army has put together its own version of candid camera to catch enemy forces in the act of preparing an attack on coalition forces. The RAID surveillance system is already at work in Afghanistan and it's now on its way to Iraq.

Last week, creators of the system brought it to Redstone for testing — to see if they can make it better.

"Things went very well," Lt. Col. Robert Rivas, provisional product manager for RAID, said. "We were very pleased with how well the enhancements worked."

Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment is a surveillance package that provides situational awareness enabling commanders to quickly locate threats and react with the appropriate degree of force to defeat them from a safe distance — 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) or more.

"The enemy can set up these rocket launchers and munitions to attack U.S. troops or assets miles away," Rivas said. "Then they use some low tech device, like a garage door opener, to remote launch. By the time we react, the enemy is already gone from the target. RAID lets us see what's going on while they're setting up. We can observe the activities before trouble happens. We can see people setting up mines. It gives us much better situational awareness without having to send troops into harm's way to find out what's going on."

RAID consists of 15-meter aerostats — some people call blimps or balloons — and towers, both equipped with a color day-time camera, an infrared black/white day or night camera and a laser range finder with pointing azimuth indicator that provides 360 degree visual coverage of distances up to and beyond eight miles to maintain constant surveillance.



Courtesy photo

ON PATROL— The 15-meter aerostat and 117-foot tower are in use in Afghanistan to maintain constant aerial surveillance.

"A lot of people think of the aerostats as balloons that will explode if they're hit, but that's not the case," Cmdr. Kris Biggs, Navy deputy project manager for JLENS, said. "The aerostat is not a balloon. It's a canvas bag filled with helium. It won't explode. A bullet hole will produce a small leak."

RAID was deployed to Afghanistan in March, and is primarily used to patrol border activity. Because of its success, Congress has provided \$38.3 million to send several systems to Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Cameras mounted on the stationary towers and on the tethered floating aerostats send data back to the system operator's computer about activity in the combat zone environment. The operators relay the information to troops who then assess the situation and determine the appropriate course of action.

See **Cameras** on page 17



Photo by Spec. Ryan McClymont

TIME TO GO— PFC Kristina Kunin, a trainee in explosive ordnance disposal, packs her bags in anticipation of the holiday exodus.

Holiday season means mass exodus for troops

Thousands of soldiers
going home from school

By Spec. RYAN MCCLYMONT
Staff writer
ryan.mcclymont@redstone.army.mil

The Christmas season brings to mind family, friends, gifts, and good food, but whether you travel by plane, train or automobile it also brings to mind long lines, long waits and dangerous winter weather.

A trip home makes it all worthwhile, however.

On Friday morning bus stations, airport terminals, and highways throughout the United States will be busy transporting thousands of soldiers home for Christmas. The 832nd Ordnance Battalion will allow

all 350 of its advanced individual training soldiers to take part in the Christmas and New Year holiday exodus.

"Christmas exodus allows soldiers in training an opportunity to see their families over the holiday season. It also gives our drill sergeants and instructors a break from their back-to-back schedules to enjoy the holiday season," Maj. Todd Dudinsky, the 832nd executive officer, said.

"The break is great for morale," said PFC Brian James, a trainee in explosive ordnance disposal. "I'm looking forward to seeing my wife and parents and just relaxing."

"Friday is going to be an early morning," Dudinsky said, "with some of the soldiers getting up as early as 2 a.m."

See **Exodus** on page 17

Building dedication appreciated

I wanted to thank the *Redstone Rocket* for the wonderful story written about my wife, Diane Campbell and the dedication of building 3711 in her memory and to all her friends and co-workers on Redstone Arsenal that attended the dedication on Dec. 3.

As much as this would have embarrassed Diane, having a building named after her, I know that she deserved it and

it is nice to know that others thought enough of her to name the center after her and to all these people, you have my deepest thanks. To Col. Bob Devlin, Mike Chemsak, Dan Ahern and everyone at the Recreation Center for all you have done for me, thank you very much for making this time special to me and to Diane.

Scott Campbell

Hats off to project office

Charity does begin at home. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems Project Office proved that during the holiday season. The project office was very kind and thoughtful by supporting those less fortunate. All contributions and donations were done on a voluntary basis. Through the efforts of such a wonderful team, the project office provided gifts for three families, the disabled veterans home, and items of warmth for the homeless shelter. I am sure the donations

helped make their Christmas merrier.

It is wonderful when people can touch the lives of others in the community. UAVS definitely knows what the true meaning of Christmas is all about. The selflessness, kindness, thoughtfulness of the individuals at UAVS are attributes of good team players. Hats off to the entire team for a job well done!

Connie R. Lindsey
Phoenix Services

Getting to know you

By KIM MASON

Staff writer
kimberly.mason@redstone.army.mil

Name: Kelly Brinson

Job: Inventory manager for Multiple Launch Rocket System/Army Tactical Missile System, Integrated Materiel Management Center

Where do you call home?
Huntsville, Ala.

What do you like about your job?

Being able to assist the soldiers in the field. That's really the bottom line, that we have assets on hand to assist the soldiers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like traveling as the executive vice president for the Huntsville/Madison County Chapter of Blacks in Government. I also am a licensed minister for Hope Community Church. I like to spend time with my family and friends.



What are your goals?

Professionally, my current goal is to work at the headquarters level. I want to help implement policies and procedures that will help the item managers, equipment specialists, etc.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

Dec. 5: An individual was observed weaving in the roadway at Gate 1. When stopped, he was found to be operating his motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. He was issued a violation notice and detained at the Provost Marshal Office until his blood alcohol level reached the legal limit.

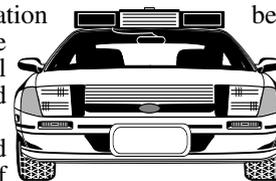
Dec. 7: A soldier was found to be under the influence of alcohol and acting in a disorderly manner during a check at his unit. He was processed and released to his unit.

Dec. 7: A soldier stopped at a vehicle inspection point on Vincent Drive was found to be operating his motor vehicle

under the influence of alcohol. He was issued a violation notice and detained at the Provost Marshal Office until his blood alcohol level reached the legal limit.

Dec. 10: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and detained at the Provost Marshal Office until his blood alcohol level reached the legal limit.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 34; failure to obey traffic control device, 2; improper backing, 1; failure to maintain insurance, 1; and driving under the influence of alcohol, 3.



An open lane random survey

What is your Christmas message to deployed troops?

By KELLEY LANE

Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Pvt. Christopher Sperry



"I wish them all the best of luck and hope for a safe return. Hopefully their families will have a good Christmas wherever they are."



Jennifer Verren
military spouse
"Just remember that we're all thinking about them and appreciate what they're doing."

Pvt. Nathan Fields



"I wish everybody a safe trip home, a happy holiday — as good as it can be — and hope everybody stays safe while they're over there. I wish their families a merry Christmas, too."



Julie Clippinger
military spouse
"I hope they have peace, at least on Christmas day while they're away from their families."

Quote of the week

'Christmas is a grace to see which gives out first — your money or your feet.'

— Unknown

Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* staff will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. After today's publication, our first issue next year is Jan. 7. We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season.



Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

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

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

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

email: redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil
Rocket articles are available online at the following:
https://ams9.redstone.army.mil:7443/pls/pao_ipao_home

Rocket Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Sandy Riebeling

Kelley Lane

Kim Mason

Copy Editor: Scott Seelye

Advertising Sales: Aletha Pardue

Petie Sims

The *Redstone Rocket* is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by *The Huntsville Times* a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for *The Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source.

Dodgen succeeds Cosumano at SMDC

ARLINGTON, Va. — Lt. Gen. Joseph Cosumano, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, relinquished command at a ceremony Tuesday at Fort Myer, Va., to Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, former commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal.

Dodgen, 54, who will receive his third star, commanded AMCOM from September 2001 until Dec. 1. He was deputy director for the Joint Theater Air and Mis-

sile Defense Organization from May 1998 to September 2001.

Cosumano left SMDC after having served as commander since April 30, 2001. Prior to SMDC, he was the assistant deputy chief of staff for Operations, Force Development at Headquarters, Department of the Army. This was followed by his assignment as director, Task Force Objective Force. He retires with 35 years active military service; and his 57th birthday was Monday.

Security awareness shouldn't take holiday break

Vigilance suggested at large gatherings

GARRISON INSTALLATION SECURITY OFFICE

Various agencies of the government are disseminating warnings of potential significant terrorist attacks during the holiday season. This article provides some key points for you and your families.

Possible targets include shopping malls, which provide an excellent target with large crowds, multiple ingress and egress routes, and hiding places for bombs. Terrorists prefer targets where they can avoid detection before or after an attack such as international airports, large cities, major international events, resorts, large group holiday gatherings/celebrations, and high-profile landmarks. Terrorist weapons include explosives, kidnappings, hijackings, arson and shootings.

There may be little or no prior warning of an incident. Be alert and aware of the surrounding area; be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior; and be alert for unattended boxes, containers or packages.

If you spot a suspicious object, clear the area around it and notify security or the police immediately. Do not use a cell phone near a suspicious object. If it is a bomb, it could cause it to detonate.

Report suspicious people or behavior. Your instincts and common sense will let you know when something doesn't look

right or feel right. Do not ignore those feelings. If it is suspicious to you, contact security or law enforcement personnel or even a store employee. Report anything that looks out of the ordinary.

Suicide bomber indicators: alone and nervous (profuse sweating, etc.); loose or bulky clothing (may not fit weather conditions); exposed wires (possibly through sleeve); rigid midsection (explosive device or may be carrying a rifle); and tightened hands (may hold detonation device).

Identify emergency exits. Think ahead about how to evacuate a building, subway or congested public area in a hurry. Learn where staircases are located. Be aware of heavy or breakable objects that could move, fall or break in an explosion. In evacuating a building, avoid standing in front of windows or other potentially hazardous areas. Do not restrict sidewalks or streets to be used by emergency officials.

In a building explosion, get out of the building as quickly and calmly as possible. If items are falling off of bookshelves or from the ceiling, get under a sturdy table or desk. If there is a fire, stay low to the floor and exit the building as quickly as possible. Cover nose and mouth with a wet cloth. When approaching a closed door, use the palm of your hand and forearm to feel the lower, middle and upper parts of the door. If it is not hot, brace yourself against the door and open it slowly. If it is hot to the touch, do not

Comanche helicopter flies with Army's deputy chief



Boeing-Sikorsky Team photo

PREFLIGHT— Lt. Gen. Richard Cody receives preflight information from CWO4 Bill Fell.

Lt. Gen. Richard Cody lauds developmental craft

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, Army deputy chief of staff, G-3, made program history Dec. 3 when he flew in a Comanche helicopter with chief program pilot Rus Stiles at the Development Flight Center.

Cody became the first non-Comanche affiliated aviator to fly in the aircraft.

“Of all the different rotary wing platforms I have flown in (more than 25 models) this is the most responsive and agile,” he said after the 50-minute flight. “It exceeded my expectations. Comanche is a leap-ahead airframe.”

Cody praised the government-contract-

tor team and urged everyone to push forward on the program with all due speed. “We need to get this system into the hands of soldiers,” he said.

Comanche program manager Col. Mike Cantor said the team was honored to host Cody. “It was a great day for Comanche. Comments from an aviator with Lt. Gen. Cody’s experience and expertise speak very well of our platform and the dedicated work the entire team has demonstrated to date,” he said.

Cantor urged the team to take up Cody’s challenge to deliver this platform within schedule and cost objectives. “I am proud to serve with each of you. Keep up the good work and let’s get this platform into the hands of our soldiers ASAP,” he said.

open the door — seek an alternate escape route. Heavy smoke and poisonous gases collect first along the ceiling. Stay below the smoke at all times.

Conclusion: As you travel, work, shop and engage in activities during the upcoming holiday season, you must

remain security conscious, be alert for suspicious behavior, and pay attention to your surroundings. Large gatherings of people at shopping malls, concerts, tree lightings and other holiday events provide terrorists with the “soft target” they prefer to attack.

Garrison delivers support in one big package

Installation management finishing first full year

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

Much like Santa's elves, the Garrison employees have been hard at work behind the scenes at Redstone. They have been making changes and reorganizing. They have put forth the extra effort to ensure that it has gone so smoothly many of their customers have never even noticed the change. Like packages that have appeared magically under the tree, customers have only seen the positive new developments, without knowing the teamwork that went into getting them there.

2003 has been the first full year of implementing the Transformation of

Installation Management Initiative for the organization which until October 2002 was still called Redstone Arsenal Support Activity. It is now back to the title of Garrison, which was changed to RASA in the 1970s. Installation management represents more than just a different name.

A good part of the changes deal with the how various offices are categorized. Many offices formerly under the Aviation and Missile Command are now part of the Garrison within the Southeast region of the Installation Management Agency.

"We're trying to make it so that if you have a question as far as where you go for support, it always comes back to about the same place," Col. Bob Devlin, Garrison commander, said. "It's a lot easier if your focus is supporting people in the local community, to keep that consistent way of viewing things and making sure you focus on that than if part of what you do supports the local community, part of it's buying parts for someone else and part of it's supporting forward. Everyone who supports customers is more or less focused in the same organization."

Besides improving customer support, the changes are designed to somewhat standardize Army installations. Besides the organizational changes, other changes are as simple as making gates look and work the same, and the standardization of signs. Attempts are also being made to standardize funding. By giving all installations a similar look and feel, the acclimation time for those entering a post for the first time will be shortened.

"I think over the next couple of years, you'll see where it becomes a lot easier for people to go from place to place and understand what is there," Devlin said. The Redstone Planning Team's involvement with the development of the standards to be implemented Armywide has shortened the stress of some of these physical changes, he said. "A lot of where the Army standards are going are based on things coming out of Redstone."

The most visible sign of change at the Garrison is perhaps the ease of communication with the organization. New opportunities for feedback from the community are in place, including an online survey. "We've gone online with surveys at the web site," Devlin said. "Anyone can go on and say 'Liked this, didn't like that.'"



Photo by Kelley Lane

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT— Col. Bob Devlin and the rest of the Garrison elves have been busy this year.

In addition to feedback from individuals, they have also set up committees, where organizations can put their collective two cents in. It makes for a more open

dialogue between members of the Redstone community and the Garrison who serves them.

"We've given them a greater voice in the running of the community than they've ever had before," Devlin said. That includes a voice in plans such as the bowling center under construction, a new dining facility for soldiers, a movie theater and the replacement of Pagano Gym.

While the means by which the Garrison supports the Redstone community may have changed behind the scenes, the quality of that support has not. In fact, some may never notice that anything has changed at all, proof of how much work has gone into the changes.

"Has it changed that much to the people we support? No, not really. Other than that you don't call us RASA anymore, you call us the Garrison," Devlin said. "They get the same level of support. Hopefully, we're a little more responsive. We've got more ways to get feedback, but by and large the support is the same."



Photo by Michelle Gordon

Salute to military

About 350 people attended the "MWR Salutes Our Military" event Nov. 23 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff entertained troops who would be here through Thanksgiving. "It was very successful," Michelle Gordon, MWR sales and marketing sponsorship coordinator, said.

Aviation technology workers earn recognition

Fiscal 2003 awards presented to five

FORT EUSTIS, Va. — Five employees of the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate have earned the Director's Awards for their outstanding contributions during fiscal 2003.

They were selected for general excellence in the following categories: technical support, business and/or professional administrative functions, general and/or administrative support, engineering and science and/or program management, and technological achievement.

Dr. Thomas Killion, acting deputy assistant secretary for research and technology, office of the assistant secretary of the Army was the guest speaker.

Each honoree received the Department of the Army Citation, an engraved plaque, and cash award of \$1,500.

Brian McGhee received the Technical Support Award for providing superior levels of electronics support to the integration of Blue Force Tracking system onto UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

Terry Lewis earned the General and/or Administrative Support Award for maintaining the AATD grounds and buildings in top-notch condition and the Director's recycle program.

The Excellence in Business and/or Professional Administrative honor was awarded to Elizabeth Jackson for administering 20 contracts for fiscal 2003 that have a value of more than \$14 million.

Receiving the Excellence in Engineering and/or Program Management Award was Jerome Clifford for the design, development and testing of a new infrared suppressor system for the Kiowa helicopter Project Manager's office.

The Technological Achievement Award went to Dr. Marc Portanova for serving as the project engineer for the flight test, managing all aspects of the budget, schedule, in-house instrumentation and flight-test support, and airworthiness substantiation process for the Wing-Store Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

Col William Gavora, AATD commander, presented the awards assisted by Killion.



Photo by Ronald Bowman

DIRECTOR'S AWARDS— From left are Dr. Thomas Killion, acting deputy assistant secretary for research and technology, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology); Ned Chase, accepting the Technological Achievement Award for Dr. Marc Portanova; Jerome Clifford, Engineering and Science and/or Program Management; Brian McGhee, Technical Support; Elizabeth Jackson, Business and/or Professional Administrative Support; Terry Lewis, General Excellence and/or Administrative Support, and Col. William Gavora, AATD commander.

Federal community thanked for charity drive

Combined Federal Campaign tops goal with \$1.87 million

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

There was some laughter, some tears and plenty of smiles for all those who contributed.

Individuals and organizations that helped the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign surpass its \$1.6 million goal received awards in a ceremony Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium. The annual charity drive, which officially ended Nov. 26, collected more than \$1.87 million. Additional payroll turn-ins will be accept-

ed until Dec. 23 and cash until January. It represents the largest campaign in the history of the Tennessee Valley CFC, according to Earl Johnson, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee.

"This has been a great year," he said. "Like our country has had to deal with the challenges of the war, CFC has had its own challenges. We have always as Americans met its challenges and exceeded it, and we set a new standard in the CFC arena."

Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, presented about 70 awards.

"It's a good thing when we can help people who need help," he said of the campaign.

Donations on menu at office's pancake breakfast

Cargo helicopter workers give to youth center angels

By KELLEY LANE
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

For the third consecutive year, members of the Cargo Helicopter Foreign Military Sales office got out their aprons and griddles to fry up a few flapjacks for their project management office Dec. 4. They also did something to help the children of deployed soldiers.

The 12 members raised the money to supply their co-workers with breakfast and holiday spirit. This year the workers also raised \$200 for the Youth Center and MWR Angel Tree.

This is the second year for the pancake breakfast accepting donations. Last year they placed a Toys for Tots donation box for those who wished to contribute. When that went well they decided to continue accepting donations this year, but chose the Angel Tree instead.

"It's a different situation this year," Sandy Ansell, project lead for Cargo FMS, said. "We thought about the Angel Tree. With the ladies and gentlemen who are gone away from their families, they're doing their duty but they're protecting us. We thought we should do something for their children."

Fran King-Wilburn, who is no longer with FMS but still participates in the breakfast, contacted Angel Tree coordinators to find out what they could do. The group agreed to raise cash to be used to supplement the gifts angels received. That way items that were needed and not purchased already could be procured, and other gifts could be included to even out what the kids received.

King-Wilburn, who has worked with the Angel Tree project in previous years, was touched by the stories of military children who were not going to have a merry Christmas this year. "We looked at this as it's bad enough



Photo by Kelley Lane

SEASON'S GREETINGS— Santa (Bill Young) and Mrs. Claus (Sandy Ansell) welcome others to the Cargo Helicopter Foreign Military Sales pancake breakfast.

for a child to be without their parent for the holidays. A lot of us are ex-military kids that have been there," she said. "But then to have a child who is without their parent and without any type of extras or Christmas presents is just heart wrenching to us."

While the Cargo PM members dug into their pancakes, bacon and sausage, they also dug into their pockets. A collection can was placed on a table. "Of their own accord people came down and put money in it," Ansell said. "Some had breakfast, some didn't. It wound up being \$200."

Next year's breakfast is already being planned. The office will include another donation center. "We enjoy doing the breakfast. I think people also enjoy participating in a good cause," Ansell said. "They like to help out when they can. I think that as long as there is an FMS cell and we're able to do the breakfast, we'll come up with a worthy cause to give what little we have to them."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TIME TO CELEBRATE— Melinda Seigler, director of CFC for United Way, shares a laugh with Earl Johnson, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee.

Army Community Service welcomes agency reps

Social service leaders have annual visit

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

Army Community Service provides crucial services for military personnel and their families, but it also works extensively with organizations outside the installation and is a model for other social services organizations. The National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville brought its 2003 Leadership Social Service class to Redstone on Dec. 10 for the second consecutive year to visit ACS.

The goal of the Leadership Social Services class is to provide an overview of the quality of life for individuals and families in Huntsville and Madison County, according to Sharen Barrett, federal programs administration coordinator for the Children's Advocacy Center.

"By visiting a variety of organizations, we are able to expose the directors and board members of area social service organizations to the issues, processes, facilities and initiatives of their sister organizations," she said.

This year's Leadership Social Services class included representatives from Changing Lanes, Girls Scouts of North Alabama, Family Services Center, Hospice Family Care, Huntsville Hospital Auxiliary, Madison County DHR, National Children's Advocacy Center, The Pathfinder Inc., and the Volunteer Center of Madison County. In addition to Redstone Arsenal, they also visited the Catholic Center of Concern, Second Mile Development, Christmas Charities, Family Services and participated in a panel discussion at First Baptist Church.

At ACS, the group learned about the full range of services available, and special events and services such as Total Tots, Space Camp scholarship, the annual Birthday Open House, Mayor (installation housing) Program, Installation Advisory Council and the Waiting Spouse Support Group. Sue Paddock, director of ACS, also discussed how ACS received the first Army accreditation for ACS, and had just been reaccredited.

Most of the group's questions centered on the accreditation process, and Paddock

See Service on page 10

Becky Pillsbury sees supportive local community



Photo by Skip Vaughn

RECEIVING LINE— Becky Pillsbury greets well-wishers at a reception held by the Officer and Civilian Women's Club.

Commanding general's wife welcomed by women's club

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

The wife of the commanding general has a good first impression of Redstone Arsenal.

"Redstone is a wonderful community," Becky Pillsbury, wife of Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, said Dec. 9 at a welcome reception on her behalf at the Officers and Civilians Club. "Both the community here at Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Huntsville, have been so supportive of the military. And I want to do whatever I

can to try to continue that wonderful relationship."

About 90 people attended the reception held by the Officer and Civilian Women's Club; and Pillsbury will serve as the honorary president for the OCWC. Chris Swart is the club's president.

The Pillsburys have a son, Michael, 23, a second-year law student at Texas Wesleyan at Fort Worth, and a daughter, Katherine, 19, a sophomore at Trinity University in San Antonio.

Pillsbury graduated from Trinity in 1974 with a bachelor's in deaf education. She also has a master's in special education from Pacific Lutheran University and a master's in elementary education from Murray State.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Gift wrap-up

Barbara Hayes, left, and Julie Clippinger work at the Enlisted Spouses Club's gift wrap booth in the Post Exchange. "It's our biggest fund-raiser of the year to contribute to scholarships and everything in the Redstone Arsenal and extended community," Clippinger said. The booth is open every day until Christmas Eve.

Children's Advocacy Center brings local leaders

Service

continued from page 9

emphasized that ensuring program criteria (all 213) were fully executed and documented was the key. She also noted that working to achieve accreditation had not only improved programs, but had resulted in ACS's move to better facilities on post. Barrett agreed saying, "Many times better facilities can help improve service."

The group concluded its visit to Redstone with a driving tour through the housing area. Jennie Robinson of Personal Best Training, who oversaw the Leadership Class training for the Children's Advocacy Center, said that housing plays a major role in quality of life issues, so the group was interested in seeing the new housing for soldiers at Redstone.



Photo by Kim Gillespie

GRAND TOUR— Sue Paddock, right, director of Army Community Service, takes members of the National Children's Advocacy Center Leadership Social Services Class on a tour of ACS.

Rocket sled train goes full speed ahead

Super Roadrunner sets world record

By JIM BOWNE
For the Rocket

It's now the fastest thing on the earth — attached to the earth. What is it?

Answer: the final stage of a four-stage sled train, which included the sled, a Super Roadrunner rocket motor, and a 192-pound payload on top. The sled train delivered the payload into a target at a velocity of 9,465 feet per second or 6,453 mph.

The record-breaking sled test, conducted in April at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., broke the previous world mark established in 1982. During the latter sled test (also conducted at Holloman's High Speed Test Track), the sled train traveled at 8,974 feet per second or 6,119 mph, with a 25-pound payload.

"The primary objective of the sled test was to validate the Super Roadrunner sled train at the maximum attainable speed," said Dr. Jay Lilley, the government program manager for Super Roadrunner and chief of the Propulsion Technology Function, Propulsion and Structures Directorate, Research Development and Engi-



Courtesy photo

SANTA NEEDS THIS— The Super Roadrunner rocket sled sets a world record at 6,453 mph.

neering Center. "It was over before you even heard it — just some sonic booms and explosions — it was kind of unreal."

The April 30 test culminated the Hypersonic Upgrade Program that began in 1998. "The hypersonic upgrade program greatly increased the capabilities at Holloman's High Speed Test Track to meet a variety of hypersonic test needs for the Department of Defense," Lilley said. "The test demonstrated improvements in rocket sled design, rail alignment, rocket propulsion, and modeling and simulation.

"The program actually started with some conversations we had with Hollo-

man AFB in 1997. They needed to update the capability to reach velocities that would meet the next generation of kinetic energy interceptor missiles — missiles that hit missiles. And they needed a test environment that would be cost effective."

Holloman's High Speed Test Track is the world's premier rocket sled test track. During the tests, payload and instrumentation are moved along a straight-line path by means of rocket sleds, which operate on a set of heavy-duty crane rails. The rails are 50,988 feet long. The rails are continuously welded and aligned to rigid tolerances to ensure that they are straight and the surfaces are smooth.

The test track provides a critical link between laboratory-type investigations and full-scale flight tests. The track provides an efficient, safe and cost-effective ground test alternative to expensive developmental flight tests.

"In order to meet the Defense Department's hypersonic test needs, Holloman upgraded its high speed test track to handle faster speeds," Lilley said. "They also upgraded the sled system so it could operate at 10,000 feet per second. Our part of the program was to upgrade the propulsion system. We subsequently convinced Holloman that we were the right manager for the upgrade program for the rocket motor."

The Propulsion and Structures Directorate was responsible for program and contract management, propellant ballistics and processing technical support, design and analysis for the composite rocket motor case, and the design and analysis of thermal protection materials. The directorate was also involved with the propulsion system design and analysis, coordination of the qualification test program, and data analysis.

"We ended up being responsible for overseeing the development of the Super Roadrunner rocket motor, which was 'state-of-the-art' in a lot of areas. We acted as the go-between for Holloman AFB and Atlantic Research Corporation, which designed, built, and shipped the Super Roadrunner Rocket motors here for static tests," Lilley said.

All the motors underwent environmental and static testing at the Redstone Technical Test Center. "There was a lot of cooperation among all the organizations involved," Lilley said. "The motors were

subjected to a variety of environmental conditions, including things like dust, lightning strikes, and static electricity, to mention a few."

A sled train test is expensive, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. "When you add the costs of setting up the test, the rocket motors, the sled, the helium tent, instrumentation, along with probably about 100 people, it comes close to a million dollars," Lilley said. "However, when you crunch the numbers, it's still cheaper than doing a flight test. And you can get data at a fraction of the cost. Actually, it's a very cost effective way to go.

The Super Roadrunner motor that was developed specifically for the hypersonic upgrade program produced 228,000 pounds of thrust for 1.4 seconds and weighed 1,100 pounds. The maximum acceleration of the sled was 157-g's, or 157 times the force exerted by gravity. When the payload impacted the target, it had 363 mega joules of energy, equal to the energy of a car hitting a brick wall at 2,020 mph.

"We developed the technical requirements, and we continue to monitor the contract work," Lilley said. "We conducted the analyses and validated the performance of ARC's predictions. And we did a lot of work on the composite rocket case. Our two main efforts were the in the areas of propulsion technology and aerospace materials.

"We're in the production mode now, and it's operational. We are still doing quality control on rocket propellant to determine the burn rate of the propellant," Lilley said. "These new capabilities will be used on an upcoming missile defense warhead test program. The Holloman's High Speed Test Track is the only ground test facility capable of achieving the speed and payload combinations required to simulate full-scale intercepts of missile defense systems.

"We will continue to push the boundaries of state-of-the-art technologies. The Super Roadrunner rocket motor is certainly a superior motor, and it combines most of what we know about the state-of-the-art in solid rocket propulsion. However, the end product is always to deliver a payload on a target, at a specific velocity, at a precise location. And records are meant to be broken, aren't they?"

Commissary director believes people are best investment



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PEOPLE PERSON— New store director Willie Taylor enjoys meeting shoppers at the commissary. He arrived Nov. 13 but still directs the Columbus, Miss., commissary.

Taylor welcomes Guard and Reserves for unlimited shopping privileges

By **SANDY RIEBELING**

Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

As the new commissary store director, Willie Taylor doesn't spend his days scheming to get the most from his employees and customers. He believes that if he does his job right, those things will automatically happen.

"Everyday we're given 1,440 minutes to invest," Taylor said. "If you put the time into the people around you, giving them genuine care and concern, they'll take care of mission. And they'll do it with a right attitude. I want to create an environment where people want to come to work, where customers feel they're given the best service."

It starts by doing the best you can no matter what the job and taking care of people.

Taylor's management style is built from the ground up. He still remembers his first commissary job more than 20 years ago, cleaning toilets, stocking shelves, emptying trash. He was fresh out of the Marines.

"The corps taught me a lot," Taylor said. "They got more out of me than I thought I had. They pushed, pulled — made me better. Showed me that I could

do more. Gave me confidence. I was in for four years right out of high school. I still believe it was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Taylor's first two years in the Marines was in corrections at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., before moving on to Okinawa and then Camp Lejeune, N.C. Although he was raised in St. Louis, the Marine Corps made Fort Leavenworth his home. It was the place he came back to when he got out — where he met his wife, Gloria, where he started his civilian service with the Defense Commissary Agency and where he eventually graduated from Park University with a bachelor's in business management.

"I worked intermittent at the commissary at first, then moved up to part time and then full time," he said, adding that he completed his education during that time. "I remember the different managers I worked under. There was one in particular I remember because he always said, 'Hello, Willie. How are you?' before he ever asked me to do anything. It was the way he took an interest in me as a person before he jumped in there as a boss, giving orders. It made me want to do my best."

Already entrenched in Christian values of caring for others, Taylor learned from his managers firsthand what worked and more importantly, what didn't. He read

See **Commissary** on page 16

Commissary

continued from page 13

books about leadership written by people he admired. (He's reading a book about Ulysses S. Grant.)

"You can't expect to make a withdrawal from a person – to get their best effort – if you haven't first invested something in them," Taylor said. "Listen to them. Give them opportunities to learn. Make them comfortable enough to step out and take a chance with an idea or project. Build them up. If they make a

mistake, that's OK. People aren't perfect. Help them learn from it and keep going."

This same philosophy applies to the customer. "They're people. Find out what they need, what they want. Look for ways to give. My goal is to create an environment conducive to customer service, meaning a clean, well-stocked facility with outreach initiatives – enhance the quality of life — Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers, ACS, Enlisted Spouses Club, Officer and Civilian Women's Club, the chapel. It's about more than selling groceries; it's about being part of a community. We want to create a social

climate that makes everyone feel welcome, especially our retiree community."

Taylor is excited about the recent change in policy that allows National Guard, Reserves and their family members unlimited access to the commissary.

"We're celebrating with a luncheon for Reservists (on Dec.16)," he said. "We're working with the commander of the Reserve unit right outside the gate here. It's symbolic of how we feel about all our Reservists – grateful and appreciative that we can be a part of their benefits package."

He believes DeCA should be ambassadors around the world; and Taylor has personally taken the mission to places like Germany, where he served as general manager of five commissaries during his six years there, plus a year at Incirlic Air Base, Turkey.

He served at several locations in the U.S. including Fort Hood, Texas, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and Columbus, Miss., where he is still the store director there.

"I'm actually TDY here," he said.

"They'll decide in January whether this will be permanent." Until then, Gloria and their two youngest children, Lance, 13 and Matthew, 10, will remain in Columbus. The couple have two older children, Victoria, 19, and Carone, 23.

"My family is everything to me," Taylor said. "We're pretty close knit. That 220-mile drive isn't long when you're going home. They're my motivation for everything I do and I tell them so."

When he can't be with family cooking up a cake or pot roast, Taylor enjoys passing the time in "a good worship service," early morning workouts at Pagano Gym and traveling. As a competent Toastmaster, he enjoys public speaking and going out to listen to public speakers.

"I like to hear opposing views from good speakers," he said. "Nothing wrong with hearing both sides. I think one of the biggest problems in our society is miscommunication. It's not what someone said that upsets us, it's what we think they said. True understanding goes a long way toward peace."

Cameras

continued from page 1

The enhancements tested at Test Area 1 on Dec. 3 showed that the tower system could be made mobile by attaching the mast (with a camera) to a Humvee and using a remote computer to collect data. Another upgrade, developed by the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center Division, employed a military grid and mapping overlay which could then provide exact coordinates of a target to cue an Avenger 50-caliber gun and Linebacker 25-caliber gun. Currently the cameras provide a general distance and direction of a target but not actual coordinates.

The additional RAID capability test was to demonstrate the ability to remotely

fire the MATRIX Mine system.

"It's a layered defense non-lethal and lethal mines," Biggs said. "When the enemy is approaching and gets so close, the non-lethal munitions are set off to scare them away. If they continue to persist, the second set of lethal munitions is fired. It's to keep them from sneaking into an airfield, ammo supply point — places you don't want them to get to."

The systems will be deployed as-is but as these enhancements test successful, they will be integrated into the newer systems and installed in equipment replacements as upgrades.

RAID is a product of the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System Project Office with the Program Executive Office for Air, Space and Missile Defense.



Shawn Harris/Photo Lab

TEST PHASE— This 90-foot mobile mast could replace the 117-foot stationary tower used in the RAID surveillance system. Testing was done on the system last week at Test Area 1.

■ Trainees traveling home for the holidays

Exodus

continued from page 1

Pagano Gym will serve as a central location for the soldiers to out process.

"We go through everything from checking the weight of their bags prior to going to the airport, to making sure that they have their ticket, identification card and leave form in hand," Dudinsky said. "We also make sure that they have an emergency contact card so if they run into any problems over exodus they can contact anybody in the chain of command."

Bus and van transportation will be provided from Redstone Arsenal to several places, primarily the airport and bus station. Family members are also welcome to pick up soldiers from the Arsenal.

"Right now we don't have any trainees that are going to be staying here," Dudinsky said. "We create what is called a hold-

ing company and we were prepared to take care of the soldiers, provide training opportunities, and make sure that every soldier had a host family to stay with for Christmas day, but fortunately everyone was able to take leave."

Safety is a major concern with this many soldiers traveling at one time and all soldiers who depart on exodus receive safety training.

"We want to make sure that the soldiers get back in a safe way," Dudinsky said. "We conduct safety briefings about the do's and don'ts during exodus, and the different things they should watch out for."

"The main thing is that soldiers should enjoy themselves over exodus and remember that they are representing the Army," he said. "They should be proud as they travel through the airports and bus terminals in their Class A's."

The soldiers will return from exodus on Jan. 2 in what Dudinsky called "a reverse order from which they left."

Missile Defense Agency approves mentor-protégé pact

Small disadvantaged business receives technical assistance

Boeing and All Points Logistics Inc., and the Missile Defense Agency announced the kickoff of a mentor-protégé agreement Friday at a ceremony. The agreement is the first approved by the Missile Defense Agency.

Under this agreement, Boeing will assist All Points, a small disadvantaged business, to develop technical and business capabilities so that it can successfully compete for prime contract and sub-contract awards. For almost two years prior to the formal agreement, Boeing and All Points developed a mentoring relationship that has already taken the small firm from \$1 million a year to an \$11 million business.

"Boeing is committed to the success of our Missile Defense Agency customer," said Peri Widener, senior executive of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems-Huntsville. "Programs such as mentor-protégé help us to deliver that success. It is a win-win-win program for All Points, for Boeing and most importantly for Missile Defense Agency."

All Points, headquartered in Gainesville, Ga., is a native American and veteran-owned small business, which provides hardware and software fulfillment and integrated logistics. The company has eight employees in Madison, currently supporting the Ground-based Midcourse Defense program, which is executed by the Missile Defense Agency's GMD Joint Program Office, headed by Maj. Gen. John Holly.

"The development and fielding of a ground-based, midcourse defense against ballistic missiles in 2004, is one of the most complex programs ever undertaken by the Defense Department," Holly, director of the Ground-based, Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office, said. "(Friday's) agreement brings to our team another company that will contribute to our goal of providing for the common defense of the United States. The deployment of missile defense is critical to meet the new threats we face."

By approving the formal mentor-protégé agreement, the Missile Defense Agency acknowledges the previous success of the relationship and agrees to encourage continued success by reimbursing Boeing's investment in the relationship over three-years.



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

SIGNING— Maj. Gen. John Holly, director of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office, signs the mentor-protégé agreement. Looking on are Peri Widener, left, senior executive of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems-Huntsville, and C. Sam McGee, chief executive officer of All Points Logistics Inc.

Biometrics fusion center assumes new leadership

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Army Chief Information Office announced Friday that Samuel Cava has been appointed director of the Department of Defense Biometrics Fusion Center in Bridgeport, W.Va.

As director, Cava will be responsible for enhancing the center's test and evaluation capabilities and establishing stronger ties with other Department of

Defense organizations and federal agencies.

"The Biometrics Fusion Center is taking a leadership role in biometric technology," Vernon Bettencourt, deputy CIO/G-6, said. "Sam will be instrumental in guiding the successful implementation of biometrics to support mission-critical warfighter applications, and working with the Department of Homeland Security, State Department, and other agencies on

collective U.S. government goals for biometrics."

Cava comes to the BFC from West Virginia University, where he was the director of forensic and biometric development. Before working at the university, he served on active duty with the Air Force, working in several intelligence-related assignments. He holds a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from West Virginia University. Cava fills a senior-level civil service (GS-15) position, as part of the Department of Defense plan to

continue migrating core functions to the Biometrics Fusion Center.

The BFC is the test and evaluation facility for the DoD Biometrics Management Office. The BMO is the central entity within the Defense Department responsible for leading, consolidating, and coordinating the development, adoption, and institutionalization of biometric technologies for combatant commanders, services and agencies, to enhance joint service interoperability and warfighter effectiveness.

You better watch out for your pets during holidays

Post veterinarian gives safety tips

By Capt. ROBERT HAWLEY
Veterinary Services chief

There's no place like home for the holidays, or an unexpected trip to the veterinarian's office. In the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it's easy to overlook the stress and even danger for your pet. Your pet is very curious, especially when it comes to changes in their environment. Most pets will explore new objects with their mouth and beaks.

Here are a few tips to make this holiday season happy and safe for all.

- Anticipate your guest's arrival and confine your pet to prevent them from escaping. Microchipping is recommended, or at least ensuring pets are wearing a collar with proper identification.

- Reduce your pet's stress by maintaining their regular feeding and exercise routine. Also, pets should be put in a private area away from guests during holiday parties. Too much excitement or stress can cause stomach upset. Cats tend to hide so don't forget about them.

- Packages and presents containing food should be placed out of reach. Dogs that smell food are known to rip a package open and could ingest wrapping material.

- Tell your guests not to give your pets any food from the dinner table. Food is the No.1 holiday hazard for dogs. Pets are very sensitive to sudden changes in their diets. Poultry skins, fat trimmings, rich gravies and sauces can cause stomach upset and diarrhea, or even worse, a life threatening condition. Avoid giving your pets bones of any kind or size. Dogs tend to break off shards which can be swallowed, and could possibly puncture the intestines. For good holiday treats, visit the Internet for pet recipes. These also make good gifts for your pet-loving friends!

- Avoid giving pets alcoholic beverages.

ages. One ounce to a small dog or cat could cause a coma.

- Chocolate is the most common toxic treat given during the holidays. The toxic element is Theobromine. Small amounts can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Large amounts can cause above normal heart rhythms, hyperactivity, nervous system malfunction, seizures and even death. Store all chocolate candy and baking ingredients out of reach.

- Secure your garbage in bins with tight lids. A dog can chew on holiday leftovers or throw aways, which could result in intestinal upset.

- Buy only decorating products which are labeled non-toxic. Avoid tree water preservatives and artificial snow. Also avoid aspirin used in the water. Secure your tree skirt to prevent pets from drinking the water. Alternatively, give plenty of access to fresh water.

- Secure large trees to the wall to prevent tipping.

- Be aware of any new toys/gifts that your pet may swallow.

- Avoid decorating your tree with strings of popcorn or gumdrops.

- Fasten all tree decorations securely, with the more fragile ornaments toward the top. Dogs that chew on these can suffer cuts on the mouth or worse if swallowed. Avoid tinsel and string, or place it out of reach of your pets on the tree.

- Place holiday plants out of reach and vacuum often to avoid tree needles from being ingested. Poinsettias are mildly toxic. Mistletoe, holly, amaryllis and lilies also are toxic when ingested.

- Display candles on high shelves to avoid painful burns. Avoid scented candles in the same room as pet parrots because they have been known to make parrots sick.

- Make sure that cords are tucked out of reach. Curious pets can electrocute themselves. Parrots perching on a Christmas tree have been known to bite into cords; and puppies and dogs love to chew! Duct tape can be used to tape down wires



Photo by Capt. Robert Hawley

PAW BALL— Pet-proof your home during the holidays using the same type of protective measures you would use for a baby or small child. Your pet's curiosity could lead to serious or even fatal injuries.

and cords from your Christmas tree.

- Ice melting chemicals and salt placed across sidewalks and roads can cause burning and irritation to your pet's footpads. If these products are used, wipe down their paws after a walk.

The Veterinary Treatment Facility staff members wish you and your family (including the four footed and winged members) a happy holiday season. If you have any questions or concerns, please call 876-2441.

Personnel assistance team on point for troops on move

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – Ushering soldiers off airplanes and through the business side of rest and recuperation leave is the job of the Army's Personnel Assistance Point, or PAP, team.

At Baltimore Washington International Airport, the 12-person team is made up largely of non-commissioned officers who staff the PAP counter in the international terminal around the clock, seven days a week.

Team members get soldiers signed out on leave, guide them through immigration and customs check points, point them to their airline gates or ticket counters and answer any questions about getting out of the airport, or their return flight back to theater.

"One of the most gratifying experiences of the job is experiencing the joy-

ous reunion of the soldiers with their families," SSgt. Tina Dove, a PAP team member, said.

The team's work has earned praise from representatives of other organizations – the USO, VFW and BWI staff – that assist soldiers at the airport, as well as Army officials who have observed the team in action.

"The NCOs are first rate," said Col. James Martin of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command. "They take the time to answer even the simplest question from a soldier. They work well with these organizations and provide outstanding support to the R&R soldiers, ensuring success."

PAP teams are also in place at the international airports in Atlanta and Dallas, said Tom Gray, chief of HRC's transportation plans and operations branch.

U.S. troops capture Saddam in Iraq

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was captured in a cramped hole near one of his palaces, U.S. officials announced Sunday.

"Today is a momentous day for the Iraqi people," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said. "The Iraqi people have now been liberated in spirit, as well as in fact. As they celebrate, we also stop to remember the many U.S. and Coalition forces who gave their lives to make this moment possible — including many brave Iraqis who served in their new security forces and who have died fighting for their country. Thanks to all of them, the Iraqi people face a future, not of terror, but of freedom. Today, many Iraqis can dare to believe what we have said from the beginning: that the era of the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein is over. His terrorist regime is finished.

"Yesterday's successful capture was the result of close coordination of intelligence and a rapid, skillfully-executed military action by U.S. forces. It reflects hard

work, the courage and the determination of U.S. and coalition forces serving in Iraq. Americans can be enormously proud of them. And, it is important to remember, that each is a volunteer. Each stepped forward to serve and to help fight the global war on terror.

"Challenges remain, to be sure. But, as President Bush said today, the United States will see this mission through.

"We also give thanks for all the brave young men and women in uniform, from 34 nations, who are serving in Iraq today — as well as those stationed in Afghanistan and across the world, defending freedom in the global war on terror. Though they are far from home during this holiday season, they are serving a truly great cause — the cause of liberty. As the American people celebrate the holidays, we do so with gratitude in our hearts for the forces and for their families, who sacrifice for us all."

Editor's note: This article was based on a Defense Department release.

Saddam's fate 'up to the Iraqis,' Bush says

By GERRY GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The United States will assist Iraqis in developing a process to bring captured former dictator Saddam Hussein to justice for his crimes, President Bush told reporters here Monday.

Saddam will continue to be detained as the U.S. government works with Iraqi authorities "to develop a way to try him that will stand international scrutiny," Bush said during a press conference.

The Iraqi people, the president asserted, "need to be very much involved" with Saddam's fate, since they were the ones who were brutalized during Saddam's rule. "He murdered them, he gassed them, he tortured them," Bush pointed out.

Nonetheless, the president maintained that the deposed dictator — who was discovered hiding in a hole and captured Saturday by U.S. troops near Tikrit, Iraq — deserves a fair trial. Saddam's ultimate fate, Bush declared, "is going to be up to the Iraqis."

Bush said he doubts any useful information — such as the whereabouts of weapons of mass destruction — would be gleaned from interviews with the former Iraqi dictator.

"I don't trust Saddam Hussein," Bush declared, adding, "I don't believe he'll tell the truth."

Bush refused to put a timetable on possible withdrawals of U.S. troops from Iraq

in light of Saddam's capture, noting, "we'll stay the course until the job is done."

The capture of Saddam, Bush noted, not only makes America more secure, but also represents a watershed event in Iraq — and world — history.

"The emergence of a peaceful Iraq," Bush pointed out, "will transform the (Middle East) region in a positive way that will make it more likely that the world is more peaceful."

The commander in chief saluted the efforts of U.S. troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world serving in support of the war against terrorism, noting that Iraq is one of the principal battlefields of that struggle.

Saddam's fall from power eight months ago and his recent capture represents a case of "good riddance," Bush asserted.

"The world is better off without you, Mr. Saddam Hussein," Bush declared. It was interesting, Bush said, that the formerly fearsome, boastful dictator was found hiding in a hole in the ground and gave himself up without a fight.

"Our brave troops, combined with good intelligence, found you," Bush said to the captured former dictator.

Saddam will be brought before justice, Bush pledged, which he said was something the former dictator didn't afford his own people.

Saddam receiving Geneva Conventions protections

By DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Coalition forces are ensuring that former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's Geneva Conventions rights are protected while he is in custody and that he receives "all of the privileges of a prisoner of war," according to the commander of coalition forces in Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said Monday on the CBS "Early Show" that Saddam "has been talkative" since his capture near Tikrit Saturday, and that "he'll respond readily to questions that are asked of him in terms of just normal administrative requirements."

But Sanchez stopped short of saying Saddam is cooperating with coalition forces. "I wouldn't characterize it either way, cooperative or uncooperative," he said. "We still have a long way to go in this process. And at this point, we still have to ensure that we're taking care of him. He's being treated according to the Geneva Conventions. We'll be protecting him."

Sanchez described Saddam as "a man who looks resigned to be a prison-

er, and at times looks a little dazed and confused."

He characterized a meeting between several members of the Iraqi Governing Council and Saddam following his capture as "a very emotional experience for the Iraqis that walked into that room and came face-to-face with him." Sanchez said Saddam "interchanged with them readily" during the session.

"It was very clear that there was a lot of pent-up emotion," Sanchez said. "You could see in the eyes of the Iraqis that there was some anger and some pent-up emotion that had to be released."

Sanchez called these emotions "exactly the expected responses from people that have been oppressed for a long, long time" but said that now it's time to start looking toward the future.

"It's time for Iraq to move on a path to reconciliation, to get the country back on the right track toward a prosperous, democratic country," he said.

Sanchez credited the U.S. forces whose hard work and dedication led to Saddam's capture. "It was wonderful work done by America's sons and daughters," he said.

Rumsfeld says Saddam compliant, but not cooperative

By JOHN BANUSIEWICZ
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Saddam Hussein has been compliant since he was captured Saturday, but so far is not cooperating, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told Lesley Stahl on the CBS News program "60 Minutes" Sunday.

He has not been cooperative in terms of talking, or anything like that," Rumsfeld said. "He clearly was compliant or resigned, in effect, as he was being examined and as he was being transferred from the hole to the transport that took him away, but I think ... it's a bit early to try and characterize his demeanor beyond that."

Saddam, who had exhorted his followers to fight to the death both before and after the war that removed him from power, seemed "not terribly brave" when confronted by American soldiers as he hid in a 6-by-8-foot hole, the defense secretary said.

In fact, he wasn't very tough," Rumsfeld said. "He was cowering in a hole in the ground, and had a pistol, but didn't use it, and certainly didn't put up any fight at all."

The secretary said the deposed Iraqi dictator is being treated "in a humane and professional way," with the same protections provided to prisoners of war in

accordance with the Geneva Conventions, though it's not clear yet whether he technically is a prisoner of war. He's being held at an undisclosed location "for obvious reasons," he added.

Should Saddam offer to provide information in exchange for his life being spared, it would have to be a matter of discussion for the coalition "at a very high level" with lawyers involved, Rumsfeld said. He cautioned against "snap decisions" about what might be done, but added, "In the last analysis, here's a man who has killed so many tens of thousands of people who will have to be held accountable and brought to justice in some form, in some way."

Rumsfeld was emphatic that Saddam would not be tortured. "We don't torture people," he said. "To suggest that anyone would be engaged in torture or conduct inconsistent with the Geneva Conventions, it seems to me, is not on the mark at all."

The secretary said that to his knowledge, reports that Iran was involved in Saddam's capture are untrue. "The reason he was finally captured was because some wonderful young men and women in uniform have been over there for seven or eight months, and they have been doing a wonderful job for our country and for the Iraqi people in helping to set that country on a path," he said.

'Task Force All American' continues security operations

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Army's 82nd Airborne Division and attached units, known collectively as "Task Force All American," is enjoying increased cooperation with the Iraqi people as the task force continues security operations to improve safety within the Anbar Province, U.S. Central Command officials said Monday.

Within 24 hours, the task force conducted 25 tactical checkpoints and eight cordon-and-search operations, Central Command reported. Units also performed 169 patrols, including 13 joint patrols with the Iraqi Border Guard and Iraqi police. These operations resulted in the killing of three and capture of 16 enemy personnel. One U.S. soldier died as well.

Paratroopers from the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division began Operation

Panther Backroads, designed to interdict anti-coalition and smuggling activities and to deny enemy forces freedom of movement.

Central Command officials reported that units throughout the task force established 25 tactical checkpoints and executed eight cordon-and-search operations. The brigade searched 1,351 vehicles and confiscated 15 AK-47 assault rifles, two Enfield rifles and other weapons and ammunition. The task force also captured 13 enemy personnel.

Paratroopers killed two enemy personnel and wounded two others when they returned fire while on a patrol, Central Command officials said. Although one of the wounded enemy personnel evaded capture, officials said the patrol captured the other wounded individual and confiscated four AK-47 rifles. No coalition forces were injured during the engagement.

A reconnaissance element engaged four armed enemy personnel northeast of Fallujah, Iraq, with small-arms fire, killing one, officials reported. The remaining

enemy personnel fled into a nearby house that was later searched by U.S. forces. During the search, the soldiers captured four Iraqi men and confiscated two AK-47s, seven bolt-action rifles, and various kinds of ammunition.

In 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division's area of responsibility, Central Command officials said a patrol was ambushed with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire near Ramadi. The unit returned fire, killing one attacker, and recovered an RPG launcher.

Injuries expected to drop with new parachute

Advanced tactical system going to field by 2006

By PFC ELIAMAR CASTANON
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Airborne soldiers should expect to see a new parachute system in the next few years that will replace the T-10 model that has been in use since the 1950s.

The Advanced Tactical Parachute System is expected to decrease the landing impact velocity for jumpers, provide a more reliable reserve system than the Modified Improved Reserve Parachute System of the T-10 and improve the harness.

"We were looking for a parachute that will lower the rate of descent and lessen the impact with the hopes and expectations that this would result in a reduction in injuries," said Joe Jones, combat development specialist with the Directorate of Combat Developments.

Rate of descent is the speed at which jumpers fall to the ground.

The T-10 has been modified a number of times but has reached the limits of its growth. A new approach had to be taken, Jones said, resulting in an entirely different design.

The ATPS canopy is not circular in shape, as the T-10 is. It is a highly modified cross-shaped canopy with an inflated diameter 14 percent greater than that of the T-10, with 28 percent more surface area.

The reserve unit is a cone-shaped, center-pull deployment system. It includes apex scoop pockets at the top of the canopy and skirt assist lines at the system's hem to promote fast opening during low-speed malfunctions.

The main container bag is made of Cordura, an abrasion- and water-resistant fabric.

Both the ATPS main and reserve canopies are made of low-porosity ripstop nylon with Teflon-coated suspension lines.

The entire system weighs 51.2 pounds, compared to the T-10's 44 pounds.

The 14-percent weight increase earns jumpers a 25-percent reduction in rate of descent. The T-10's rate of descent is 22 to 24 feet per second, causing a strong landing impact. The ATPS' rate of descent is 16 feet per second, reducing the landing impact by 53 percent.

The T-10 parachute system was designed when the total weight of a jumper and equipment averaged 300 pounds.

During Operation Just Cause, more than 4 percent of soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, suffered jump-related injuries — 28 Rangers and their equipment weighed between 350 and 435 pounds.

"The T-10 was originally intended for jumpers who didn't weigh what soldiers weigh today and wasn't intended to carry the loads that soldiers carry today," Jones said.

Other advantages of ATPS are the reserve system and the harness. The ATPS reserve offers improved reliability.

"The ATPS has a reliability of .95, compared to the .75 to .80 of the T-10," Jones said.

The reserve is also equipped with enhanced deployment techniques, which equal low opening shocks. It may be deployed using either hand, offers a soft loop closure and has a rate of descent of approximately 26 feet per second with low oscillation.

101st rounds up suspects in northern Iraq

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

MOSUL, Iraq — The 101st Airborne Division in conjunction with Iraqi police forces detained six individuals suspected of involvement in attacks on coalition forces during raids in northern Iraq Dec. 7.

The division's 1st Brigade Combat Team detained one person wanted for attacks on coalition forces during a "cordon-and-knock" south of Mosul.

Later in the day, the 1st BCT captured a person, four AK-47 magazines, binoculars and communication headsets. A joint patrol with local police determined a house in the town of Hammam Al Alil was the launch site of an RPG attack that occurred during the previous night, officials from the 101st Airborne said.

The 2nd BCT in Mosul apprehended a man wanted for being a Fedayeen Cell leader, division officials. He is being questioned to exploit intelligence opportunities, officials said.

Three more individuals were captured in Sinjar by the 3rd BCT later that night. They were sought in connection with three explosions near a U.S. camp the previous night.

Caches found or turned over by civilians included two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 10 RPG rounds, one 60 mm mortar tube, and one pair of night vision goggles.

The 101st Airborne Division continues to work with Iraqi security personnel and local populations to remove threats to coalition forces and new Iraqi government agencies.

Editor's note: A press release from the 101st Airborne Division Public Affairs Office contributed to this report.



Arnews photo

SOFTER LANDING— This is the Advanced Tactical Parachute System planned for airborne soldiers.

The biggest advantage in the improvements of the harness is the attaching point of the reserve parachute system, Jones said.

When a T-10 reserve is activated, the opening forces are located in the waist area; essentially, this bows the jumper. ATPS reserve risers connect to the harness in the shoulder area. Now when the reserve canopy opens, the opening forces are passed down through the long axes of the body, minimizing the bow effect.

The harness is also fully adjustable and is compatible with the current and future battlefield equipment.

The T-10 and ATPS are mass tactical parachute canopies, meaning they are not steerable. Because these are not steerable, distribution is managed by exit sequences and timing, aircraft altitude and speed, wind and canopy drift characteristics.

Because ATPS is not a steerable parachute, test developers are still trying to increase the obstacle avoidance variable while in the sky or on the ground, said Maj. Jason Craft, assistant program manager of personal airdrop systems at the Natick Research Laboratories in Natick, Mass.

"The bottom line is that ATPS reduces jump injuries to airborne soldiers so they're in better condition to go into combat operations," Craft said.

The ATPS is being tested at Yuma Proving Grounds in Yuma, Ariz., and will be fielded between 2005 and 2006.

Editor's note: PFC Eliamar Castanon is a staff writer for the Bayonet.

West Point taps Bobby Ross as new football coach

Former Detroit Lions mentor has collegiate, pro experience

By BOB BERETTA
Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. — The leadership at the U.S. Military Academy announced the hiring of Bobby Ross Dec. 9 as the Black Knights' new head football coach.

The Army's football team went 0-13 during the 2003 season and is 0-15 over the last 15 games. The Black Knights lost their last game Dec. 6 to the U.S. Naval Academy's Midshipmen 34-6.

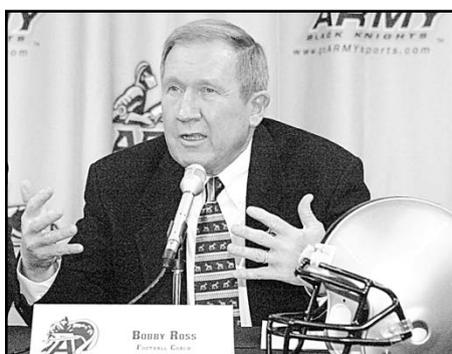
"Bobby Ross is highly qualified — his reputation as a coach speaks for itself. We are very confident that he has what it takes to restore a winning tradition to Army football," USMA superintendent Lt. Gen. William Lennox Jr. said.

Ross, who has built championship programs at both the collegiate and professional levels, was named the 34th head coach in the history of intercollegiate football at the U.S. Military Academy.

Ross has been out of coaching since resigning from his position with the Detroit Lions nine games into the 2000 season.

"I'm extremely excited about being named the head football coach at Army," Ross said. "From my very youth, right up until the present time, I've always had a tremendous amount of respect for West Point and what it's stood for. I think it's a place of great pride and tradition, and a place of great learning. I think it represents college football in its purest form, and I'm very, very proud to have the opportunity to be associated with the Academy."

Before taking the job at Georgia Tech, Ross spent five seasons at the University of Maryland, where his Terrapin teams were celebrated for their explosive offenses. During his time at Maryland, the Terrapins compiled a sparkling 39-19-1 record (.607), with Ross guiding UM to three ACC titles and four bowl games. Ross' Maryland teams produced a number



Arnews photo

READY TO START— Bobby Ross answers questions following announcement of his selection as the Black Knights' football coach.

of outstanding talents, including All-American quarterbacks Boomer Esion, Frank Reich and Stan Gelbaugh, as well as former Detroit Lions All-Pro center Kevin Glover.

Ross began his collegiate coaching career at his alma mater in 1965 following his time in the Army. He went on to serve assistant coaching stints at William & Mary, Rice and Maryland before accepting his first head-coaching job at The Citadel in 1973. He spent four years as an assistant coach with the Kansas City Chiefs (1978-81) before returning to the collegiate ranks as head coach at Maryland.

"Today marks the end of a long and exhaustive process, and the beginning of a great new chapter in the history of Army's proud football program," director of intercollegiate athletics Rick Greenspan said.

"We couldn't be more excited to turn the reins of our program over to someone the stature of Bobby Ross ... Most importantly, we feel Coach Ross will be an outstanding role model for our young men, casting an eye toward our primary mission of developing leaders of character for the United States Army."

A head coach in the college ranks for 15 years prior to serving successful stints directing the San Diego Chargers and the Detroit Lions in the National Football

League, Ross has led Georgia Tech to a national title and the Chargers to a Super Bowl.

Ross compiled a 94-76-2 (.552) in 15 seasons as head coach at The Citadel (1973-77), Maryland (1982-86) and Georgia Tech (1987-91). He guided the Yellow Jackets to an 11-0-1 record and shared the national championship with Colorado in 1990.

During nearly nine seasons at the helm of the Chargers (1992-96) and Lions (1997-2000), Ross authored a 77-68 overall record (.531). His clubs reached the playoffs in three of his five years in San Diego, guiding the Chargers to their only American Football Conference title and Super Bowl appearance in 1994. He also led the Lions to a pair of playoff showings, serving in the dual role of head coach and vice president for football operations.

Lennox said Ross' solid reputation and proven leadership abilities would be a tremendous asset to the Academy. "Bobby Ross has a stellar achievement record," he said. "His leadership ability will benefit our cadets both on and off the field."

"When we began our national search back in October, our primary goal was to hire a person that we felt would represent the institution and its core values to the fullest, while restoring the competitive success of our football program," Lennox said. "We feel very confident that we've accomplished that with the hiring of Bobby Ross."

Lennox said he was determined to find a coach who would add to the rich history of the Academy's football program. "We conducted an exhaustive search for an individual who personifies the core values of our institution and who fully understands the key role that football plays in our process of creating leaders of character."

"The spirit of West Point really appealed to me," Ross said. "My background has a military tone."

Ross' two sons graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Naval Academy respectively, and he served three years as a lieutenant in the 3rd Armored

Cavalry Regiment.

"I have a deep appreciation of what West Point stands for and a deep respect for it," he said. "I know this — that West Point boasts some of the finest young men that any institution could ever offer. I look forward to the opportunity to work with them and to be an integral part of their lives while at the Academy."

"When you've done something for 44 years and then it leaves you for a period of time, you get very excited about returning to it," Ross explained. "When the leadership at the Academy offered me this opportunity, I was extremely excited and I jumped at it, to be very honest. I've followed football during the period of time that I've been away from coaching, followed it collegiately and professionally, so I think I'm well-versed and well-rested to begin anew."

"I've studied Army's roster closely. I know we lose just 10 seniors, only three of which were starters, so it's a young football team. There's a lot to be done between now and when we get on the field for spring practice. I think the initial response by myself will be to meet with each and every one of the players. I know they start exams soon, but I'm hoping to have the opportunity to sit down with each one on a personal, one-on-one basis and get to know them first and foremost. Before we do anything, before we can block and tackle and run and throw and catch, I think we've got to build a bond of trust. I'm going to be very open and up front with our players. My door is going to be open at all times. I want to get to know them right away and start working on our bond of trust that I think begins the building of our football family."

Ross will begin his new duties at Army immediately, assuming full control of one of the nation's most storied gridiron programs. He expects to begin building his initial Black Knight coaching staff in the days ahead.

Editor's note: Bob Beretta is the associate director for athletic media relations at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point.

NCO Academy impressive in preseason opener

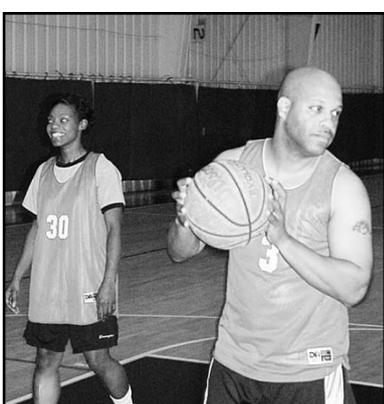


Photo by Skip Vaughn

COURT'S IN SESSION— NCO Academy's Randy Ballard (3) plays basketball for the first time in nearly nine months. At left is teammate Shonta Tucker.

Ballard returns to court after Iraq deployment

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

NCO Academy's Randy Ballard couldn't imagine playing basketball the past eight months.

He was too busy dodging bullets in Iraq. Ballard, who arrived Nov. 13, didn't look rusty when he finally got to shoot hoops again. The student in the Advanced NCO Course returned to the court in a preseason tournament opener Dec. 9.

Ballard had 17 points and five rebounds as the NCO Academy routed Headquarters & Alpha Company 73-32 at Pagano Gym.

"I'm glad to be back," the 5-foot-11

guard/forward said. He was in Iraq from April until November with the 608th Ordnance Company, attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

Laquaine Bess had a game-high 21 points with five rebounds and three steals for the NCOs. Demmonique Walker added 19 points, six rebounds, three steals and three assists. Bruce Hollis had eight points and five steals while player/coach Darrell Small contributed eight points and two steals. Shonta Tucker had two rebounds and a steal.

"It's a good exhibition game," Bess, a 6-foot forward/center, said. "Just out here trying to get into shape."

The academy opened with a 13-0 run, led 41-16 at halftime and stayed in control. But don't draw any conclusions about its ability from this performance, according to Bess.

"You can't gauge it off that," he said. "We were out there just running up and down the

court."

"I'd say we played together as a team, very unselfish," said Walker, a 6-foot-2 guard/forward.

Anthony Hull had 20 points, seven rebounds, two steals and a block for the Gators.

"It's just the preseason right now," Headquarters & Alpha player/coach Marlon Alvarado said. "We're going to have to work a lot on defense and offense. But watch for us in the season, we'll be better than this."

In other preseason openers Dec. 9, AMCOM beat 2117th 60-52 and Charlie won by forfeit over Bravo. The 10-team tournament final is scheduled tonight at 6 at Pagano.

The regular season should begin Jan. 12 and the postseason tournament is late February to March. Games during the season are Monday through Thursday nights.

LSU, Southern Cal should share national title

Bowl game menu leaves bitter taste

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

My college football predictions finished the season at 268-104 for 72 percent. Here are Skip's Picks for the bowl games:



GMAC Bowl, Dec. 18 – Miami (Ohio) over Louisville.

Tangerine Bowl, Dec. 22 – North Carolina State over Kansas.

Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl, Dec. 23 – Boise State over Texas Christian.

Las Vegas Bowl, Dec. 24 – New Mexico over Oregon State.

Hawaii Bowl, Dec. 24 – Hawaii over Houston.

Motor City Bowl, Dec. 26 – Bowling Green over Northwestern.

Insight.com Bowl, Dec. 26 – California over Virginia Tech.

Continental Tire Bowl, Dec. 27 – Pittsburgh over Virginia.

Alamo Bowl, Dec. 29 – Michigan State over Nebraska.

Houston Bowl, Dec. 30 – Navy over Texas Tech.

Holiday Bowl, Dec. 30 – Texas over Washington State.

Silicon Valley Classic, Dec. 30 – UCLA over Fresno State.

Music City Bowl, Dec. 31 – Auburn over Wisconsin.

Sun Bowl, Dec. 31 – Oregon over Minnesota.

Liberty Bowl, Dec. 31 – Southern Miss over Utah.

Independence Bowl, Dec. 31 – Arkansas over Missouri.

San Francisco Bowl, Dec. 31 – Boston College over Colorado State.

Outback Bowl, Jan. 1 – Florida over Iowa.

Gator Bowl, Jan. 1 – Maryland over West Virginia.

Capital One Bowl, Jan. 1 – Georgia over Purdue.

Rose Bowl, Jan. 1 – Southern Cal over Michigan.

Orange Bowl, Jan. 1 – Florida State over Miami.

Cotton Bowl, Jan. 2 – Ole Miss over Oklahoma State.

Peach Bowl, Jan. 2 – Tennessee over Clemson.

Fiesta Bowl, Jan. 2 – Ohio State over Kansas State.

Humanitarian Bowl, Jan. 3 – Tulsa over Georgia Tech.

Sugar Bowl, Jan. 4 – LSU over Oklahoma.



Sports & Recreation

Bowling center

Child and Youth Services is registering youth ages 5-18 for league play that starts Jan. 10. The league will play each Saturday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Redstone Lanes, building 3707 on Aerobee Road. Cost is \$75 per bowler and includes 14 weeks of bowling, shoe rental, Young American Bowling Alliance membership, Central Registration fee, T-Shirt, free Sunday bowling from 3-5 p.m., and free shoes anytime. Certified bowling instructors will be on hand. Register Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Challenger Community Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. For more information, call 876-3704.

Youth flying lessons

Child and Youth Services' Flying Lessons are going on now. Youngsters ages 12-18 will have the opportunity to take flying lessons at Redstone Flying Activity. Cost per child is \$545. Classes include eight hours ground session, five one-hour flight sessions and more. The parent and child must become Flying Activity members (\$45 fee) in order to secure required liability insurance. For classes to begin, at least six students must register. For details call Redstone Flying Activity 881-3980 or Child and Youth Services 876-3704.



Conferences & Meetings

Protestant women

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Thursdays from 9:30 to noon at Bicentennial Chapel. Four studies are offered. "Come for fellowship, worship, prayer and Bible study," a prepared release said. Child care is available. Other classes are held Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and in the evening. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646 or Jennifer Devlin 716-0107.

Sunday school

Adults are invited to study the book of James at Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel, room 13. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646.

Communicators club

Learn the art of speaking, listening and thinking through the Communications Club which meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Sparkman building 5300, room 5140 on the first floor. For information call Dan Cutshall 876-4547 or Ron Legowik 876-5619.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30 at the Soldatenstube, building 3512, at the corner of Gray Road and Shillelagh Circle. For more information, call retired CSM Jean Rose 313-1659.

Health center team

Fox Army Health Center officials say they are dedicated to providing the best service possible to all of their beneficiaries. In support of that they have a Consumers Health Advocate Team which meets quar-

terly, the first Monday — January, April, July and October — at 11 a.m. at the Sky-light Conference Room, Fox Army Health Center. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, etc., on how they can better serve the community, you are invited to attend and participate. The next meeting is Jan. 5.

Lunch and learn

American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858 will have a "Lunch and Learn" today and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Challenger Activity Center on Weeden Mountain Road. Discussion topic is "civil service reform under the new Rumsfeld legislation." Lunch will be provided for the first 100 attendees each day.



Miscellaneous

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club each year presents Merit Awards to qualified applicants based on their scholastic achievements, citizenship and sincere desire to pursue higher education. These awards are designed to help offset the cost of tuition, books and related fees. All applicants must meet the following criteria: be a member, spouse of a member, or the dependent of an OCWC member in good standing as of Oct. 1, 2003 and live within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. Candidates may compete in one of four categories: high school senior, undergraduate, graduate and member/spouse. Previous award winners may compete in succeeding years, but may win only once in each category. Additionally, students receiving full scholarships are not eligible to apply for a Merit Award. Applications will be available at all OCWC board meetings and luncheons beginning in October. The deadline for Merit Award consideration is Feb. 11, 2004. For more information call Michelle Archer, the Merit Award chairperson, 534-5783.

Reserve unit

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal is looking for prior active duty soldiers who want to return to duty, or soldiers who wish to transfer from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 74B information systems operators, and 75B/H unit administration. For 74B, the unit will consider reclassification/waiver action to 74B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, PC programming languages, networking/systems administration and telecommunications skills. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the character and personal qualifications to pass a SBI Investigation check to obtain a top secret clearance required by the specialty. Specialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For MOS 75B/H, you must be MOS-Q prior service or transfer from another unit. For information call Charles Vartan 876-0604 (work) or 883-8891 (home).

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions

overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Jane Wyatt 876-4106 or Maj. Felicia Carter 313-3867. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. To bid on this property, go to www.gsaauctions.gov. For more information, call 544-4667.

Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 annual scholarship awards to a local high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information, call Jackie Kenner 876-8131.

Student apprentices

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are United States citizens and 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 7, 2004. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. The points of contact for applications are senior counselors, at all public, private and parochial high school and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at the Aviation and Missile Command include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for postmarking applications is Jan. 31. If the student is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the high school senior counselor or college placement service, call Julie Lumpkins of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center 313-4834.

Arts and crafts

The June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center, building 3615 on Gray Road, has new classes for you to enjoy. The classes are open to the entire Redstone community, including contractors. For a full listing of classes and times, call 876-7951 or go to www.redstonemwr.com.

Closings or delays

If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: radio — WAHR; 99.1FM; WDRM, 102FM; WEKR, 1240AM; WEUP, 1600 AM; WGSV, 1270AM; WJAB, 90.9FM; WLRH, 89.3FM; WRAB, 1380AM; WRSA, 97FM; WTKI, 1450AM; WVNN, 770AM; WWIC, 1050AM; WZYP, 104.3FM; television — WAAY (Channel 31); WAFF (Channel 48); WHNT (Channel 19). Three additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures. You can call 955-8445 to hear a recorded announcement or you can click the button for weather information on either the Team Redstone Internet site (www.redstone.army.mil) or the AMCOM Portal Intranet site (https://intranet3.redstone.army.mil:7443/p/ls/aprtl/aprtl_amcom_site.amcom_page).

Christmas trees

All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees, are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area northeast of the Ammunition Supply Point area which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees should not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use. This area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. Travel will be limited to the single pasture trail along the east side of the open pastureland. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Extreme caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside of the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees should be cut from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by Dec. 24. The trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For more information and a location map, contact personnel at the Outdoor Recreation Office, building 5132, 876-4868.

Master's degrees

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information meeting on its master of business administration program Thursday at 6 p.m. at Calhoun Community College, conference room 101-E, 102 Wynn Drive. For more information call 800-672-7223, ext. 5026 or send an e-mail to danielag@huizenga.nova.edu.

Equal opportunity course

AMCOM Equal Opportunity Office will hold an equal opportunity representative course and Consideration of Others facilitator trainers course Jan. 5-16 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Dec. 22. This is open to military and civilian employees. For more information, call SFC Vasquez 876-8648 or MSgt. Santos and SFC Weber 876-9224.

Aerospace scholarship

The Air Force Association, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will present a \$1,000 scholarship to an Air Force Junior ROTC cadet, cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, dependent of active duty or retired Air Force personnel, dependent of Air National Guard or Air

Announcements

Force Reserve personnel, or dependent of an active duty member of another service (Army, Navy, or Marine Corps). Applicants must pursue a full course load toward an aerospace technology associate degree at Calhoun Community College. This scholarship will be for the 2004-05 school year and will be broken into \$500 awards to the school for each semester attended. Candidates may apply until May 1. For more information, call Terry Roop (256) 230-0396 after 6 p.m. or e-mail at TLRoop@charter.net.

Red Cross blood drives

Blood drives include: Jan. 8 – building 5400 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Jan. 15 – building 7613 and Sparkman Center 7-12:30, SMDC 8-12:30; Jan. 16 – NASA building 4316 8-1:30, Corps of Engineers 7-noon and Sparkman Center 7-12:30; Jan. 22 – building 4488 7-12:30; Jan. 23 – building 4545 7-12:30; and Jan. 30 SMDC 8-12:30.

Fiber optics courses

Aviation & Electronic Schools of America will present "Introduction to Fiber Optics" and "Advanced Fiber Optics" courses Jan. 5-30 in Huntsville. Price for both courses is \$2,431, books \$99 and the certified fiber optic technician exam \$90. Total hours are 60 and credits 4. For more information or reservations, call Don Bradley 800-345-2742, ext. 228.

Quarterly retirement ceremony

The Quarterly Post Retirement Ceremony for Redstone Arsenal's military retirees is scheduled Jan. 13 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. If you are interested in participating or for more information, call SFC Rodger Pettitt, the Garrison operations NCO, 876-2819 or 655-0705 by Jan. 6.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesdays from 9-5, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-12:30. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. The shop will be closed for the holidays Dec. 24 through Jan. 5 and reopen with new hours Jan. 6. The new shopping times will be Tuesdays 9-5, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-12:30. Appointments will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. For more information, call 881-6992.

Holiday ribbons

Just in time for the holidays, magnetic yellow ribbons are on sale at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The 8-inch magnets are available

for the \$5 donation to Army Emergency Relief. Call 876-5397 for more information. This is a fund-raising project sponsored by the ACS volunteers. Cash or checks made out to Army Emergency Relief are accepted.

Christmas meal

The dining facility will be open to all active duty military, retired military, their immediate family members and guest Dec. 25. The Christmas meal is served for all from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Reservations will not be permitted. The cost of the meal is \$5.25, and \$4.55 for dependents of soldiers E-4 and below. The menu includes glazed ham, roast turkey, shrimp cocktail, steamship round, cornbread dressing, candied yams, giblet gravy, assorted vegetables, assorted breads, assorted desserts, assorted drinks, mixed nuts and candies. All servicemembers must have their military identification card. Only cash will be accepted for the meal. Use the south entrance of the dining facility, building 3438 on Aerobee Road. For more information, call 876-3067.

Performing arts

DanzArtz Company, a non-profit organization, will present its 13th annual Nutcracker performance Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Tickets, which cost \$5 to \$13, are available through the VBC ticket office or Ticketmaster. For information call 881-9189.

Leadership luncheon

The National Space Club-Huntsville will hold its annual Leadership Luncheon Jan. 28 in the Von Braun Center North Hall. A reception starts at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon is noon to 1:30. Cost is \$25 per person or \$200 for tables of eight. For reservations call Carla Bossard 837-3982 or Jodi Weiner 721-2450 by Jan. 21.

Hot thanks

As a way of saying thanks to the Redstone community, Army Community Service will serve hot cocoa from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday at building 3338 on Redeye Road. "Please stop by and share a warm cup with us," a prepared release said.

New Year's Eve gala

The Officers and Civilians Club will have a New Year's Eve Party starting with a buffet dinner 7-9 p.m. Dec. 31. Cost is \$40 per person. Ticket price includes dinner, entertainment, continental breakfast from 12-1 a.m., party favors and champagne for toasting. Plus, there is an all inclusive on-post lodging package which includes lodging on Redstone Arsenal in cottages or deluxe hotel rooms, transportation to and from the New Year's Eve Gala, dinner and dance. There are 66

deluxe rooms and five cottages; cost is \$139.50 per couple for tickets and lodging. For tickets call 830-CLUB or Redstone Lodging 837-4130 or 876-5713 for the New Year's Eve Gala Package. Tickets are on sale and this event is open to the entire Redstone community.

Challenger center

The Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road, will open for its New Year's Party at 6 p.m. Dec. 31. Cost is \$15 per person. Ticket price includes DJ/karaoke, hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne for toasting. Lodging package includes tickets for the Challenger party, room, transportation to and from the Challenger, champagne and amenities for \$89.50 per couple or \$74.50 per individual. Call 837-0750/0751 for details.

Firehouse pub

The Firehouse Pub will open for its New Year's Party at 6 p.m. Dec. 31. Cost is \$10 per person. Ticket price includes DJ/karaoke, Tommy McPherson, hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne for toasting. Lodging package includes tickets for the Firehouse Pub party, room, champagne and the transportation to and from the Firehouse Pub for \$79.50 per couple or \$69.50 per individual. The Firehouse Pub is located on Hankins Road (just off Goss Road). Call 830-2582 or 842-0748 for details.

Post library

Come in to check out some bestsellers, audio books, a history book or any other subject of interest at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Post Library. See the new Children's Room. The library is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, 11-6 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and from 11-4 Saturday. It has public computers with research databases, word processing software and Internet access. Staff will assist with book and information searches as requested. The library is in building 3323 on Redeye Road. For information call 876-4741.

Reward offered

A \$1,000 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for leaving the scene of an accident sometime between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. July 29. This driver — while traveling eastbound on Martin Road, operating a white flatbed semi-trailer, hauling construction equipment — struck the Patton Road overpass, causing about \$122,000 damage to the structure. Anyone having knowledge of the incident, who does not wish to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality. Those with information concerning the hit-and-run are encouraged to call the Provost Marshal Investigations and Inspections Division 876-2090 or the Military Police 876-2222.

See Announcements on page 26

