

Redstone Rocket

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December 15, 2004

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Village vision becomes reality

Retirement community open to everyone age 62 and older

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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What began as an idea by a group of military retirees has become bricks and concrete, walls and pillars and an upscale place for everyone age 62 and older to spend the rest of their lives.

Redstone Village, a retirement community in southeast Huntsville, is open for occupancy.

Twelve families have moved in since the doors opened Nov. 18. The occupants include retired Maj. Gen. George Turnmeyer, 79, and his wife, Jean. When an organization began in August 1993 to originate plans, he was elected president of the board of directors. Now his only role is resident and serving as "corporate memory" to the president, retired Brig. Gen. Bill Fiorentino.

In 11 years, the project has evolved as much as the land it now occupies on a hill off South Memorial Parkway just south of Redstone Road. To get to Redstone Village, you take a left onto Veterans Drive,

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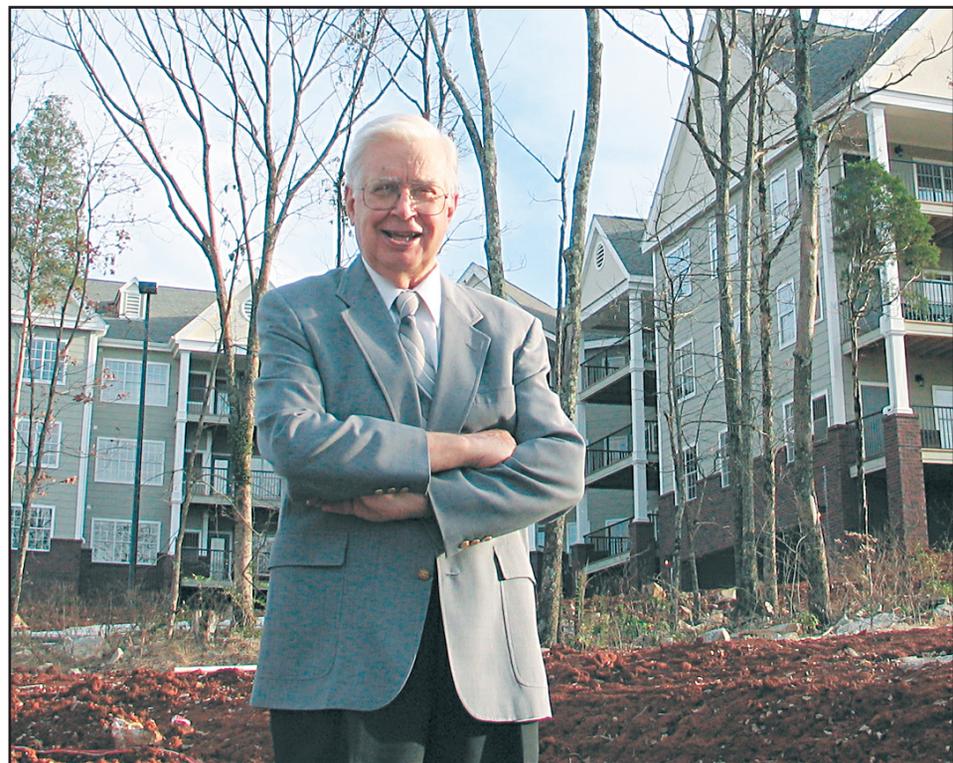


Photo by Skip Vaughn

GROWING SITE— Retired Maj. Gen. George Turnmeyer stands in front of part of Redstone Village, a retirement community in southeast Huntsville.

Command awards agreements to 16 contractors

Significant impact seen for 2005 procurement

The Aviation and Missile Command has announced the selection of prime contractors for the AMCOM Express (Expedited Professional and Engineering Support Services) Blanket Purchase Agreement program.

AMCOM Express is the replacement for the Omnibus 2000 program, and will be used to acquire competitive contracted advisory and assistance services for AMCOM and its customers.

Sixteen businesses have been selected as prime contractors to compete for task orders in four domains or functional areas.

"We, in our briefings to industry and up the chain (at Department of Army), have emphasized that it is significant in the advisory and assistance services arena," Kathy Ray, acting chief of the Omnibus and services division at the Acquisition Center and the contracting officer for the AMCOM Express procurement, said. "You have broad participation by over 300 companies and it has significant business and economic impact in that industry. The acquisition strategy was structured to enhance small business participation."

Of the 16 prime contractors, 12 qualify as small businesses within their respective domain. Approximately 300 more contractors have partnered with the 16 prime contractors as team members and subcontractors. Approximately 249 of those team members and subcontractors qualify as small businesses in at least one domain.

For fiscal year 2004, AMCOM obligated more than \$350 million through the Omnibus 2000 program. It is estimated that AMCOM Express will reach at least that level of contract obligations, more than 90 percent of which will be performed in the Huntsville/Redstone Arsenal area. Historically, more than 60 percent of these contract dollars have been awarded to small businesses.

The awards will be for one year beginning in January. And the blanket purchase agreements will provide for additional award terms based on the performance of the individual contractors.

The contractors and their functional areas include the following:

- **Business and Analytical Domain** — Analytical Services Inc. (ASI), a Huntsville woman-owned small disadvantaged business; Navigator Development Group Inc., Huntsville veteran-owned small business; and Perkins Technical Ser-

vices Inc., a Huntsville woman-owned small business.

- **Technical Domain** — Aviation and Missile Solutions LLC (AMS), a Huntsville small business; Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), a Huntsville large business; Madison Research Corporation, a Huntsville small business; Morgan Research Corporation, a Huntsville 8(a) woman-owned small disadvantaged business; Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a Huntsville large business; and Westar Aerospace and Defense Group Inc., a St. Charles, Mo., small business.

- **Programmatic Domain** — 3D Research Corporation, a Huntsville 8(a) woman-owned small disadvantaged business; CAS Inc., a Huntsville large business; Intuitive Research and Technology, a Huntsville 8(a) small disadvantaged business; and Sigmatech Inc., a Huntsville small disadvantaged business.

- **Logistics Domain** — Advanced Engineering and Planning Corporation (AEPCO), a Rockville, Md., large business; Belzon Inc., a Huntsville service-disabled-veteran-owned small business; and Metters Industries Inc., a McLean, Va., service-disabled-veteran-owned small business.

Letters to the Editor

Disabilities support appreciated

As the volunteer chairperson of the board of directors of the Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation, I wish to commend Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury for publishing his letter of support for the Javits-Wagner-O'Day program in the *Redstone Rocket*. This is another fine example of the three decades of strong support Team Redstone has given to people with disabilities in North Alabama through the JWOD program.

As a member of the board of the local NISH agency, I have the opportunity to hear story after story of lives being changed forever through the local vocational rehabilitation process. More often than not, these success stories involve a job that is through the JWOD program and our local federal customer support.

All of us at the Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation (doing business as

Phoenix) and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama Department of Human Resources and the Department of Veteran Affairs (our referral partners) appreciate so very much the 30 years of support and the thousands of lives that have been changed through JWOD jobs associated with Team Redstone since 1973.

We strive to be your very best service provider, to exceed your expectations and to always be responsive to your requirements. We hope to continue to strengthen this wonderful partnership in the coming years and again, our sincere thanks for supporting people with disabilities through JWOD.

Robert Gustafson
board chairperson,
Huntsville Rehabilitation
Foundation Inc.

Unwelcome gift during holidays

On Dec. 9, I was traveling down Vincent Road to pick up my sick child at the Child Development Center. I received a speeding ticket that was both expected and justified. The comment I would like to make deals with the surrounding circumstances. As a wife of a deployed Soldier to Iraq, and a mother of three children, I have an in-depth knowledge of the emotional hardship and increased stress a separation can have on a military family. The holidays also cause a tremendous amount of turmoil.

I expect the Military Police to enforce the laws and encourage driving safety, but I encourage them to look beyond the numbers. I was once told by an Army officer that the emotional well-being of

military families was far more important than a minor infraction. I can pay my speeding ticket with no major financial impact to my family. Unfortunately, a ticket for an enlisted spouse with children can be a hardship. I think the Provost Marshal should encourage the MPs to assess the situation and issue warning tickets for minor infractions, especially during this holiday season. The MPs writing tickets on Redstone Arsenal are lucky enough to spend this holiday season in the United States, with friends and family. Unfortunately, some military families will spend their holiday season hoping they will be together next year.

Name withheld by request

Graduation rates among athletes

I have been reading Skip Vaughn's football predictions for some time. I was wondering if he or readers happen to know how many Division I to I-AA schools giving athletic scholarships, which exclude Ivy League schools, had 100 percent graduation rates during eligibility among football players graduating in 2004.

Milton P. Jones
Army civilian worker

Editor's note: The NCAA ranked Duke student-athletes first among Division I-A colleges and universities for their 90 percent graduation rate, according to an October study. Notre Dame, Northwestern and Stanford were second with a four-year average graduation rate of 87 percent of student-athletes. The national average for Division I-A schools is 61 percent.

An open lane random survey

What is the best Christmas gift you have ever received?

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

Staff Sgt. **Brian Herbert**
Tactical Academy



"It was a box of candy and stuff that I got from my wife when I was in Iraq. Christmas time is always hard when you're separated from your spouse and kids."



Linda Hancock
military spouse
"My digital camera — I love taking pictures, printing them up and scrapbooking."

Chief Warrant Officer
Andrew Russell

"A little car that was battery operated and not remote control. I was sick that Christmas. I was a kid on the couch while everybody else was opening their presents. It was just a really nice Christmas. I think it was the year my father was on strike and we didn't think we were going to get that much stuff. That car meant a lot."



David Lampkin
contractor

"Jesus Christ, he's all there is."



Quote of the week

'Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home.'

— Charles Dickens

Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* staff will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. This is our final issue until Jan. 5. We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: Sheila McCrary

Job: Management assistant to the post Command Sergeant Major

Where do you call home?
Huntsville, Ala.

What do you like about your job?
Supporting and doing my very best for the command and the Soldiers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Read. Serving and helping others.

What are your goals?
To fulfill my purpose in the Kingdom.



Courtesy photo

Santa descends chimney

Working on their entry in the building 4722 Christmas door decorating contest are, from left, CIC/EDM workers Cossie Garth, Deborah Malone-Brooks (kneeling), Marty Ramsey and Amy Byrd.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Dec. 3: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Dec. 3: An individual was found to be in possession of a controlled substance and a pistol without a permit during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued two violation notices and released. The weapon was confiscated. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Dec. 3: An individual found a bracelet in the roadway at Gate 10. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

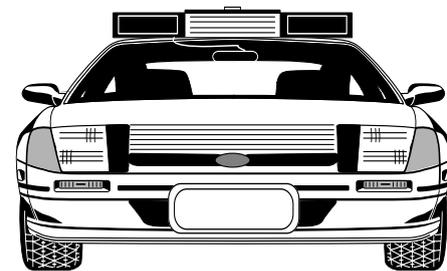
Dec. 5: An individual was found to be drinking under age. He was processed and released to his unit.

Dec. 5: Another individual was found to be drinking under age. He was processed and released to his unit.

Dec. 5: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Dec. 6: An individual was found to be operating his vehicle with a suspended license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released to a licensed driver.

Dec. 7: An individual was found to be operating his vehicle with a suspended license during an inspection at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released to a licensed driver.



Dec. 7: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Dec. 8: An individual was found to be operating his vehicle with a revoked license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released to a licensed driver.

Dec. 9: An individual was found to be operating her motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol when she approached Gate 9 lost. She was issued a violation notice and detained in the detention cell until her blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.

Traffic accidents reported: four without injuries, none with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 23 speeding, 3 driving with a suspended/revoked/canceled driver's license, 1 driving under the influence, 1 parked in a loading zone, 3 parking in violation of ordinance, 1 no proof of insurance, 2 larceny, 1 improper turning movement and 1 failure to obey traffic control device.

Seven Soldiers arrive in month

Seven Soldiers joined Redstone units during November. The Garrison provided the following in-processing list:

- Staff Sgt. Willie Jones, 832nd Ordnance Battalion
- Staff Sgt. Damon Geist, 832nd Ordnance Battalion
- Staff Sgt. Bryant Burdell, 832nd

Ordnance Battalion

- Pfc. Patricia Murphy, Veterinary branch

- Spc. Jesse Strand, Delta Company
- Sgt. 1st Class Allan Nelson, 832nd Ordnance Battalion

- Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Hall, Logistics Support Activity

Holidays difficult with families apart

Here's advice for those with a spouse away

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
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When Mary Breeden's husband was in the Army and away for the holidays, she coped by checking out the saddest video or book she could find and crying over it. "There's nothing wrong with a good cry. It gets it out of your system," she said. "Of course, after you have a good cry you should go out and get that comedy and get back on track."

Breeden, the relocation assistance program manager at Army Community Service, often passes on the coping skills she learned as a military wife to women finding themselves in the same unfortunate position of missing their spouse.

"I know what it's like to be away for the holidays, not near family," she said. "You have to realize that it is normal to be unhappy or to be angry at the Army or your spouse or at everything."

One resource she highly recommends is Waiting Spouses, a group of women who are geographically separated from their spouses. It's open to anyone whose spouse belongs to any branch of the armed forces or is a Department of Defense civilian and is active duty and deployed, away on an unaccompanied tour or attending training.

The group meets the second Tuesday



of every month for "talk time" with Karen Scott, a licensed professional counselor at Behavioral Medicine Clinic at Fox Army Health Center, moderating and the group covers any topic requested.

"There's nothing wrong with coming to the talk times, getting out and just venting," Breeden said. If everything seems to be getting too difficult or overwhelming, she suggested going to talk to someone at Behavioral Medicine or to a chaplain at the Bicentennial Chapel.

Waiting Spouses also meets once a month for lunch on post and holds a social the third Saturday night of each month. They arrange childcare at the Parent's Night Out on post so the women can have some time for themselves. The December

social time will be at the Arts and Crafts Center for a "make and take" project and January will include a tour of the Redstone Fitness Center because exercise reduces stress.

"The wives who have used this program seem to be really supportive of each other," Scott said. "They are aware of each other's pain and fears. They share a common bond that helps when things get really rough. Plus it is a healthy and positive focus for the spouses to be involved with. They get out, go do activities, laugh and have a break from worry."

Breeden stressed that if this is the first time being separated from your spouse during the holidays, think about the traditions you usually have and decide what ones you want to keep.

"If putting up a Christmas tree and lights is too much of a hassle, you may want to skip it this year. You can start new traditions like going to the Galaxy of Lights at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens or to Santa's Village at Constitution Hall Park," she said. "Keep busy but not too busy."

Scott also recommended that the spouses participate in some of the many things that are available in the community. "The community has been very supportive of the families here and has offered all types of services and free programs," she said.

The first thing Scott does when a separated spouse comes to her asking how to cope with the holidays is have them tell her what they typically do when their spouse is home.

"I think it's important for them to verbalize what is normal in their family. After they tell that story then I ask them about the children, what would they like to do this year. Then I have the spouse e-mail their spouse who is deployed and get some input," she said. "This allows the deployed spouse to feel like they are a part of the decision making."

Virginia Dempsey, the family advocacy program manager at ACS, can evaluate whether moms qualify for the respite care the Total Tots program offers. She also has tapes and handouts on stress management available.

"You do need a break from the kids and we offer respite care so you can take a few hours of 'me' time," Breeden said. "It lets you recharge your emotional batteries because being two parents in one can be rather draining."

She also recommends opening an Army Knowledge Online account and coming in to ACS for "Operation Hello Honey" where spouses can bring their kids and use a web camera to do a video to send to their spouse who is away. ACS will be closed Christmas week, but spouses can come in anytime before or after that.

She also suggested volunteering as a good way to keep your spirits up during the holidays. ACS uses many volunteers and Larry Leggett, the volunteer coordinator for all the volunteer programs on the Arsenal, can help find a worthy organization. Also, you can call the Volunteer Center of Madison County at 539-7797.

ACS offers help with financial counseling as well, in case the temptation to overspend during the holidays to make up for being sad that a spouse is away is too great. Breeden cautioned spouses not to overspend and not to overindulge in food over the holidays.

"Think about what is really important for the holiday. People get too wrapped up in doing everything and it stresses out the kids and everyone wonders why they aren't happy. You have to realize it's going to be different with a spouse away," she said.

Call Breeden at ACS 876-5397 or e-mail her at mary.breeden@redstone.army.mil. You can get in touch with Scott at Fox Army Health Center 955-8888, extension 1032.

Grant church delivering prayers to wounded Soldiers



Photo by Kelley Lane

MAKING ADDITION— Penny Maddox adds another blanket to the stack that will be trekking North to Washington, D.C.

Congregation members to travel to Walter Reed with handmade blankets

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

Having a Soldier as part of your family or community makes their causes and concerns a little more personal. Since the beginning of deployments, different groups have come together, spurred into action by a personal connection, to offer what support they can to the men and women on America's missions. One local group is doing it a little different. The congregation of New Life Methodist Church of Grant is offering up a token of its love to those who have come home.

When church member and National Guardsman Michael Austin came back injured from Iraq, he spent time rehabilitating at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. as so many injured Soldiers do. He came home telling of amputees who spend months there learning to function without limbs while trying to heal and get back home to the people who love them. Penny Maddox, whose husband Brent is a contractor engineer in Test Area 3, was touched.

"The stories of the men and women who had lost limbs were just pitiful. I just got this idea in my mind of making the blankets for them," Maddox said. "They are the forgotten ones. They are long term. A lot of the other patients get to go home a lot sooner. Patients that have lost limbs need a lot of rehabilitation."

She was struck by the notion of making "prayer" blankets for these Soldiers who had given so much of themselves as a way to comfort them.

"When you wrap up in a blanket, you feel how warm that is. When you wrap up in these prayer blankets you get that feeling of warmth and God's love wrapped around you," Maddox said. "We want these blankets to just give them a little bit

of hope and a little bit of peace to know somebody out there cares for them."

The name prayer blanket comes from how the blankets are constructed and prepared. Two layers of soft fleece material are put together with the edges cut into strips several inches long. The strips are then tied into knots to secure the layers together and form a decorative fringe around the edges. The knots each represent a prayer said for the Soldier who will receive the blanket. They have been infused with the prayers of old and young alike.

"Even the kids have gotten into it, saying the most beautiful prayers over these blankets," Maddox said. "One little girl was praying and said 'Please God heal their boo-boos.'"

The church group was able to make contact with the staff of Walter Reed through a retiree, Jean Cobb, in the congregation when they began about eight weeks ago. At the time, they were told there were 40 patients who fit the bill. As the mission overseas has continued, that number has grown.

"We started out with the image of 40 blankets. Well, then God said 'No, not 40. Make 60,'" Maddox said. "We found out last week that there are now 72 Soldiers there. We were afraid that there would be more, so we've decided to make a few extra. We have 80 blankets now."

The project has been funded and manned through donations and volunteers. With local coverage by television and newspapers, the church has received donations from across the community and even other parts of the country from those who were visiting the area and heard what the church was doing. Some have sent hundreds of dollars to help with the cause. The rest of the money has come from within the congregation, community donations and other churches. It has been an expensive project.

"It has cost over \$3,000 to make all these blankets," Maddox said. "They cost

See **Blankets** on page 7

SMDC workers give to Toys for Tots

Michael Schexnayder, deputy to the commander for research, development and acquisition at Space and Missile Defense Command, presented Staff Sgt. Michael Lamar and Staff Sgt. Jim Wittkop, representatives from K Battery, 4th Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division, the Marine Corps Reserve unit in Huntsville, with Toys for Tots donated by SMDC employees on Redstone Arsenal.

"You are doing God's work," Schexnayder said.

SMDC collected 21 bicycles and 258 toys that will be distributed by the Marines to children in the Tennessee Valley.

"Everyone at Team SMDC should be

proud of our collective efforts," said Robert Williams, SMDC Toys for Tots chairperson. "These toys and bikes will go a long way in ensuring that children in need will not go without this Christmas."

"This is huge," Wittkop said, "Especially when you do not realize the number of children we help out in the Tennessee Valley. The events like this help us meet our mission."

Last year Toys for Tots distributed more than 400,000 toys to some 6,000 children. How many children receive toys depends on how involved the parents are. "Parents come in and register the children to receive toys," Lamar said.

Church members make prayer blankets for patients

Blankets

continued from page 6

about \$30 to \$40 dollars each. It takes 2 and a half yards of material for each layer, so 5 yards per blanket. The material costs from \$4.99 a yard to \$9.99 a yard."

Despite the costs and effort involved, the members have enjoyed the project. They have spent hours grouped around tables, tying knots and sharing fellowship. Besides bringing them closer to their goal, it has brought them closer together as a community, Maddox said.

Instead of packing the finished blankets and shipping them to their destination, the church group has decided to convey its gifts and the sentiment behind them personally. A group of 17 will be loading into the church bus and making the 12 to 14 hour drive to Washington, D.C. on Dec. 29. The travelers will include several children who have worked on the project and wanted to thank the Soldiers themselves. It will be a tough trip, both physically and emotionally.

"It will be a long ride, but we feel like

it's well worth it," Maddox said. "With one of our own being injured that makes it personal for me. That's what's so hard. We as small town America can't do anything for the Soldiers other than pray for them and hope they don't get hurt. But this is something we can do that is tangible to help out."

Maddox said the project would not have been possible without the volunteers who have worked so hard and the generosity of donors.

"We have done this totally on donations. This started out as what we thought would be a small project. It has turned out to be huge. We hope we can continue if the need is there. The donations, cards and letters we have received have been such a blessing," Maddox said.

While the blankets may be done, the trip is yet to come. The journey brings costs and challenges of its own. A staff member at Walter Reed Medical Center has opened her home to the pilgrims, offering to put six of the weary travelers up at her house. The rest will need hotels. Donations toward the costs of the journey can be sent to New Life Methodist Church at P.O. Box 552, Grant, AL 35747.

Christmas holiday creations get center's attention

Contest decides best display

By MARY ANN KELLY

Integrated Materiel Management Center

You may have noticed the beautiful centerpieces on display in front of the Sparkman Cafeteria the past two Thursdays. People passing by have been asked to vote for their favorite centerpiece.

There has been much excitement and heated competition as to who will win the IMMC's centerpiece contest. Each directorate within Integrated Materiel Management Center had a team to design and create a centerpiece. All the centerpieces are different ranging from Alabama cotton arranged with magnolias and holly, to a camouflaged garland with an Army theme. There is a winter wonderland village scene using the party's theme of a Blast from the Past. Also displayed is a Christmas candle surrounded by winter berries, ribbons and pine cones; and a beautiful blue ornament and rib boned spray.



Courtesy photo

FESTIVE SCENE— Katrina Brown, from the office of the IMMC director, and Patricia Carter, Business Management Center, IMMC, pose with their winning centerpiece.

The votes have been counted and the winner is the Office of the Director/Strategic Planning Office/Business Management Directorate. The first, second and third place winners will be recognized at the IMMC Holiday Party to be held Dec. 16 at the Officers and Civilians Club.



Photo by Kelley Lane

LAST BLANKET— Volunteers put the finishing touches on the 80th and last blanket.

Griggs earns big award for work with small businesses



Courtesy photo

ARMYWIDE HONOR— Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Corps of Engineers chief of engineers, presents the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Specialist of the Year Award to Judy Griggs of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

Engineering center worker cited for contract initiatives

ENGINEERING CENTER RELEASE

The Corps of Engineers has awarded the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Specialist of the Year Award for 2004 to Judy Griggs of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

The annual award recognizes leadership in complying with the requirement to award government contracts to small, woman-owned, HUBZone, and veteran-owned small business firms.

Griggs was recognized in this Army-wide selection for directing an extensive and challenging outreach program to search out small businesses capable of fulfilling the center's wide-ranging program opportunities and missions.

In the three years since beginning her initiatives to increase contract awards to small and disadvantaged business, Huntsville Center has gone from 17 percent of total awards to small business in fiscal year 2002 to 39 percent in fiscal 2004.

To achieve those results, Griggs implemented several new initiatives. Among those were coaching and encouraging small businesses to seek government contracts by organizing pre-proposal conferences/networking opportunities, and posting opportunities on the web site well in advance of the actual issuance of the solicitation.

"We work together to ensure that small businesses have the opportunity to compete for contract awards and that they are successful in the completion of their projects," Griggs said.

"I accepted the award as SADBU of the Year for the total Corps of Engineers on behalf of those performing the varied and challenging work of the center."

The Corps of Engineers' Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, supports specialized missions requiring unique technical expertise in programs that are generally national or broad in scope. The center supports tasks that require a centralized management structure, integrated facilities or systems that cross geographic division boundaries as well as tasks that require commonality, standardization, multiple-site adaptation or technology transfers.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Retirement tribute

Ann Hastings, a program analyst at Integrated Materiel Management Center, listens to IMMC deputy director Rick Turner during her retirement reception Dec. 6 at building 5302. She retires with 45 years service.



Courtesy photo

Outgoing top

1st Sgt. Robert Johnson, right, passes duties of 95th Maintenance Company first sergeant to Master Sgt. Charles Curtis during a change of responsibility ceremony Dec. 1. Looking on at left, with guidon, is post Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn.

Simulator sharpens decision-making skills

New virtual system gives firearms training a boost

By LIRA FRYE
For the Rocket

Police officers seldom know what they'll encounter when they respond to a call. They have to be prepared for any situation.

A new virtual training system will help Redstone's law enforcement officers do just that by providing training in marksmanship, judgment and the proper use of force.

The Firearm Training System, or FATS, is compact, self-contained and flexible. It's comprised of a life-size screen, a projector, computer system and system-controlled weapons.

The simulator training method places an officer in scenarios that test and train the ability to judge, reason and shoot. Redstone Arsenal security forces train using the M-9 Beretta, the M-4 rifle and pepper spray.

Capt. Bobby York, Special Response Team commander and the Provost Marshal training officer, and SSgt. John Moody, Military Police platoon sergeant and operations sergeant, are two of 12 officers trained as equipment instructors. York said the accuracy and recoil of the weapons as well as the realistic scenarios combine to provide a powerful training situation.

"The scenarios give us an idea of how our people will react in a given situation," he said. "It's not reality, but it's as close as we can get to being real. We want to put pressure on our officers and see how they react under that pressure."

Before FATS, officers would do most of their use of force training in the classroom. Hands-on training came on the job. "This training allows our officers to experience and make those snap decisions in a use of force situation," York said. "We want them to understand use of force and use it effectively."

Moody emphasized that the training

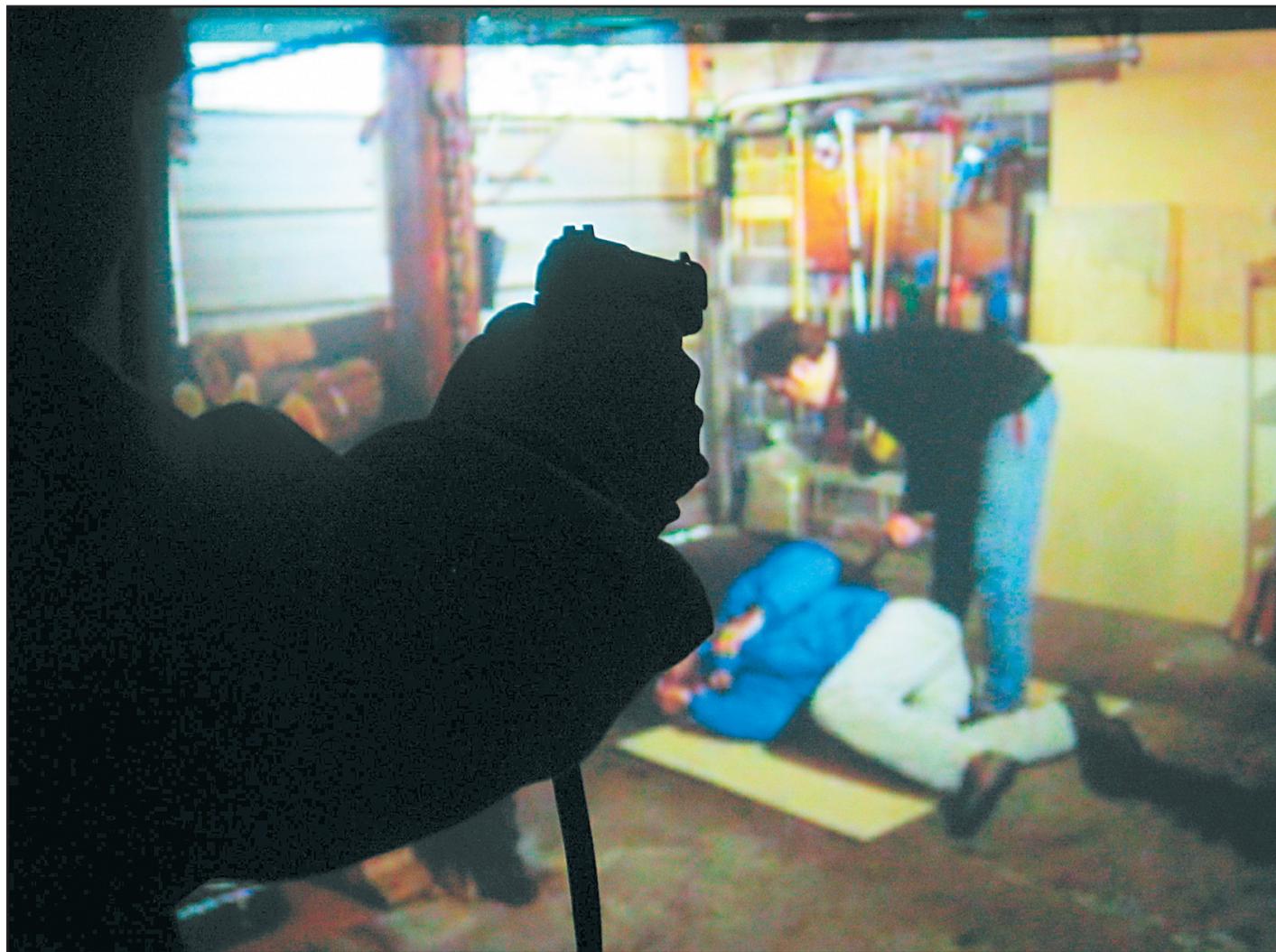


Photo by Lira Frye

ADRENALINE RUSH— Police officers encounter many different scenarios on the line of duty. Redstone's new Firearms Training System offers hundreds of scenarios designed to give officers practice in marksmanship, judgment and the use of proper force.

can be pretty intense. The scenarios run the gamut from the officer talking someone out of a situation to the officer acting with deadly force. The trainer can pick the scenario and change it as the officer moves through the training. Depending on

the officer's reactions, the trainer may make the scenario more aggressive by adding more danger or violence.

One of the system's special features includes night-time operations. The officer uses an infrared flashlight to light up sections of the screen. Just as with a regular flashlight, only those areas within the light's range are visible.

Not only does the system provide unique training opportunities, it also reduces costs. The FATS marksmanship training enables officers to train in a computer-simulated firing range before they go out on the actual range and expend rounds. Special sensors identify areas

where the shooter makes errors.

"This is more effective training using fewer resources," York said. "It allows us to recreate what we would actually be doing on the range, and improve marksmanship by identifying errors and correcting them."

With a cost of more than \$73,000, the system is upgradeable, expandable, and according to both York and Moody, has an endless capacity for future training.

"We'll train close to 300 individuals including the contract guards," Moody said. "This is an awesome tool, and greatly increases our capabilities and consistency as well as enhances our training and our ability to deal with the public."

Brown International wins small business of year

Huntsville company honored by Chamber of Commerce

BROWN INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

Brown International Corporation has been named the 2004 Technology Small Business of the Year by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. The company, which specializes in air defense and battle-space management, took the coveted Chamber honor after beating out other technology firms in a highly competitive field.

The Chamber award recognizes business excellence following a complex independent judging process. Competing companies are evaluated on multiple criteria including sustained performance in the marketplace, ability to overcome challenges, employment growth, innovativeness of products and services, community involvement and financial stability. Brown International excelled in all categories, demonstrating exceptional capability in product quality and responsiveness to its customers.

Brown International's core capabilities include providing design, manufacturing, and integration of digital command, control, communication and computer integrated systems. The

high-tech products engage leading-edge technologies for reliable, cost-effective solutions with rapid product delivery. The company is currently executing nearly 20 programs for customers that include all branches of the U.S. military as well as numerous international agencies.

One of the company's main programs is the Joint Based Expeditionary Connectivity Center. Developed through the Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab for the 1st Air Force, the system integrates data-link and multi-sensor information into a single, comprehensive picture for accurate monitoring of airspace over a large geographic area for air and missile defense. Its applications are used both in national and international combat operations as well as for critical protection of national security assets in homeland defense settings.

The highly mobile JBECC and its companion Future Operations Center have been used extensively to connect worldwide civilian and military communications and surveillance systems for the president and vice president wherever they may be located. National security purposes for the two systems include operations in critical locations: Washington, D.C.; the G8 Summit in Georgia; the Republican

National Convention in New York; and the president's ranch in Crawford, Texas. Brown International products were also used to help provide security at the recent Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

Brown International President Terry Beane attributed garnering the Chamber award as well as continued company success to its unique company characteristics.

"We can offer our customers the flexibility of a small business environment with the benefits of large corporation capabilities. Our operations allow us to provide unprecedented cost effective solutions and rapid delivery time for the customers," he said. "In other words, less red tape benefits our customers."

Beane also praised the dedication of company employees. "Their unwavering commitment to quality performance is helping to win the war on terror and protecting our national assets. Our employees know their efforts matter," he said.

Brown International Corporation, headquartered in Huntsville, has more than 140 employees deployed worldwide with sales of more than \$19 million annually. International activities include operations in South Korea, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and Greece.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Frosty in the house

Terry Green, left, and Tracy Cunningham hug Frosty the Snowman at the supply operations team office, part of High Altitude Air Defense Directorate, Integrated Materiel Management Center in building 5309. Their area of the 10-member office won a decorating contest Thursday for its winter wonderland theme.

Village

continued from page 1

go up a hill and make a right on Turnmeyer Drive.

Originally, the planners wanted to get federal land on Redstone Arsenal. The government avenue didn't work out, so they went the commercial route. Going commercial requires approval from many organizations, and the planners didn't have any funds.

"So the first thing we did was find a contractor who would be willing to put up seed money," said Turnmeyer, while sitting in a plush reception area. "We selected Greystone Communities of Dallas, in '94."

Greystone ran a series of surveys on the project's validity and agreed. In December 1996, with Greystone's help, the organizers asked the State Health Planning Development Agency in Montgomery for approval. The state approved the group's letter of intent enabling the organizers to submit an application for a certificate of need. The planners applied in April 1997 and received state approval in September 1998.

But the hurdles weren't over. Five other organizations that were seeking certificates of need sued the state, making the Redstone Village group a co-defendant along with the state. The five organizations decided to withdraw in April 1999. The state then awarded another certificate of need to Redstone Village, giving it final approval.

The group just needed the money for the project. So the planners went back to Greystone and arranged for \$2 million of seed money. With that money, they obtained a contractor, William Sims, originally out of Florida, who put together a \$59 million package.

"He put the package together for us and it was approved by a group of (14) financiers – from all over the country but basically New York," Turnmeyer said. "And we started the construction."

The contract was signed to buy the 88 acres; and the construction company, Brice Building out of Birmingham, broke ground Dec. 11, 2001, and began work in early 2002.

Originally, the planners envisioned a facility for military retirees only but the

financial group stipulated in 2003 that it should be open to everyone 62 and older. So, the facility is open to everyone 62 and older who pays the \$200,000 to \$250,000 entrance fee.

"We're building a life-care community," Turnmeyer said. "What that means is we're building something that will provide for us to look out for ourselves for the rest of our lives. That means we'll have independent living, assisted living and a skilled nursing facility."

"So what you do when you come to this facility, you're buying a contract not only for a place to live but someone who will look out for your health for the rest of your life."

Turnmeyer moved into one of the 88 independent living apartments which represent Building A, open since Nov. 18. Consolidated Construction of Huntsville has begun work on 13 of the 16 independent living houses. There will be 50 assisted living apartments in Building B. And there will be 40 skilled nursing beds for the next level of care. The assisted living apartments and skilled nursing beds are expected to be finished in January.

"I think it's lovely, we're quite proud of it," retired Col. Bill Lee, engineer for the board of directors, said. "It's a good quality facility. And the food's wonderful. It has turned out very well."

The buildings are connected by hallways, every apartment has a balcony or patio and every family has a space in a parking lot under their building. Turnmeyer escorts a visitor on a tour of the dining room, the card room, the deli, the beauty/barber shop, an auditorium room with big-screen television, and other features.

"My apartment is 1,424 square feet — two bedrooms, a den, living room, dining room and kitchen — and I paid \$300,000. When I pass away, 90 percent goes to my heirs so it's 90 percent refundable," said Turnmeyer, who also pays a monthly fee for occupancy.

"Some organizations like ours have a different refundable policy. I think we have in my mind the best available or I wouldn't be here," he said. "In summary, we've protected our investment. We've protected our health future and we're living in a private club. And I don't think you can beat it."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PLANNING MEAL— Redstone Village executive chef Stevon Carmichael talks with retired Maj. Gen. George Turnmeyer in the dining room.

59th edges rival Delta in preseason tourney opener

Delta's basketball loss follows flag football title

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

Such is the nature of troop sports. Highs and lows change with the seasons. Only 24 hours after winning the flag football championship, Delta Company



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON MOVE— HHC 59th point guard Reggie McMillan brings the ball up court against Delta.

had a disappointing loss in the first round of the preseason basketball tournament.

HHC 59th point guard Reggie McMillan hit two free throws with 1:06 left as the 59th beat Delta 31-29 Thursday night at Pagano Gym. McMillan finished with 12 points for the "Raise up" team.

"It was a good game for our first game," 59th coach Darrell Small said. "We're rusty but we'll be ready by the time the regular season comes (Jan. 10)."

The 59th, which also got 12 points from Frederick Fowler, led 18-17 at half-time. Delta had the ball in the game's final seconds but committed a turnover.

"I think it's a combination of some poor calls with some poor play," said Delta small forward Bobby Wiggs, who had 11 points with three 3-pointers. "After we get basketball conditioning in after flag football, we should be OK by the beginning of the season."

In other preseason tournament openers, Bravo beat MEDDAC 42-34, Charlie defeated Headquarters & Alpha 26-18 and the Marines won by forfeit over 326th Chemical.

Flag football champs

Delta relied on defense to win the flag football final Dec. 8 on the field off Patton

Road. The Devastating Dragons beat 326th Chemical 6-0 in the night's first game and 8-6 in the final.

Between those games, the 326th advanced from the losers bracket by beating Bravo 24-12.

Delta (14-1) strong safety Rob Coppage made an interception to stem the 326th's last drive with 5:30 left in game one.

In the final, the 326th (11-6) took an early 6-0 lead on a 2-yard touchdown pass from the quarterback to the center on fourth-and-goal. After the ensuing kick-off, the Devastating Dragons tied the score on their first play from scrimmage

with a 55-yard touchdown run by half-back Keith Broughton. He took the hand-off from quarterback Johnnie Walker and dashed to the end zone. Bobby Wiggs caught a two-point conversion pass to end the scoring before the defenses took over.

Jonathan Jumper made a game-saving interception at midfield with 2:30 left.

"For the playoffs, we put all our differences aside, focused on the mission at hand to finish what we started," Coppage said. "And it's good to be over. Everybody jokes about us being the oldest team. As a matter of fact, the old guys plan on making it three in a row (with softball, flag football and basketball titles)."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CHARLIE BASKET— Headquarters & Alpha's Mark Thomas (40) watches the ball go through the hoop as Charlie's Dominique Scurry (15) heads the other way. Charlie won 26-18.

USC picked to win mythical national championship

Unbeaten Auburn should share title

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

Skip's Picks went 243-98 for 71 percent in the college football season. Here are my bowl game predictions:

- **Champs Sports Bowl, Dec. 21 in Orlando, Fla.** — Syracuse over Georgia Tech.
- **GMAC Bowl, Dec. 22 in Mobile** — Bowling Green over Memphis.
- **Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl, Dec. 23** — Marshall over Cincinnati.
- **Las Vegas Bowl, Dec. 23** — UCLA over Wyoming.
- **Hawaii Bowl, Dec. 24 in Honolulu** — Hawaii over UAB.



- **MPC Computers Bowl, Dec. 27 in Boise, Idaho** — Virginia over Fresno State.
- **Motor City Bowl, Dec. 27 in Pontiac, Mich.** — Toledo over Connecticut.
- **Independence Bowl, Dec. 28 in Shreveport, La.** — Iowa State over Miami (Ohio).

- **Insight Bowl, Dec. 28 in Phoenix** — Notre Dame over Oregon State.
- **Houston Bowl, Dec. 29** — Colorado over Texas-El Paso.
- **Alamo Bowl, Dec. 29 in San Antonio** — Ohio State over Oklahoma State.
- **Continental Tire Bowl, Dec. 30 in Charlotte, N.C.** — Boston College over North Carolina.

- **Emerald Bowl, Dec. 30 in San Francisco** — Navy over New Mexico.
- **Holiday Bowl, Dec. 30 in San Diego** — Texas Tech over California.
- **Silicon Valley Classic, Dec. 30 in San Jose** — Troy over Northern Illinois.
- **Music City Bowl, Dec. 31 in Nashville** — Alabama over Minnesota.
- **Sun Bowl, Dec. 31 in El Paso** — Purdue over Arizona State.
- **Liberty Bowl, Dec. 31 in Memphis** — Louisville over Boise State.
- **Peach Bowl, Dec. 31 in Atlanta** — Florida over Miami.
- **Cotton Bowl, Jan. 1 in Dallas** — Tennessee over Texas A&M.
- **Outback Bowl, Jan. 1 in Tampa** — Georgia over Wisconsin.
- **Gator Bowl, Jan. 1 in Jacksonville, Fla.** — Florida State over West Virginia.
- **Capital One Bowl, Jan. 1 in Orlando** — LSU over Iowa.
- **Rose Bowl, Jan. 1 in Pasadena** — Michigan over Texas.
- **Fiesta Bowl, Jan. 1 in Tempe, Ariz.** — Pittsburgh over Utah.
- **Sugar Bowl, Jan. 3 in New Orleans** — Auburn over Virginia Tech.
- **Orange Bowl, Jan. 4 in Miami** — Southern Cal over Oklahoma.

Youngsters invited to join racquetball league

By VICKIE MARKS
MWR sales and marketing

Grab your goggles and racquet, and get ready to swat that little blue ball. All Redstone Arsenal youth are encouraged to participate in the brand new Child and Youth Services' Youth Racquetball League.

This league will be held Jan. 14 through Feb. 26. Classes will be held Fridays from 4-5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pagano Gym.

Children ages 8-17 whose parents work or live on Redstone Arsenal, including contractors, are welcome to participate.

Racquetball is an individual sport that will help youth to get off the couch and get active. Racquetball is a great way for youth to relieve stress while improving coordination. Players with no experience and players who might be more advanced at racquetball will be equally comfortable participating in this youth league.

Every Friday session will be used to teach inexperienced players the basic

skills, rules and strategies for racquetball. Saturday sessions will concentrate on recreational competition. Competition will be fun, age appropriate, and based on the skill level of each player.

Players are required to wear normal exercise apparel and provide their own racquet and eye protection. Volunteer coaches are needed for the league. Coaches that don't have basic racquetball knowledge are also encouraged to volunteer.

"The most important thing is coaches with a willingness to help," Mike Gates, youth sports and fitness director, said.

The league registration fee for players is \$40 along with the annual \$18 Central Registration fee, if not already registered. The league registration fee includes a T-shirt and participation award. Each player is also required to have a sports physical, which will be kept on file at CYS Central Registration. To register, stop by CYS Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. For more information, call Gates at 313-2177 or Chris Carter at 876-3704.



Mary Petty/Photo Lab

Festive fun run

A crowd participates in the holiday season Esprit de Corps Fun Run/Walk held Friday morning near the Sparkman Center.



Sports & Recreation

Monday night football

Visit the Firehouse Pub each Monday night for NFL Monday Night Football. Doors open at 4 p.m. for game prep, pre-game rivalry and trash talk. There are free hot dogs, hamburgers and other foods with beverage purchase. And as always, watch the game on the big screen. This deal runs all season long. For more information, call 842-0748.

Youth racquetball

The Child and Youth Services Racquetball League, for ages 8-18, is scheduled Jan. 14 to Feb. 26 from 4-5 p.m. Fridays and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at Pagano Gym. This includes basic racquetball instruction and recreational competition; basic skills, rules and strategy. Competition will be fun and age appropriate. All participants must provide their own racquet and eye protection. Fee includes participation award and T-shirt. Volunteer coaches are needed. Register at building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Youngsters must have a current sports physical to participate. Fee is \$40 plus Central Registration Fee (\$18) if not already paid. Call 313-2177 or 876-3704 for more information.

Conferences & Meetings

Men singers

The Rocket City Chorus, a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Aldersgate Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 12901 Bailey Cove Road. For more information, call John Gonzalez 842-2992 (work) or 852-2408 (home).

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center on Airport Road. The Children of Trinity will provide the entertainment and there will be a "surprise" guest to greet the children. Also, extra special door prizes will be available. For tickets — \$9 members, \$10 non-members — see your organization ASMC representative or call Kim Jean 876-7208 or Lisa Lowry 876-1423.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30 in the Twickenham Room at the Officers and Civilians Club. The association is open to membership for all E-9s from all services, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves. For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jean Rose 313-1659.

Admin professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 10th annual seminar, "Pathways to Professional Excellence," Feb. 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Huntsville Hilton. Keynote speaker is Linda Spalla, former president and general manager of WHNT-TV. Afternoon workshop topics include Effective Writ-

ing, Scrapbooking, Professional Manners, Edwards Jones Financial Tips, Pros & Cons of Fad Diets/Bariatric Surgery, and Identity Theft. A fashion show will also be included with the luncheon and continental breakfast and snacks will be provided to attendees. The course is in TIPS by the course number PPE, and vendor name is IAAP. Tuition fees are \$125 and student rates are \$50. You do not have to be in the administrative career field to attend this training event. To register call Susan Douglas 842-6795.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B/74B information systems operators and 75B/H unit administration. For 25B/74B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For specialty 74C or 74F, they have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B/74B as well. To schedule an interview, call Victor Marshall 313-0168.

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 Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. 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.gsauctions.gov. For more information, call 544-4667.

Redstone motorcycle training

Experienced Riders Motorcycle Training is conducted at the Rocket Harley-Davidson Dealership off I-565 and Greenbrier Road. Soldiers, DoD civilians and military retirees are funded by the government. Contractors pay \$75 per person. For registration information, call Keith Coates 876-3383 or John Zuber 876-3114 of the Garrison Safety Office.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, in building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Tuesdays 9-5 and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. Military personnel and their families should contact the manager for an appointment. "We have an opening for a paid part-time bookkeeper. For more information, please call 881-6992," a prepared release said. "Dec. 21-23 no consignments that week; open for sales only 9-1. The shop will reopen Jan. 4 with our regular hours."

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel's Fall Bible Studies will meet at the Bicentennial Chapel every Thursday. Morning studies are 9:30 a.m.; lunchtime study is 11:30 to 12:15; and the evening study starts at 6:30 p.m. Call Faith 890-0685 or Tonia 489-5646 for more information.

Parents' night out

Child and Youth Services is offering the Redstone community a "Parents Night Out" every third Saturday of the month. Reservations for this after-hours care can be made by calling the Child Development Center 876-7952. Military personnel may make their reservation starting at the beginning of each month. All others in the Redstone community (including contractors) must make their reservations starting the Monday prior to the third Saturday. Fees for Soldiers E-4 and below is \$10 per child; all others will pay \$15 per child. A 10 percent multiple child reduction will also be given. Evening snack is provided. For more information, call 876-7952.

Tradition of heroes

Plans are under way to honor Redstone's heroes. To make this happen, we're asking for your help in identifying them. If you know of Team Redstone employees, military and civilian, or their family members, who are serving our country in hostile areas or have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, please submit their name, Team Redstone organization or unit, and where they are serving, along with a photograph (5-by-7 preferred) to the Public Affairs Office, AMSAM-PA, Attn: Erika Readus, building 5300, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898. Photographs can also be e-mailed to erika.readus@redstone.army.mil. Also, provide your contact information with your submission including a return address if you would like to have your photograph returned. Photographs will be displayed in the Sparkman Center, first floor, building 5300. The display, titled "A Tradition of Heroes," will stand as a reminder to us that the everyday freedom that we enjoy was not won, and is not maintained, without service and sacrifice. For more information, call Readus 876-5302.

Angel tree

The annual Redstone Arsenal Angel Tree is set up in the foyer of the Post Exchange. Angels and stars will be placed on the tree with a child's age, clothing sizes, or wish list for Christmas. All gifts should be wrapped with the angel or star attached to the outside. Please return your angel's presents to the Post Exchange or Youth Center (building 3148 on Goss Road) by Friday at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 876-5437.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comptrollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. This scholarship is open to high school seniors, undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found on the Internet at <http://www.asmonline.org/national/nationalawards.shtml> or you may call Judy Smith 876-6163 or Debbie O'Neal 876-2671. Application deadline is Feb. 28. Packages may be mailed to AMCOM, Attn: AMSAM-RM-FD, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898 or taken to Smith at building 5300, third floor, work station 53B062.

Quarterly retirement ceremony

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is scheduled Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate in the event. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Stephanie Owens or Staff Sgt. Russell Kimball 876-2819. Deadline for signing up to participate is Friday.

Garden plot notification

Soldiers, retirees and DoD civilians who are assigned a garden plot, be advised that starting today, Grounds Maintenance will begin preparing the area for the upcoming planting season. Plant stands, fences, hoses, sprinklers, etc., must be removed by that date, or grounds maintenance will remove the items and place them in storage for approximately 30 days. Any item not claimed within 30 days will be forfeited. For more information regarding next year's planting season/plot assignment, call Claudia Scott 876-7144 or Wardell Pearson 876-6666.

Leadership course

Applicants have until Feb. 9 to apply for the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management resident program, Class 05-2, which runs May 16 through Aug. 5 at the Army Management Staff College, Fort Belvoir, Va. For more information, call Michael Davis 876-6068.

PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. until midnight.

Santa at PX

Mark your calendars for a visit with Santa. He will visit the Post Exchange from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. For information call 883-6100.

New Year's Eve gala

The Officers and Civilians Club will have a New Year's Eve party Dec. 31, starting with a buffet dinner from 7-9 p.m. Ticket price 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. This 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 for \$139.50 per couple. For tickets call 830-CLUB or Redstone Lodging 837-4130/876-5713 for the New Year's Eve Gala

Package. Tickets are on sale and this event is open to the entire Redstone community.

Pub for holidays

The Hottest Place on Redstone, The Firehouse Pub will have its New Year's party at 6 p.m. Dec. 31. The \$10 per person ticket includes a disc jockey/karaoke, hors d'oeuvres, party favors and champagne for toasting. The Firehouse Pub party includes the on-post lodging package for \$79.50. The pub is located on Hankins Road, just off Goss Road. Call 830-2582 or 842-0748 for details.

Tax assistance volunteers

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is a free service helping service-members on active duty, military retirees, and their dependents prepare and file federal, state and local tax returns each year. Last year's center was a major success, with almost 3,000 returns prepared, resulting in more than \$1.75 million in refunds. The center is now accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2005 tax season. Scheduling will be flexible, and volunteers are needed in both the tax preparation and front desk operations areas. No prior experience is necessary, since comprehensive training will be provided. This is an opportunity for the community to give back to service-members and their families. To volunteer, or for more information call Capt. Eric Husby 876-9913 or eric.husby@redstone.army.mil, or Randy Duff 420-3223 or rduff500@earthlink.net.

Apprentice program

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 age 15 by the beginning of the program June 6, 2005. The apprentice program is divided into 8, 10 and 12 weeks. Both programs are fast-paced and require disciplined professional work habits. Junior and senior scientists and engineers gain additional experience by serving as mentors for first time students, and providing guidance through interactive research processes. 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 Garrison-Redstone Arsenal 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 the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Julie Lumpkins in building 5308 at 313-4834.

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 north-east of the Ammunition Supply Point area which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees shall 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. 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 by Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For more information and a location map, call Outdoor Recreation, building 5132, 876-4868.

Drill sergeant of year

The Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School will hold a competition Jan. 24-28 to select its Drill Sergeant of the Year to represent Redstone Arsenal and OMEMS at Fort Monroe, Va. This is the first stage to selecting a representative to attend the final competition June 20-24 at the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe. A luncheon will be held Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club to announce the OMEMS winner. For more information call Master Sgt. Barrett Parris, Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Bumpers or Staff Sgt. Donna Dubreuil 876-5303 or 842-2240.

Veterinary clinics

Veterinary Treatment Facility will conduct evening clinics Thursday from 4-7 p.m. Authorized patrons will be seen on a walk in basis for routine vaccinations. Heartworm, feline leukemia tests and microchip identification will also be available for pets. For more information, call 876-2441.

Spring term registration

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is now registering for the spring term, Jan. 7 to March 10. Classes offered include Research Methods and Statistics; Aviation/Aerospace Accident Investigation & Safety Systems; Microeconomics; Financial Accounting; and Marketing. The Embry-Riddle Huntsville Center offers fully accredited instruction at both graduate and undergraduate levels in aviation/aerospace and management fields; as well as certificate programs in logistics, supply chain management, occupational safety and health, aviation safety, space studies, and pre-engineering studies. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. Deadline to register is Jan. 6. Call 876-9763, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Education Center, building 3222 or the web site at <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>, or e-mail the center at huntsville.center@erau.edu for more information. Appointments may also be made to receive a free unofficial evaluation of transfer credit/credit for prior military service.

College research workshop

The Embry-Riddle Huntsville Center will hold a free College Writing/Research workshop Jan. 6 from 5-8 p.m. at the Education Center, building 3222. This workshop is designed to enhance college-level

writing/research skills using the university required American Psychological Association format. The workshop is open to everyone, however current ERAU students will be given priority. Seating is limited, so call 876-9763 to reserve your seat.

PX hours

The Post Exchange announces the following holiday hours: Dec. 24 – Main Store, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Concessions, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; GNC, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Mall Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Beauty Shop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Cingular Service, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; UPS, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Furniture Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; One Stop, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Service Station, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Burger King, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Military Clothing, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Barber Shop at 3479, closed; food court – Anthonys, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Cinnabon, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Baskin Robins, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Robin Hood, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 25 – All PX facilities will be closed with the exception of the One Stop which is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ... Dec. 26 – Main Store, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Concessions, closed; Mall Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Beauty Shop, closed; Cingular Service, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Furniture Store, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; One Stop, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Service Station, closed; Burger King, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Military Clothing, closed; Barber Shop at 3479, closed; food court – Anthonys, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Cinnabon, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Baskin Robins, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Robin Hood, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Church's, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Commissary news

The pre-Christmas sale is Saturday from 8 a.m. to midnight; and "Rockin' Santa" visits 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Commissary will be open Dec. 20.

Modern holiday classic

Danz Artz Co. will present "Nutcracker: The Next Generation" Saturday at 1:30 and 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. This is a modern version of the holiday classic featuring tap, jazz and modern dance, as well as ballet. Tickets are available at the VBC box office and Ticketmaster. Cost is \$5 for students and senior citizens, \$13 for adults. For information call 881-9189.

Blood drives

Here are the Redstone blood drives for January: Jan. 6 – from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at buildings 5400 and 4488. Jan. 13-14 – from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Sparkman Center. Jan. 14 – from 7-noon at Corps of Engineers. Jan. 20 – from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 7613 and SMDC. Jan. 21 – from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army offices on Wynn Drive and 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316. Jan. 28 – from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 4545.

Holiday health fair

Fox Army Health Center will hold a Holiday Health Fair on Dec. 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., open to all military healthcare beneficiaries: Tricare Prime, Standard, and Tricare for Life. A variety of health screenings and information will be offered at Fox Army Health Center, building 4100 on Goss Road. "Please take advantage of this opportunity to end 2004 and open the New Year on a healthy, happy note," a prepared release said. "Watch the *Redstone Rocket* and local papers for further details."

Alabama A&M alums

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Alabama A&M University Alumni Association invites all alumni and friends to the annual Holiday Alumni Round-Up Gala and Scholarship Fund-raiser Thursday from 7-11 p.m. at the Omega Center, 181 Import Circle, Huntsville. For more information, call R. Peagler 533-2592. There will be free food and drinks.

Aviation Challenge award

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America is sponsoring an Aviation Challenge 2005 Scholarship competition in conjunction with the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Children and grandchildren (between the ages of 9/attending or completed fourth-grade and 18, not started college) of individuals who are Tennessee Valley AAAA chapter members by Dec. 31 are eligible to compete. The chapter intends to award the scholarship in the form of a certificate for use during 2005. Applications and more information on Tennessee Valley AAAA Aviation Challenge Scholarship application procedures will be available at the Tennessee Valley AAAA Chapter Christmas social today at the Officers and Civilians Club. For information call Tom Harrison, chapter vice president for scholarships, 964-8460, ext. 103.

Space heaters

CASA (Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound) of Madison County, a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping the elderly and homebound independent in their own homes, is looking for donations of small electric space heaters or donations to purchase them, to keep the elderly safe and warm during the cold months. CASA provides heaters to individuals 60 and older. Cold weather is especially dangerous for the elderly community. Medications can also make a person more susceptible to the dangers of cold weather. If you or anyone you know has a heater to donate, call the CASA office 533-7775.

Christmas charities

Christmas Charities Year Round wants donations of hard candies to give to the elderly and children. For information call 837-2373.

Astronomical society

Sandra Sherma of the Von Braun Astronomical Society will present "The Christmas Star Through NASA Missions," Saturday night at 7:30 in the VBAS Planetarium, located in Monte Sano State Park. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. A star party will follow the presentation, weather permitting. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 464-0945.

King tribute

A tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held Jan. 12 at 10 a.m. in the Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence Auditorium, building 4544. The scheduled speaker is Sen. Sundra Escott, serving her third term in the Alabama Senate after being elected March 9, 1993. She is the first African-American woman elected to the Senate, but served in the House of Representatives from 1981-93. All are invited to this

