

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 54 No. 18

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

May 4, 2005

Soldier story

School's top NCO concluding career
Page 4



Just for kids

Getting down to Earth Day
Page 6



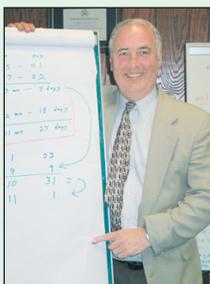
Training day

Technical unit has unique role
Page 8



Hail and farewell

Retiring to cabin and carpentry
Page 10



Win or lose

Marines team on upswing
Page 20



Base realignment decision due

List of affected posts announced in May

By SHAREE MILLER
For the Rocket

BRAC is not just another four-letter word.

"BRAC" is an acronym that stands for Base Realignment and Closure. It is the congressionally authorized process the Defense Department uses to reorganize its base structure to more efficiently and effectively support U.S. forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business. It is important to note that the original legislation actually states that the title of the process is Base Closure and Realignment.

By May 16, the Pentagon will publish its latest list of bases to be closed or realigned. Then, over the next three months, a nine-member base-closing panel will review that list, holding public hearings and visiting the targeted facilities.

The commission is allowed to add or remove bases from the list and then must give President Bush the final list by Sept. 8. The president has until Sept. 23 to

approve the list in its entirety or send it back to the commission for revisions.

By May 16, the Pentagon will publish its latest list of bases to be closed or realigned. Then, over the next three months, a nine-member base-closing panel will review that list, holding public hearings and visiting the targeted facilities.

If the president approves, the list becomes binding in 45 legislative days unless Congress enacts joint resolution of disapproval.

Other key dates on the base closing calendar:

- Oct. 20 — If the President returns the list to the commission, the commission members have until this date to send him

any changes, although it doesn't have to change anything.

- Nov. 7 — The president must send to Congress the revised commission list or the process terminates with no bases shuttered. If he sends the list to Congress, the list becomes binding 45 days later — unless Congress votes it down.

In selecting military installations for closure or realignment, the Defense Department must give priority consideration to military values.

Military values include the following:

- The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the Defense Department's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness

- The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the armed forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations

- The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total force requirements at both existing and potential

See **Realignment** on page 11

Hydra-70 rocket contract could value \$3.4 billion



General Dynamics receives five-year, follow-on award

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

The mood was upbeat in the program executive officer's conference room Thursday afternoon at building 5250.

That should be expected when the main attendees were signing a defense contract with potential value of \$3.4 billion over five years.

General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, with program management in Burlington, Vt., received the fixed price and cost contract for Hydra-70 2.75 rocket system production and services. This is a follow-on contract for 2005-09 from the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

"It's been a long hard road," Charlotte Hudson, the Acquisition Center's Hydra-70 division chief, said of the two-year process leading to the award. She signed the contract along with Linda Hudson (no relation), president of General Dynamics ATP.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

DONE DEAL— Acquisition Center division chief Charlotte Hudson, left, shares a laugh with Linda Hudson (no relation), president of General Dynamics ATP, after signing the contract Thursday.

See **Contract** on page 11

An open lane random survey

What is the most common Army uniform violation you see?

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

Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn
"The most common violations that I've noticed as the post sergeant major are with the PT uniforms in the morning. Soldiers are wearing the old uniform top or bottom with the new uniform top or bottom. Mixing is not authorized. Soldiers are also wearing the wrong headgear for the situation they are in. Most Soldiers should be in the beret cap. There are Soldiers who are wearing the patrol cap at inappropriate times. Many Soldiers believe that the awnings at fuel pumps serve as a cover and do not wear their headgear. It is required by regulation that headgear be worn. A cover is not a building, so their headgear must be worn at gas stations both on post and off."



Pvt. Frances Anderson
"Jacked up berets. You see people walking around with their berets halfway up. That's one massive violation."

Chief Warrant Officer Marty Ferdig
"I would say wearing sunglasses on top of their head."



Pvt. Tameeka Blackwell
"Having unshined boots on."

Recovering from Easter fire

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped me and my family during this tough time. Losing one's home to a fire and then everything, to include bare essentials to precious memories, is a very tough emotional and financial strain.

Each and every one of your thoughts, kind words, donations, both material and monetary, have eased the

pain of losing so much. I cannot begin to imagine how much more difficult a time this would have been for me and my family without all your help. This community is truly a special one and one I consider more of a family. May God bless each and every one of you for your selfless gift and generosity.

Ruby and R.C. Smith and family

Thinking more about security

I would like to compliment Sarah Bryan for her letter, "Profile of Values and Principles," published in the April 20 issue of the Redstone Rocket. This letter is very well written, factual and certainly addresses a subject that we all need to be giving more attention. No amount of security can keep us completely safe from attacks such as the 9/11, but citizens

that are alert to what is going on around them (and if this means profiling, so be it) is one of the best deterrents. We all need to be thinking more about protecting this country from terrorism than being politically correct. Ms. Bryan has hit the nail squarely on the head.

Terry Burcham
DoD retiree

Aviation Soldiers give input on tool kits

Developers learn from maintainers

By **DON HAMBLIN**
and Command Sgt. Maj. GREGORY LUNN

History was made in Huntsville! The AMCOM Life Cycle Management Command took closing the information loop with their customers to a level not attained in decades. In cooperation with the Aviation Ground Support Product Manager Office and the AMCOM LCMC, Army aviation maintenance Soldiers were brought in from all over the world to provide direct feedback to those nameless and faceless people who design and develop their tool kits.

These Soldiers were truly a blue ribbon panel, representing every critical Army aviation maintenance skill, level of experience and significant Army aviation unit. They were from every major command and installation, from all rotary wing MOS's, National Guard, Army Reserve;

along with the Corpus Christi (Texas) Army Depot and National Guard Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depots. All were true "hands-on" aviation maintainers and their supervisors. Every participant of this conference was nominated by their unit to represent their fellow maintainers. Many were veterans of Army aviation operations in Grenada, Panama, the Balkans, Desert Shield/Storm, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The nominated Army aviation maintenance Soldiers were selected by their units to represent all of their peers in face-to-face discussions with tool kit managers from PEO Aviation project management offices, AMCOM IMMC, CECOM, and TACOM-Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Not stopping at that level, representatives were also brought in from the Training and Doctrine Command activities that write both the initial requirements for the tool kits and the Army schools where the Soldiers are trained.

This is the first time in recent history we have ever canvassed Army aviation maintenance Soldiers, from all levels and all significant Army organizations, for their direct input on what tool kits we will provide to them to meet mission requirements.

As a follow-on to the Army Transformation sets, kits and outfits reviews done at Forts Bragg (N.C.) and Campbell (Ky.), AMCOM and the Army wanted to be sure input came from all facets of Army aviation maintenance. This information will be critical in supporting Army aviation both today, during Army aviation transformation, and the future.

The data provided will make immediate, short and long term changes to all Army aviation maintenance tool kits, along with developing the requirements and concepts for the Army's aviation maintenance future. But the real evidence of all the efforts is when these aviation maintenance Soldiers see the hundreds of improvements in their tool boxes on the flight line.

In a demonstration of AMCOM LCMC commitment to the hands-on Army aviation Soldiers in attendance, welcoming and closing remarks were made by AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, deputy program executive officer for aviation Brig. Gen. William Phillips, AMCOM G-3 (operations) Gary Nenninger and post Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn.

Editor's note: Don Hamblin is chief of the logistics branch in Aviation Ground Support Equipment Product Office, Aviation Systems Project Office in the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

Quote of the week

'Some people see the glass half full. Others see it half empty. I see a glass that's twice as big as it needs to be.'

— George Carlin
comedian

Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.

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 Garrison-Redstone, 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: skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil
Rocket articles are available online at the following:
https://redstoneapps.v1.redstone.army.mil:4443/pao_o_pao_display/?p_cat_id=7

Rocket Staff
Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz
Editor: Skip Vaughn
Reporters: Beth Skarupa
Kelley Lane
Kim Henry
Copy Editor: Scott Seeley
Advertising Sales: Petie Sims
Susan Lavender
Shelia Smith

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.

Getting to know you

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

Name: Shannon Riley

Job: Recreation specialist, Sparkman Fitness Center

Where do you call home?
Hartselle, Ala.

What do you like about your job?

Meeting new people. I like what my job's about – personal training, health reasons.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Anything outdoors. Outdoor recreation, weight training, running. And spending time with my friends and family.



What are your goals?

To progress in my career, and travel.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

April 22: An individual reported that someone removed a cell phone from his room. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

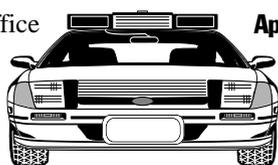
April 22: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle in a field which caused damage to government and private property. The area was also protected by archaeological resource protection. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

April 22: An individual reported that someone damaged the bus stop cover in the post housing area. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

April 23: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol when he was stopped for improper backing on Rideout Road. When asked, the subject could not produce a valid driver's license. He was issued two violation notices and an armed forces traffic ticket and detained in the detention cell until his blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.

April 23: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

April 24: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a canceled driver's license during a vehicle inspection at Gate 10. The individual also had two outstanding arrest warrants from Huntsville police. He was issued a violation notice and released to Huntsville police.



April 24: An individual reported that someone removed a lobster trap from his yard. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

April 25: 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.

April 26: An individual was found to have outstanding arrest warrants from Madison County Sheriff's Department. She was released to the sheriff's department.

April 27: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol during an inspection at Gate 10. Further investigation revealed that he was operating a vehicle with a suspended license. He was issued two violation notices and detained in the detention cell until his blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.

April 27: 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.

Traffic accidents reported: 10 without injuries, one with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 17 speeding, 1 parked in a handicapped parking space, 1 parked within 15 feet of fire hydrant, 3 driving with a suspended/revoked license, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 illegal lane change, 1 improper backing, 1 inattentive driving.

AER fund-raisers set through May

The Army Emergency Relief campaign continues through May 15. Fund-raising events include the following:

- Fancy scented candles, through May 15, at Sparkman building 5302, second floor. Call Teri Benson 842-7717.

- Teddy bear and magnetic ribbon sale, through May 15, sponsored by Engineering Directorate. Call Janet Martin 313-1996.

- Online auction, through May 15, at www.aer-redstone.com. Call Maj. Kirk McCauley 313-4260.

- Mother's Day basket, for auction through today, sponsored by National Maintenance Program branch of Maintenance Directorate, Integrated Materiel Maintenance Center. To submit a bid, go to www.aer-redstone.com or call Paula Glass 313-2509 or e-mail paula.glass@redstone.army.mil.

- Ice cream social, May 11 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, in the building 5300 hallway. Call Amos Richardson 955-9395 or Danny Berger 955-6193.

- Friendly folks personalized cartoons, through May 15, at building 5302, third floor. Call Pat Reilly 876-0209 or Sandra Swartz 842-6772.

- Unity bands sale, through May 15, for \$3 each or two for \$5 at building 5400. Call Jo Countess 876-8161, Toni Hamilton 842-9388 or Juanita Gooden 842-9402.

- AER shirt sale, through May 13. Denim shirts both long and short sleeve, polo shirts and T-shirts. Call Cheryl Garrison 876-1034 or Marie-Helene Worthington 876-2396.

- Ice cream social, today from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at building 5250 (north entrance). Cost \$1 per scoop, 25 cents per topping. Call Bill Breffelh 842-0794.

- Hamburger sale, today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at building 5681 south end. Call Nan Wilson 313-4166 or Carolyn Cunningham 313-6200.

- Bake sale, today starting at 7:30 a.m. in the building 5308 lobby. Call Jennifer Jerome 955-0042.

- Car show, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. To register send an e-mail to Bill Lang at mustangcorral@yahoo.com or Jerry Campbell at corvette-man6000@yahoo.com. Entry

fee is a \$20 donation. Individuals wishing to view the vehicles are also asked to contribute.

- RDEC 5K Run and Fun Walk, May 10 at 9:30 a.m. at PT track off Corporal Road. Entry fee \$15 includes T-shirt and refreshments. Rain date is May 11. Call Wynema Wooten 842-2775, Carolyn Farmer 876-3810 or Justin Olander 842-2769.

- Chicken and fish fry, May 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost \$7 per ticket. Call Lynn Allan 876-2848.

- Barbecue, May 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Vincent Park (Rustic Lodge if rain). Tickets are \$8 each. Call Michelle Hankins 876-3755 or Mary Burnett 313-6541.

- Cheesecake sale, May 16 at 8 a.m. in the building 5308 lobby. Cost is \$1.50. Call Johnnie Whitson 876-3126.

- AER golf tournament, four-person scramble, May 20 at Redstone Golf Course. Cost \$28 for members, \$40 non-members. Register by May 13 (rain date May 27). Call Nadine Manderson 842-8714 or Jim Dabbs 842-0170.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

COOKOUT GOODIES— Bonnie Coleman and her co-workers at Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office sell gift baskets for Army Emergency Relief last week outside the Sparkman Cafeteria.

Lockett finds key through Army way of life

School's command sergeant major retiring after 30 years service

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

Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Lockett believes he made the right choice.

He was working outdoor jobs in his small hometown of Reform, Ala., in Pickens County, to support his family. He decided to try something else.

"I joined the Army as a way to get out from small town Alabama and I've been gone ever since," he said. Lockett saw the Army as a way to better himself and his family and get an education, so he enlisted Aug. 19, 1975.

The command sergeant major for the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School and 59th Ordnance Brigade will retire May 24 with 30 years service.

"It has been exciting for me over the period of time, especially as a junior Soldier and being able to grow into a leadership position and to train Soldiers," he said. "After 30 years I think I finally got it right and it's time to get out. Hopefully the NCOs and Soldiers that we have trained will be ready to continue to move the Army to the next level."

Lockett, 51, has served in his current position since July 2003. This is his fifth Redstone tour, representing 12 of his 30 years in service.

He has bought a house in Madison and plans to pursue employment in civil service or with an Army contractor.

"I want to thank everybody that has had a hand in my career over the years," he said. "And I will still be a part of this community and continue to support Redstone, the Soldiers and this Army."

At 6-foot-5, Lockett was an All-County basketball player for Pickens County High. He played forward and center for the team that was runner-up in state Class 2A his senior year in 1971. He went on to Brewer State Junior College in Fayette on a basketball scholarship in 1972 but left after a year and a half when his oldest son

was born.

After entering the Army, he went to Calhoun College and completed his associate degree in missile technology in 1984. Lockett earned his bachelor's in general studies in 1999 from Western Illinois University.

He played All-Army basketball in 1977 before a knee injury forced him to give up the game. His hobbies include fishing, carpentry and working with Boy Scouts.

Lockett and his wife, Lisa, have four sons and a daughter. His son Roderick, 32, is a supervisor at Red Diamond Coffee in Birmingham; Justin, 18, is a senior at Lee High planning to attend Troy University; Jarrod, 16, is a sophomore 6-foot-7 basketball center at Lee; stepson Ryan Travis, 19, is a freshman at Wallace State-

Hanceville; and stepdaughter Courtney Travis, 17, is a junior cheerleader at Bob Jones High.

"After my first reenlistment and I went to Korea, I met up with my first mentor, 1st Sgt. Ernest Hazzard," Lockett said. "And learning from him, I learned that the Army was more than a job. It was a way of life, and that stuck with me. And I enjoy it. It gives you an opportunity to meet a lot of people and knowing your job and you're contributing to deterring terrorism. And plus when I learned my job and started getting promoted to leadership positions, I was able to contribute to the growth of a lot of people. The Army, if you get in and give it all you've got, will give you back something. And I got that."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SHORT TIMERS— Joy Street, executive assistant to the OMEMS commander, talks with Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Lockett. She is retiring after 36 years at the school.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

MAKING POINT— Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Lockett is retiring with 30 years service, including 12 years at Redstone.

Installation managers address goals for support

Strategy and improvement among conference topics

By BOB BRITTON

Presidio of Monterey Public Affairs Office

MONTEREY, Calif. — Leading change and assessing performance captured the attention of participants in the first Army Performance Improvement Criteria, Army Communities of Excellence and Strategic Planning Conference held at the Presidio of Monterey.

Planners from the Installation Management Agency headquarters and the agency's Southwest Region attended the conference Feb. 27 through March 5.

Management standardization

"The Southwest Region is the first of seven IMA regions to hold one of these conferences," said Bill Thresher, plans chief for the Southwest Region. "We're bringing our constituent garrisons together to familiarize them with the Army Performance Improvement Criteria, one way to apply common standards and management to installations."

Other regions will host similar conferences later this year.

Large and small installations should manage assets using the same basic guidelines for garrison base operation. These management revisions will improve the garrisons, and the Army, and will have a

positive impact on the Soldier on the ground, Thresher said.

"We're working toward standardizing garrison organizations, funding and developing a common level of support based on Army baseline standards that we haven't had before," he said.

Although installations of different sizes have different missions, all have similar support for base operations. Some installations support education and training, while others are identified as power projection platforms, preparing Soldiers as war fighters. Examples of base operations support include Morale Welfare and Recreation programs and services such as child care centers, building and grounds maintenance, commissaries and post exchanges, and logistics.

"IMA has just entered its second year of managing its own budget, and really its third year of fledgling operations," Thresher said. "This (standardization) is a process and we are on a journey. We've already seen significant improvements in the standardization and equitability of distributing resources and services."

Strategic planning

Thresher pointed out that installations have limited resources, especially in a Global War on Terrorism environment, making garrison commanders' wise and efficient use of personnel and resources even more important than during peacetime.

"Now, more than any time in the past 30 years, it's important that we allocate our limited resources in the appropriate directions right from the beginning, and that we align ourselves to move in the same direction," Thresher said. "We need a common approach, and a common strategy if we are going to have standard garrisons with standards of performances, paired with an equitable distribution of resources in a common management system."

One conference attendee, Col. Don Gentry, garrison commander at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., has experience with strategic planning as a field artillery officer. However, at the APIC, ACOE and Strategic Planning conference, Gentry learned how to apply strategic planning to help his garrison become more efficient. Gentry used this conference to better understand his role overseeing a complex operation of assets.

White Sands Missile Range is home to National Guard and active-duty Soldiers, Air Force and Navy elements, and a large civilian work force. This poses a challenge for this new garrison commander used to interfacing primarily with Soldiers. The garrison commander runs a gamut of jobs that includes supervising and managing at the installation.

"It's completely different from anything I've ever done in the past," Gentry said.

"We are just learning about the program (strategic planning) now. Strategic planning for a garrison commander means

trying to bring together the needs of the Army, funding realities and how we run our operations to meet the needs of our customers. We try to meld those issues into long-range plans to improve base operations, to improve quality of life for Soldiers and their families, and to ensure the continuity of the Army's mission. The challenge is that everything doesn't always move together at the same time."

Performance improvement

"APIC is the framework we use to deploy an organizational assessment. Strategic planning is a key aspect in that self-assessment process," said Rosye Faulk, program manager for Army Communities of Excellence. "The IMA strategic planning model is customized for garrisons and installations to support effective financial accounting and continuous improvement initiatives."

"The APIC, ACOE and Strategic Planning conference series gives us the opportunity to develop knowledge of the criteria for the award program and to develop the skills needed to develop and deploy a strategic plan. It is also a great opportunity for us to spread uniform messages throughout the Army by including the Army National Guard and Army Reserves as conference participants."

APIC is the Army's version of the Baldrige National Quality Program,

See **Goals** on page 15

Young students celebrate Earth Day

Environmentalists make learning fun

By LIRA FRYE
For the Rocket

Rainy, gray skies couldn't dampen the exuberance of more than 90 fourth-graders from Priceville Elementary School as they participated in Redstone Arsenal's Earth Day activities April 21.

"The kids love it!" fourth-grade teacher Chuck Yeager said. "It's a wonderful break for them, and they're eager to come learn about the environment."

The Environmental Division's Natural Resources Branch hosted the annual event at the Path to Nature. During their visit, stu-

dents handled baby opossums and raccoons, saw a flint knapper demonstration and toured wetlands areas.

Program coordinator Gabbie Ehinger said the students always enjoy the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species presentation where they're able to touch both a hawk and a snake.

"We try and teach them to have the appropriate respect for wildlife," Ehinger said. "The students get to come out, have a good time, get fresh air, and learn a little something. Now hopefully if they see a wild animal, they'll know what to do."

Several organizations received environmental awards during the event's opening ceremony.

The Research Development and Engineering Center's Propul-

sion and Structures Directorate received the Recycling Award for donating more than 63,000 pounds of recyclable Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided missile parts to the Garrison Qualified Recycling Program. The donations prevented pollution at Test Area 10 and reduced waste disposal volume and costs. Also, funds from selling the scrap metal help fund recycling efforts.

The Redstone Technical Test Center received the Compliance Award for reducing its hazardous material inventory. The inventory reduction reduced RTTC's long-term operating costs and the risk of non-compliance with hazardous material and hazardous waste regulations. RTTC employees also produced a small billfold size information card that identi-

fies both emergency and significant environmental contacts.

The final award went to Boy Scout Pack 234 whose Scouts help clear the Path to Nature's trails every year. This year for their efforts they were presented the Natural Resources Award.

"This award is a great honor for the boys' sake," den leader Brian Smith said. "Clearing out

the trails helps them earn their nature and hiking badges."

As Priceville Elementary group left for the day, teachers expressed their appreciation. "Thanks for a wonderful learning experience for our students," fourth-grade teacher Catherine Taylor said.

"We had a great trip," Yeager added. "Hope to see you next year!"



Photo by Lira Frye

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT— Priceville fourth-grader Larissa Boutwell holds a baby opossum rescued by the North Alabama Animal Rehabilitators.



Photo by Lira Frye

ROCK ON— Flint Knapper Jeff Thompson demonstrates how to make an arrow head to Priceville Elementary School fourth-graders.



Photo by Lira Frye

Tree roots

Redstone forester Jesse Horton helps Child Development Center preschoolers plant a sugar maple tree during the Arbor Day festivities April 27 at the new Visitor's Center. The National Arbor Day Foundation recognized Redstone Arsenal as a "Tree City USA," applauding the post's commitment toward education and practices of planting, protecting and caring for trees.

Directorate's parents pack lunch and toddlers

Kids come to work for day at SAM-D

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

The diversity of the Redstone work force is not news. Everyone knows that the working population of the installation varies greatly in all imaginable ways. On April 27, Security Assurance Management Directorate was even more varied—particularly in height. It was SAM-D's Bring Your Kids to Work Day.

Employees were invited to bring their children for a day at the office to see up close what it is that mom, dad, grandma or grandpa do when they head out in the morning. Some were even lending a helping hand to take up their parent's slack.

"I'm going to help Mom clean up her desk," said Katrina Hatch, a fourth-grader at Columbia Elementary and daughter of SAM-D's Angie Hatch.

The participants varied in age from elementary school through high school. Those who attended were presented with a certificate and group photo at a reception at the start of the day. They had lunch together later.

For some it was a first look at what puts dinner on the table. For one in partic-

ular, it was a first look at what it means to be a civilian working for the Army.

Petra Dvarova, an exchange student from the Czech Republic, came to work with her host family, Melissa and Don Broderson and their daughter, Morgan. Dvarova had been to Redstone once before, but had never actually been inside the building. It was not exactly what she expected a military post to be.

"It's a little bit different. I expected more buildings and everything close together. It's pretty big," she said. "It is spread out more."

She appreciates the opportunity to get an in-depth look at American life and work. Other attendees were also making the most of their visit. Katrina Hatch came to work complete with a list of questions for Netherlands liaison office about their native land, since they were going to be so handy.

"I'm going to see Maj. Tony Jacobi," Hatch said enthusiastically.

This was the organization's first time participating in the national observance. Melissa Broderson said she hopes SAM-D will do it annually.

"We've got about 17 children here today of all ages. This is our first time to do this," she said. "We thought it would be a fun thing to do since we have so many parents and grandparents here. I think it has turned out to be a good thing for all of us."

Chief's daughter spends day at Team Redstone

AMCOM chief of staff Col. Bob English's daughter spent the day at Team Redstone Thursday as part of the nationwide "Bring Your Child to Work" program.

Bailey English, 15, a sophomore at Bob Jones High, received a post tour and orientation from command historian Michael Baker and historian Claus Martel.

She visited the RDEC display area,

the Historic Redstone Test Stand, and Marshall Space Flight Center. English received a DVD of historical videos from Baker.

"I had no idea that there was so much to this post," she said. "I've only seen the Post Exchange area. This is the first time I've seen my dad's office."

English said that she'd like to come back next year and see more.



AMCOM Historical Office photo

COMMAND TOUR— Bailey English, 15, visits the Aviation and Missile Command headquarters at the Sparkman Center on Thursday.



Photo by Kelley Lane

BIG WELCOME— SAM-D director Adrienne Pope-Kelly, left, welcomes all of the visiting children to Bring Your Kids to Work Day.

Technical unit undergoes unique training

Students learn response to nuclear, biological and chemical accidents

By AL SCHWARTZ
For the Rocket

The Technical Escort Unit is a one-of-a-kind battalion-level organization. It's comprised of six military companies located in four states that provide a regional response capability to our homeland and to our combatant commanders.

The battalion consists of military and civilian men and women who stand ready 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to go wherever and whenever required responding to nuclear, biological and chemical accidents.

And every member of the battalion receives his or her TEU training at Redstone Arsenal.

The mission of the Technical Escort School at Redstone Arsenal is to train U.S. military, DoD civilians, and personnel of state agencies to perform worldwide, no-notice missions involving field sampling, detection, identification, limited decontamination, and mitigation or remediation of hazards associated with chemical and biological materials.

Additionally, according to Sgt. 1st Class Adrain Dudley, the school's senior instructor and NCO-in-charge, the school certifies personnel at the Hazardous Material Technician Level of Operational Response and Environmental Sampling training in compliance with 29 CFR 1910.120 and EPA Emergency Response Team Protocols, and provides Confined Space Awareness Level training IAW 29 CFR 1910.146.

"We have trained 235 students since Oct. 1st," Dudley said. He expects another 240 students to attend training this fiscal year. "The number of students we train has grown every year since 2001," he said. Last year the school trained more than 400 students.

The students are from all services, but primarily from the Marine Corps and Army. And they are from the active and reserve components. National Guard Soldiers train as part of their state's civil support teams that can respond to chemical plant accidents and similar events in the civilian community.

"The TEU mission involves sampling, detection, monitoring, decontamination and packing, rendering safe and disposal of chemical and biological weapons," Dudley said. Only a very small portion of its mission is to escort the material.

The school's nine instructors run two 24-student classes at any one time. The training lasts three weeks and three days and consists of classroom as well as practical exercises.



Photo by Lira Frye

SUITING UP— Students participate in chemical and biological material spill exercises at the Technical Escort Unit training facility.

Training

continued from page 8

“We try to make the training scenarios as realistic as we can,” said Dudley, “so these men and women know what they may face in the ‘real world’ after they graduate.”

Students have several exercises to work through, from determining if a container has leaked deadly chemicals following an accident, to evaluating the contents of a clandestine chemical production lab to responding to a chemical munitions accident.

And then there’s the ‘Confined Space Trainer,’ a series of tunnel passages that turn and get progressively tighter. “The students get suited up in their protective gear which may weigh up to 70 or 80

pounds and then they are lowered into the pitch-black tunnel. They have to maneuver forward and backward in the tunnel system, find a simulated chemical device, render it safe and then remove it properly. The Confined Space Trainer helps prepare them to work in confined, dark, hot spaces,” Dudley said.

Students volunteer for the specialized training. “It takes a special type of Soldier to do this work,” Dudley said. “Most are U.S. Army Chemical School graduates. Many of the National Guard Soldiers serve as civilian police officers and first responders. But the bottom line is that each one wants to do more to make our country safe.”

The training facility has been at Redstone Arsenal for more than a dozen years.



Photo by Lira Frye

IN CHARGE— Sgt. 1st Class Adrain Dudley, the school’s senior instructor and NCO-in-charge, says students volunteer for the specialized training. More than 400 students were trained last year.

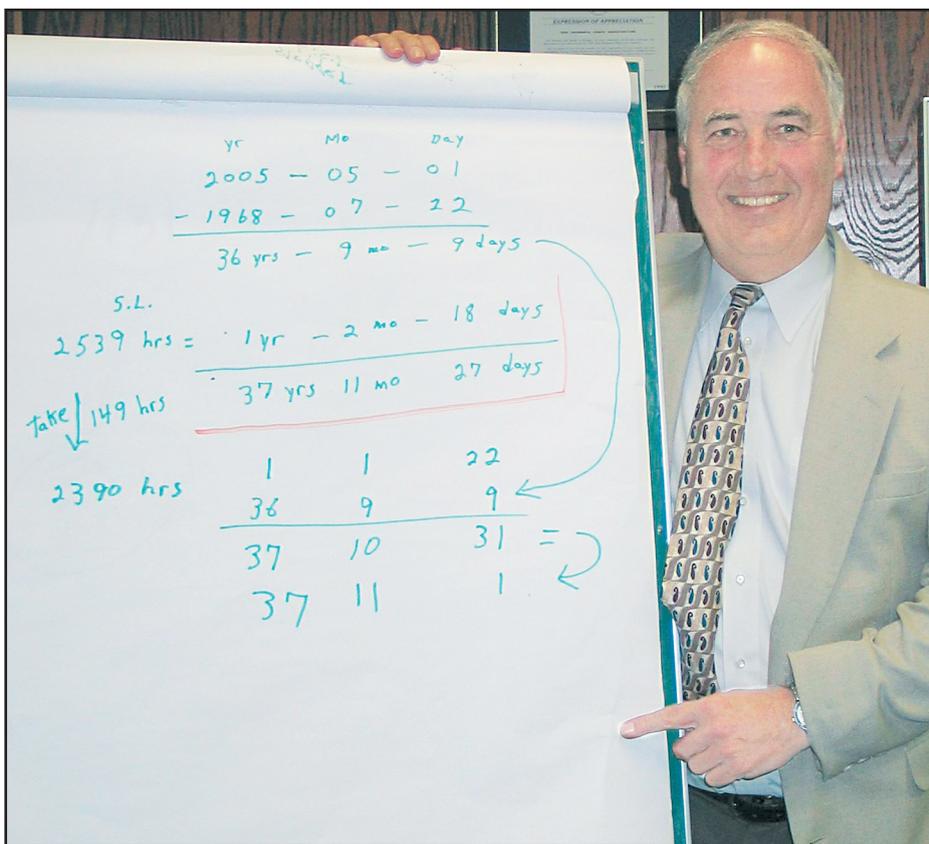


Photo by Skip Vaughn

IT'S OFFICIAL— George Benzenhafer, retiring from OMEMS after four decades, stands by his favorite briefing tool – a flip chart. “If it’s not on butcher paper, it’s not official,” he quips.

Deputy to school commander retires to riverside cabin

Ready to pursue hobby in doing construction

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Four decades have passed but George Benzenhafer remembers the incident like it was just yesterday.

He was trying to get a teaching position at what was then called the Missile and Munitions Center and School. The man conducting the interview told him forget it because he wouldn't get anywhere without a college degree. Benzenhafer used those words as motivation.

Nine months later he did get hired as an instructor at the school and returned to college for his bachelor's and master's degrees. He ended up being the supervisor for the very man who conducted that disappointing job interview.

And now Benzenhafer is retiring as deputy to the commander of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School with 40 years service, including three years military time. He recalled another bit of irony: Vietnam Village was a training site here for Soldiers completing their missile school instruction and probably destined for the Vietnam War. Now the school has a warrior training exercise for Soldiers training for the war on terrorism.

“One thing about this job, I’ve never looked at it as a job,” said Benzenhafer, who retired May 3. “There wasn’t a day that I dreaded coming in. It’s been a very interesting job. There’s nothing else I would’ve rather done over the years.”

The Nashville native plans to do construction work for himself – just building things out of wood for his own use. That’s something he has always wanted to do. His daughter, Amy, an interior designer, is drawing up floor plans for him. He has a cabin in Rogersville, by the Tennessee River, which he plans to add onto.

“It’s nothing against the organization. I love the school, I love the mission. But it’s time to jump off and do the hobby that I’ve always wanted to do,” he said.

Benzenhafer, 63, joined the Army in 1962 after high school and attended the Microwave Radio Repair Course at Fort Monmouth, N.J. He served an 18-month tour in Taiwan as a technician, repairing microwave radio equipment, and was then assigned to Fort Sill, Okla. He left the Army as a specialist 5 in 1965. That year he accepted a job as an electronics technician with Vitro Services under contract

with Marshall Space Flight Center to supply acoustic research services for the Saturn program.

After two years here with NASA, he heard the missile school was hiring instructors so he went to the old Civilian Personnel Office and applied. Nine months later, he got hired by Wilson T. Pierce, a team chief at pulse circuits in Toftoy Hall. “Seems like yesterday, my goodness,” he said.

Benzenhafer still carries in his wallet the instructor card he received in October 1967 when he was hired as a GS-5 instructor. Diode Step Counter was the first lesson he taught. He was an instructor from 1967 until becoming a supervisor in 1976, although he continued teaching professional development courses. “That was my first love – teaching electronics,” he said. He was promoted to what was then called assistant commandant in 1999.

“Being in the right place at the right time, I saw no reason to leave,” he said of his four decades at the school. “I enjoyed what I did, enjoyed the education and training of Soldiers. We were always training our Soldiers to go to the field to repair missile systems, to handle and store munitions and to render safe explosive devices. It seemed like my opportunities were here, it wasn’t someplace else. And I like the Huntsville area. It’s a great place to live.”

He earned an associate degree in general education at Calhoun Junior College in 1970, a bachelor's in business administration from University of Alabama-Huntsville in 1975 and a master's in developmental learning from UAH in 1980. By the way in 1986 he became supervisor for the guy, who will remain nameless, that rejected his job interview because of his lack of a degree.

Benzenhafer's son, Eric, 32, is an electrical engineer on the Patriot missile system. His daughter, Amy, 26, is an interior designer at Lovelace Interiors in Destin, Fla. His children have dubbed his riverside cabin as “St. George's.”

Besides construction projects his hobbies include being an Alabama fan, country-and-western dancing, billiards and pool, running, and water sports – skiing, jet skiing and boating.

“Actually being a part of the Army, I’ll miss that. Because I look at it as having a viable role in the defense of our country,” Benzenhafer said of retiring. “Plus the people, all of them are professional here. They’re smart people and being around them makes you feel even smarter. And so I’ll miss both those things.”

Summer hires experience federal security process

Once again, it is time for the Summer Hire Program for high school and college students. For many years, Redstone Arsenal organizations have selected students to experience working for the federal government. This year the Garrison Installation Personnel Security Office wants to ensure in-processing for the summer hire program runs smoother than ever before.

IPSO is responsible for compiling, tracking and reviewing the security information packet of the selected summer hire employee. Summer hire employees are only here for a short period of time, up to approximately four months, and are not authorized to have a security clearance. However, they may be granted Information Technology access (Internet and e-mail only) if deemed necessary by their gaining organization.

The procedure for in-processing into IPSO is as follows:

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will inform the selectee to in-process at the IPSO. There the individual will complete a brief security questionnaire.

The questionnaire is reviewed for security concerns and dual citizenship status. Dual citizenship status disqualifies the individual for access to IT. The summer hire employees are given a briefing of "do's and don'ts" concerning the usage of the government

owned computers.

For the summer hire to actually obtain IT access, the supervisor should send a memorandum with justification identifying the need for the IT access (Internet and/or e-mail only) to the IPSO for review. The request will be forwarded to the chief of the security division for approval or disapproval.

When the summer hire's appointment expires, they are not required to out process with the IPSO. They are required to out process with their appropriate IT point of contact to have their IT access discontinued.

If a summer hire is selected for a student aide position, the supervisor is required to contact the CPAC staffer for their organization, to start the correct procedures for converting a summer hire to a student aide. The IPSO plays an important role in deciding whether the individual is eligible for a position before the appointment to the position is made.

A major part of the IPSO's mission is to ensure protection of national security. It is vital that all federal employees, including summer hires, understand their role and responsibility in protecting this nation's security. Call Marchelle Kimbrough at 876-3701 or Linda Cook 876-6476 for any questions related to summer hires. *(Garrison release)*

■ Posts picked for realignment publicized in mid-May

Realignment

continued from page 1

receiving locations to support operations and training

- The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Some other BRAC considerations include:

- The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs

- The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations

- The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel

- The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management and environmental compliance activities.

The BRAC process originated in the 1960s but wasn't until 1988 that Frank Carlucci, then secretary of defense, recognized the requirement to close bases and save money. He chartered the first Commission on BRAC that year to recommend military bases within the United States for realignment and closure. Since then there have been three BRAC rounds in 1993, 1995 and 1999.

■ Army makes major investment in Hydra-70 rockets

Contract

continued from page 1

"I'd like to add my thanks to the combined team," Linda Hudson said.

The company received its first contract for the system in December 1995 and a follow-on contract in 1999. Production on the Hydra-70 will continue at the General Dynamics operations plant in Camden, Ark.

Hydra-70 2.75 rockets are launched from 27 different platforms including rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft. More than a dozen foreign countries also use the weapon system.

"It's the most widely used helicopter-launched weapon system in the world," David Chilcote, the program manager for General Dynamics, said. "We're the third largest defense contractor in the United States."

International military students get first taste of snow

Gatlinburg field trip offers attractions

By SCOTT HUTHER
International Military Student Office

The International Military Student Office took 12 international soldiers and three family members on a Field Studies Program trip to Gatlinburg, Tenn., on April 23-24. The soldiers were from the Philippines, Botswana, Korea, Taiwan, Tunisia, Egypt, Greece, Jamaica and Pakistan. The first stop on the journey was the Mayfield Dairy in Athens, Tenn.

At the dairy the students had an opportunity to tour the facility while in actual operation. The tour began after viewing a 10-minute movie on the history and highlights of the company.

The next stop was a tour of the Lost Sea in Sweetwater, Tenn. This is the world's second largest underground lake; and it was recognized as the largest until the early 1990s. The students went on a glass bottom boat ride across the lake and observed feeding of the large trout.

On the morning of the second day, the soldiers awoke to snow. For many of them, this was their first time to see snowfall. After breakfast they visited the Aquarium and several other Ripley's attractions in Gatlinburg before departing that afternoon.

Trips like this give the international students and their family members an opportunity to travel outside of Huntsville and learn more about this country and the other students that are here for training.



Courtesy photo

REFLECTIONS— Lt. Cmdr. Won Min Shin from Korea and son Jae Mo Shin are over their heads in fun at Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg.

Best to investigate your life insurance needs

Federal group benefits can be supplemented

By SHARI BURNUM
For the Rocket

The government has been generous to provide employees with basic life insurance. But automatically signing up to pay for additional life insurance may not be the best answer.

Federal Employee Group Life Insurance has many advantages. Signing up is usually simple and no medical exam is required. Most people don't even know how much they are actually paying because the premium is automatically deducted from their paycheck.

Situations where FEGLI typically works the best: If you are uninsurable, FEGLI may be your only choice. If you are age 20-40, the actual cost of the insurance is very competitive. By age 45 though, when insurance needs are likely pretty high with families and mortgages, FEGLI starts getting expensive.

Every five years, the rate for FEGLI goes up. This makes sense because every year you grow older, the more likely you are to die, so the cost of insurance against that risk should go up. By the time age 45 gets rolling around, the FEGLI cost starts getting more expensive than what a standard, nonsmoking person could buy on their own. By age 50, the cost is almost

double what it was at 40.

There are two common misconceptions about FEGLI:

- **“It’s offered through the government and with so many participants, surely it’s a good deal.”** The government certainly represents a large group, but life insurance doesn’t work the same as buying “in bulk” at huge discounts, like at Sam’s. We are all going to die sometime, so the risk of this doesn’t go away if you take a larger sampling of people. The real ‘losers’ for FEGLI may be women and healthy people. Women live longer than men, so their life insurance rates tend to be less if purchased outside a group situation, where there are separate rate tables for men and women. FEGLI uses the same rate for each sex. Likewise, there is no separate rate table in FEGLI for smokers, nonsmokers, healthy or non-healthy. Taking the time to investigate insurance outside of FEGLI, if healthy, may make a whole lot of financial sense!

- **“I can take it with me when I retire.”** True! But coverage declines no matter how you slice it by age 70. Even under the plan that you purchase the maximum, the death benefit decreases by age 70. For those people who need life insurance after retirement, likely obtaining some type of cash value coverage is more appropriate, but this should be determined years before retirement age, as purchase of this type of insurance at age 60 gets to be pretty expensive. Nine times out of 10,

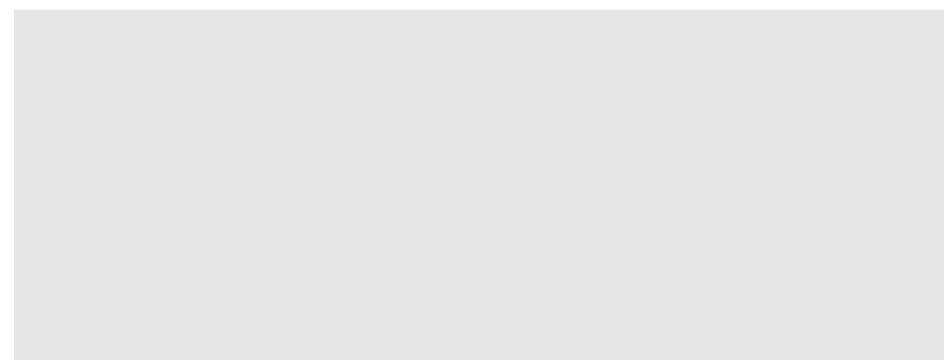
if proper planning is done in your 40s and 50s, this longer term type of coverage could be obtained on your own in a more cost effective manner.

FEGLI tends to work the best when the need for insurance is for a short period of time. For instance, a more traditional family with older children and one wage earner may need a lot of insurance in the short run, as problems would occur if that wage earner died with little or no life insurance. In this case, the kids may not be able to go to college or have to incur significant debt to do so. Their extra-curricular activities could no longer be financed and maybe the family could be forced to move to a smaller home in a less desirable neighborhood. But, in only 5 or 6 short years, children will be out of the house, most of college would be paid for, and Mom may even be able to go back to work. In this case, the need for life insur-

ance is pretty steep for a short time period, and FEGLI may just be the right answer. But if that same family wanted to have life insurance coverage for 10-20 years from now, likely FEGLI would be too expensive and the option to carry anything much more than \$25,000 would not even be offered.

Learning more about how FEGLI works and assessing your own insurance needs will help assess whether purchase of FEGLI, outside insurance, or a combination is in your best interest. Although exploring the insurance question is best done early, it’s never too late to ask for help. You may be surprised with the answers!

Editor’s note: Shari Burnum is the branch manager of Raymond James Financial Services in Madison and owner of Investor’s Resource, an independent firm.



NCO joins flight crew on UH-60M prototype

Even after 17 months and more than 185 flight hours of combined government-manufacturer flight testing, the powerful, twin-turbine whine that signals the beginning of another UH-60M flight test mission stirs excitement in everyone present.

Although comparable levels of energetic enthusiasm accompany most test programs, one senses an additional level of heady anticipation surrounding the UH-60M, perhaps originating from the sure knowledge that this technologically-advanced Black Hawk will soon bring substantial increases in fighting capability to aviation Soldiers at war.

The Jan. 19 engineering test flight was another landmark event in this program. For the first time, an active-duty Army NCO joined the flight test crew aboard the second UH-60M aircraft, known as "M-2." As he prepared for the historic flight at the Sikorsky Developmental Flight Center near West Palm Beach, Fla., Sgt. 1st Class Richard J. Robinson's enthusiasm permeated his professional demeanor.

"I've heard such great things about this aircraft," he said, "that I can't wait to strap in and serve on the crew!"

Robinson is no stranger to developmental flight testing. Assigned to the Army Aviation Technical Test Center since June 1999, he has participated in dozens of test missions to assess aircraft modifications and new aircraft systems. Aside from his ground-breaking work with the UH-60M test team, his fondest flight test memories are of five separate, at-sea deployments aboard Navy ships in support of the Joint Shipboard Helicopter Integration Process.

Designed as a substantial upgrade to the highly-capable UH-60A/L, the UH-60M will provide increased lift and range capabilities, coupled with reduced operations and support costs. It features more-powerful engines, the General Electric T700-GE-701D, equipped with the improved hover infrared suppressor system. The cockpit features a fully-integrated suite of electronic multifunction displays, which should impress pilots and enhance the aircrew's situational awareness. Digital interoperability enhancements abound, and the automatic flight control system includes dual digital flight control computers, featuring a fully-coupled, three-axis flight director.

"It's an impressive aircraft," Chief Warrant Officer Damon Bostick, an ATTC experimental test pilot for the UH-60M, said.



File photo

FLIGHT READY— The two UH-60M prototypes hover at the Sikorsky Developmental Flight Center.

"The coupled flight modes help reduce pilot workload, and preliminary aircraft performance results are meeting or beating our expectations."

In joining the UH-60M test team, Robinson brought with him a wealth of operational experience. The 19-year veteran previously served in Army aviation units in Germany and at Fort Campbell, Ky., and saw combat service in Southwest Asia during the first Gulf War. He participated in Operations Provide Comfort, Provide Hope, and Desert Storm. He has accumulated more than 1,450 flight hours in the UH-60A/L, which provides him with an invaluable perspective from which to assess the UH-60M.

The crew's focus during the Jan. 19 flight was on testing the aircraft's sophisticated automatic flight control system. However, when not required to help the experimental test pilots complete their assigned tasks, Robinson had opportunities to assess the aircraft cabin from a non-rated crewmember's perspective. He provided several insightful

observations, which were all subsequently documented in the daily flight test report.

"The cabin was jam-packed

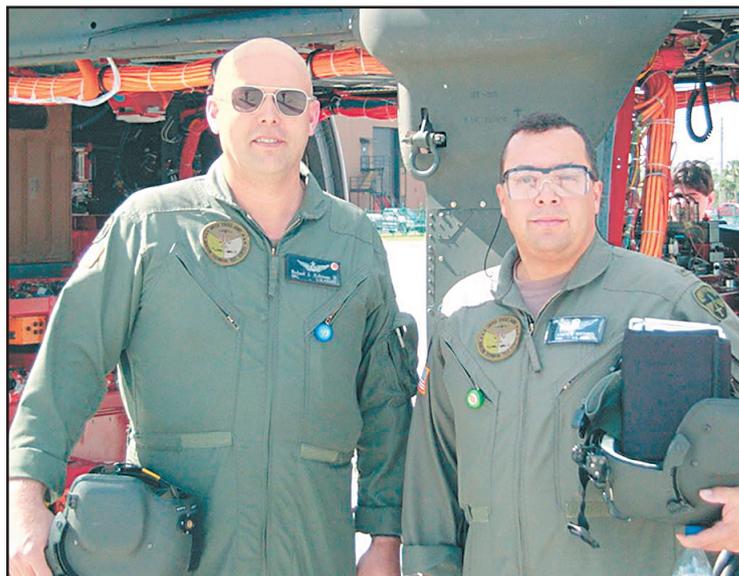
with special flight test gear," Robinson said, "so I had to keep in mind that the configuration I saw during that flight was much

different than what our troops will eventually see when the aircraft is fielded."

Nonetheless, his comments will be included on the list of action items that must be addressed in finalizing the production configuration. Robinson also noted, "I know that UH-60M crew chiefs are really going to like the new communications control panel, which allows them to individually adjust the radio and intercom volume levels. I think it will greatly improve their situational awareness."

For now the UH-60M flight test program remains based at the Sikorsky facility in Florida. However, before long the UH-60M will enter service in the Global War on Terrorism. As for Robinson, he'll soon join an operational aviation unit overseas, where he'll undoubtedly spread his enthusiasm for the new Black Hawk that's on its way to further improve the nation's warfighting capabilities.

Editor's note: This article was prepared by the ATTC public affairs staff.



Courtesy photo

BACK TO EARTH— Sgt. 1st Class Richard Robinson, left, and UH-60M experimental test pilot Chief Warrant Officer Damon Bostick share a congratulatory moment following the historic flight.

Support team leaves lasting impression

Civilian workers assist with deploying systems

Throughout the years many teams have left a legacy. For sports fans, the legacy may be one that is celebrated year after year and for others it can be a curse that is wallowed in. Redstone has a team with a legacy all its own.

"We have a reputation worldwide ... and it's a good one," Gary Henry, Readiness Assistance Support and Technical team chief, said.

RAST is an organized team of government and contractor personnel who are dedicated to providing assistance to the Soldier who operate the Army's Ground Vehicular Laser Locator Designator, Man-portable Common Thermal Night Sight and Fire Integration Support Team Vehicle. These are all legacy systems that have been in the field for more than 20 years and provide the Soldier with just as much support as it did then.

The RAST team has been in existence since 1990 when it started supporting Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Ron Bridges, former division chief of short range land combat systems, said the RAST team was established to go to the field and ensure that the G/VLLD, MCTNS and FISTV systems were combat ready. Now as a contractor, Bridges still works with the RAST team.

"Most in the Redstone community have no idea that a small government/contractor team is the key element in the readiness of three key pieces of equipment that is used by the Army's number one fighting concept: the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the Bradley Fire Integration Support Team, the Knight Fire Integration Vehicle, FISTV and ground Tow,"



Courtesy photo

FIRSTHAND TRAINING— Greg Allen, a RAST team member, helps 1st Infantry Division Soldiers prepare the Fire Integration Support Team Vehicle turret for deployment to Iraq.

he said.

The team travels the globe with tools, test equipment and spare parts to ensure the Soldiers using these legacy systems are ready to react to any contingency. Members of the team normally spend an average of 111 days on TDY performing 5,175 work hours.

The Army recognized their value by providing funding on a yearly basis for the RAST team to give Soldiers over-the-shoulder assistance. This includes assisting the Division Artillery in improving readiness through on-site training; providing hands-on assistance in getting the equipment up and running and scheduling maintenance. Sometimes this also consists of going to the "bone yards," places

where systems are sent once units no longer are authorized to have them, to get vital spare parts for the systems that are no longer procured.

By providing this assistance, the team annually saves a unit's operation and maintenance budgets approximately \$2.5 million, which can be used for other critical needs. Col. Frank Hull, then 1st Armored Division Artillery commander, was appreciative of the RAST team's work before his unit deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This tremendous program substantially increased our readiness and saved the 1st Armored Division approximately \$970,655 in repair parts," he said in a memo to the then AMCOM commander

■ Army leaders discuss strategic plans for posts

Goals

continued from page 5

administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology to improve competitiveness, quality and productivity of U.S. organizations. Conducting an APIC self-assessment is required for all installations that compete for the ACOE award. Trained examiners use a vigorous validation process of these installation self-assessments to come up with the best-of-the-best Army installations.

Quality program

Dr. Mark Blazey, president of Quantum Performance Group Inc. and a national leader in performance assessment, instructed the IMA conferees on how to implement APIC requirements. As a senior examiner for the Baldrige Award and a former judge and examiner trainer, Blazey is experienced with the Baldrige efficiency improvement process.

"Malcolm Baldrige was secretary of Commerce under President Ronald Reagan," Blazey said. "Under Baldrige's watch the Department of Commerce identified factors that enabled organizations to be truly great. President Reagan signed

the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award idea into law, honoring Baldrige soon after his death. The award became an incentive for corporations throughout the United States to improve performance and become more competitive in a world market. Soon, attention focused on applying Baldrige's principles to boosting performance levels in other sectors of the economy like education, health care and the government."

APIC analyzes organizational strengths and identifies areas for improvement. Since APIC is a continuous improvement tool, commanders implement improvement actions, then return to the assessment process for re-evaluation.

The Army has a history of borrowing ideas from the corporate sector and applying them to improving Army management and efficiency. The processes of getting the most or highest level of performance — that's the same whether it's IBM or a Department of Defense operation, Thresher said. Effective procurement, eliminating waste and building effective leaders are all overlapping themes. The methods and practices to get to a high level of performance are the same whether running a hospital, a school or an Army.

"Certainly, we recognize that private industry has standards of excellence we want to achieve. When it's appropriate, we try to benchmark against private industry. Where the Army has unique requirements, then we benchmark against ourselves," Thresher said.

"Everything we do in APIC is subject to review and refinement," Faulk said. "This IMA APIC, ACOE and Strategic Planning conference is truly a cultural change, and APIC itself is a framework to achieve excellence. IMA embraces the concept of change in order to be the best. We only want the best for Soldiers and their families. APIC is not a program, but how work gets done through a process of assessing, making changes and then reassessing over and over again."

Communities of excellence

ACOE recognizes installation achievement among installations of all sizes. As a strategic planning tool, the APIC program helps planning coordination with the ACOE program. The same set of standards applies to every IMA region when recommending and awarding ACOE and monetary awards for winning installations.

"The ACOE award is eligible to all garrisons," Faulk said. "Beyond the recognition of the post's recognition, ACOE's first place recipient can become the Com-

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen. "The RAST was made up of highly professional and technical experts that took the time to train our FISTV crews and the organizational and direct support mechanics on the turret system."

The RAST team has since assumed an additional mission of ensuring that the legacy systems that deploy and return from OIF and Operation Enduring Freedom would be returned to a combat ready state. The Reset program is one of the Army's highest priorities and each unit returning from OIF and OEF must have their equipment reset to combat readiness status within six months. This has placed a tremendous duty on the RAST team forcing its personnel to now spend 6 to 7 months on the road. The team has met this challenge and completed all units' equipment ahead of schedule.

In 2004 the RAST team traveled to 10 installations to repair equipment. Also, the team while working at Redstone received systems from 10th Mountain Division, 101st Airborne Division, Kentucky National Guard and Illinois National Guard. Besides, the G/VLLD, FISTV and MCTNS, the RAST team also works on the TOW II weapon system. "Letterkenny Army Depot did the overhaul work for TOW II, but the RAST team went to the field, specifically the 101st Airborne and the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and reset those divisions in place to save time and money," Bridges said.

The RAST team has completed the reset of 210 TOW II systems, 216 G/VLLD systems, 123 FISTV systems, and 713 MCTNS systems. All this effort was completed ahead of schedule and within budget.

Editor's note: Adapted from an article written by Ron Bridges, former division chief of short range land combat systems.

mander-in-Chief Award winner, the president's recognition for installation excellence among all military services."

ACOE winners in first through third places receive a monetary award — often millions of dollars — for the winning garrisons to use to support improvement initiatives that may not be otherwise funded. Garrison commanders can apply the award funds to any initiative that supports the well being of the Army community at the installation.

Funding

Like other military services, the Army and its installations are funded through congressional appropriations approved by the president. Funding becomes more complex as the Army makes internal allocations.

"We just learned that earlier this week, the Army leadership decided that our installations deserved to be funded to the level that our Soldiers and their families expect," Gentry said. "This includes funding for both base operations and sustainment for installation infrastructure. That's really a victory for the Installation Management Agency, because for the first time, somebody at a higher level realizes that our installations are not funded where they needed to be." (Installation Management Agency release)

Opportunity to see how your health fares

Morale Welfare and Recreation planning annual Health Fair

By KIM HENRY
Staff writer
kimberly.henry2@redstone.army.mil

Most dread preparing and taking tests. Redstone has some annual tests coming up that could actually benefit an employee's health. It is the Morale Welfare and Recreation annual Health Fair, where individuals can get their bone density, cholesterol, blood pressure and body fat tested free of charge.

Cholesterol and blood pressure screenings are among the more popular and sometimes more beneficial activities at the fair, according to Gaylene Wilson, the sports and fitness director.

"We've had people in the past have high blood pressure and were unaware before coming to the fair," she said. "After seeing their doctor it was determined that they needed to take care of it medically."

The Health Fair will be May 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the

Redstone Fitness Center, located off Aerobee Road. The fair is put on by MWR and is sponsored by Redstone Federal Credit Union, Papa John's Pizza, Pepsi and General Nutrition Center.

"Our staff along with Fox Army Health Center and others from the community will be there to help with the fair," Wilson said. Nurses from Fox will be at each stand to help explain the results of the screening and if needed, what an individual can do to improve it.

For example, for body fat the normal ranges are under 30 percent for women and under 20 percent for men. "A lot of people who appear to be bone thin may actually have a large amount of body fat," Wilson said. "That can lead to other problems."

There will be other people at the fair providing information on health and safety issues such as self breast examination, the heart, nutrition and healthy feet. The Red Cross will also be there for a blood drive. Individuals interested in giving blood should sign up beforehand by calling Phylissa Shannon or Joe Martin at 313-1202.



Photo by Kim Henry

UNDER PRESSURE— Recreation specialist Carla Tomanovich has her blood pressure checked by co-worker Shannon Riley. Taking individual's blood pressure will be among the screenings offered at the Health Fair.

Nurses Week highlights varied contributions of profession

Registered nurses represent largest sector of health care

SILVER SPRING, Md. — The American Nurses Association has announced the theme of National Nurses Week 2005, "Nurses: Many Roles One Profession." National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

"This year's theme underscores the breadth of directions that a nurse's career may take," ANA president Barbara Blakemore said. "Although nurses historically

have provided hands-on patient care at the bedside — and will continue to do so — nurses also are deeply involved in health education, research, business and public policy."

Registered nurses represent the largest, single component of the health care profession with an estimated 2.7 million RNs in the United States. According to a report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the United States currently has a nurse shortage of nearly 150,000 RNs and will have a shortage of more than 800,000 RNs by the year 2020.

"One of the goals of National Nurses Week is to remind the public of the critical role that nurses play," Linda Stierle,

ANA's chief executive officer, said. "However, it also is important to point out what nurses need to provide top notch patient care."

Recognizing the need for improved care for older adults, experts in nursing and geriatrics joined forces to create the Nurse Competency in Aging campaign in 2002.

In fiscal 2005, the nursing community successfully lobbied for a 6 percent increase in overall funding for nurse work force development programs (\$151 million). Those programs include student loan and scholarship programs and the Nurse Reinvestment Act. The president's budget proposal for FY 2006, however, cuts overall funding for nurse work force development programs by \$1 million with advanced nursing education funds facing a \$15 million cut.

Advanced nursing education is particularly important to increase the number of qualified nursing faculty available to educate the next generation of nurses, as well as to provide specialized education for growing areas of nursing need, such as geriatrics.

The number of Americans age 65 and older is projected to grow from about 35 million today to more than 70 million by

2030. Yet despite older adults' greater use of health care services, RNs and other health care professionals often are unprepared to provide the specialized care that older patients need. Only one-third of bachelor's of science in nursing programs require a course in geriatrics and less than 1 percent of the nation's practicing RNs are certified as gerontological nurses or geriatric advanced practice RNs.

Recognizing the need for improved care for older adults, experts in nursing and geriatrics joined forces to create the Nurse Competency in Aging campaign in 2002. NCA is a five-year initiative funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies Inc., awarded to ANA through the American Nurses Foundation, representing a strategic alliance among ANA, the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the John A. Hartford Foundation Institute for Geriatric Nursing, New York University, Steinhart School of Education, Division of Nursing.

The goals of NCA are to enhance geriatric activities among national specialty nursing associations, provide a web-based comprehensive geriatric nursing resource center and promote gerontological nursing certification.

To date, 26 specialty nursing organizations, representing 186,000 specialty nurses who provide care to more than 17 million older adults have united with NCA to help improve patient care to this growing population.

Editor's note: This release was provided by Preventive Medicine at Fox Army Health Center.

Business owners beware grant foundation scams

Better Business Bureau reports rise in cases

There is always a steady stream of business owners in North Alabama on the lookout for easy, low-cost sources of financing. Scam artists know this. That is why advertisements and offers for “free grants” can be particularly tempting.

“The Better Business Bureau of North Alabama reports a recent surge in people who have been victimized by such promotions, and advises caution when responding to these offers,” said Michele McDaniel, president/CEO of BBB of North Alabama.

The promises are enticing to those looking to start a business or expand an existing operation. Sometimes business owners are targeted through print advertisements or e-mail spam that promise “Receive Free Small Business Grants to start virtually any type of business. Results Guaranteed!” The ads typically claim that “foundations can be a better source for finance than banks”; that “we’ve taken the guesswork out of free business grants” and “anyone can get an interest free cash grant.” Other times, telemarketers who claim to be able to “guarantee” qualification for cash grants contact business owners by phone.

“Interested applicants may be asked to send an application fee, ranging from \$20 to more than \$100,” McDaniel said. The grant advertiser promises that the business owner’s financial needs and requirements will be matched with the most suitable private foundations. Or, they may promise to provide a list of available grants. These promises rarely, if ever, pan out. If the business owner does receive anything in return, the materials generally consist of a list of agencies and foundations to which they must write and request an application.

Information on private foundation grants is available at no cost from any public library. Information may also be found on the web, however the bureau urges businesses to carefully check out any organization or business offering grant information online before pursuing or providing private information.

Generally, obtaining a grant is a complicated process, requiring documentation and research. The vast majority of grant-making foundations require that applicants for funds meet very specific guidelines established by the foundation and that the funds be used for specific projects supported by the foundation.

Business victims in several states report receiving phone calls from ‘federal government’ officials. Those called were advised that they ‘qualified’ to receive ‘free grant money’ because they had paid their taxes on time, or had met unspecified criteria.

Another twist on the “free grant” scam involves scam artists claiming to be affiliated with the government. Business victims in several states report receiving phone calls from “federal government” officials. Those called were advised that they “qualified” to receive “free grant money” because they had paid their taxes on time, or had met unspecified criteria.

“Some victims stated that they had been asked to provide their checking account or bank routing number so that money could be deducted in order to receive the ‘free grant’ immediately,” McDaniel said.

The government does not contact people to offer them money. If anyone does happen to qualify for a government grant of some type, the government does not request payment for it. Business owners can research, for free, information on government grant programs at the U.S. government web site, www.grants.gov. (Better Business Bureau release)

Tax assistance center closes books with record returns

Free service saves clients more than \$358K in fees

By Capt. ERIC HUSBY
Tax assistance officer

After preparing more than 3,200 federal and state tax returns and helping clients claim more than \$2.2 million in net refunds, the 2005 Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center closed for business April 29.

This year’s Tax Center prepared 1,648 federal tax returns and 1,554 state tax returns. This free service saved clients more than \$358,000 in tax preparation and filing fees. The center broke previous records in all categories of assistance. Last year’s center had prepared 2,865 returns, saving clients \$301,000 in preparation fees and returning more than \$1.9 million in net refunds, through April 15, 2004.

Many lucky clients received more than just free tax preparation services, thanks to the generous donations from Morale Welfare and Recreation, the Post Exchange, and the Commissary. Some \$300 in MWR bucks and 150 phone cards were randomly dis-

tributed to clients. A Commissary gift certificate was presented to the lucky client representing the goal-breaking 3,000th return prepared, and other gift certificates to the PX and Commissary were awarded by drawing on April 15. These organizations are thanked for their support of the center. The generous financial support from Army Community Service in providing office supplies is also appreciated.

Finally, the tax assistance officer would like to recognize the Soldiers and civilian volunteers who worked as tax preparers and greeters in this year’s center. The Soldiers, all from units on this post, spent time away from their primary duties to deliver this service to the Redstone community. The civilians demonstrated selfless service by donating their own time to enable the center to assist as many eligible clients as possible.

Like last year, the Legal Assistance Office will offer out-of-season tax assistance in building 111 on Goss Road. If you have questions about your taxes or need a tax return prepared, call 876-9005 to schedule an appointment.

Focused Marines rolling in volleyball

Team defeats HHC 59th, but then falls to Delta

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

The Marines are having more fun in volleyball this year.

Maybe it's their mindset. "Coming off of our season last year, we're doing 100 percent better," said Jason Rodriguez, who coached last year's team. "We're more focused. What's different this year is we've got somebody to play in the positions we need. The focus is a lot more on the team as a whole and actually playing the game."

Rodriguez and his Marines teammates improved to 4-0 by beating HHC 59th 21-13, 21-11 on April 25 at Pagano Gym.

But the Marines fell to conference-leading Delta the next night 21-10, 21-17. Delta (7-0), the defending post champion, went on to edge Bravo 18-21, 22-20, 15-12 on April 27.

"Both of those teams (Bravo and Marines) were very challenging," Delta player-coach Pedro Delgado said.

Standings after week two included: Eastern Conference – Bravo (5-2), NCO Academy (4-4), Headquarters & Alpha (2-5) and HHC 59th (0-6). Western Conference – Delta (7-0), Marines (5-1) and Charlie (1-6).

Here are last week's results:

- **April 25** – Charlie def. Headquarters & Alpha 21-16, 23-21; Marines def. HHC 59th 21-13, 21-11; and Bravo def. NCO Academy 19-21, 21-10, 15-13.

- **April 26** – Delta def. Marines 21-10, 21-17; NCO Academy def. Headquarters & Alpha 18-21, 21-16, 15-7; and Bravo def. HHC 59th 21-17, 21-19.

- **April 27** – NCO Academy def. Charlie 21-14, 21-18; Delta def. Bravo 18-21, 22-20, 15-12; and Headquarters & Alpha def. HHC 59th 21-7, 21-8.

- **April 28** – Bravo def. Headquarters & Alpha 14-21, 21-19, 15-10; Delta def. NCO Academy 17-21, 21-17, 22-20; Marines def. Charlie 21-19, 19-21, 15-11.

West Point tennis teams win league championships

By Maj. ERNEST WONG
Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Both the men's and women's tennis teams at the U.S. Military Academy won their respective Patriot League Championships this year.

The women shut out Bucknell 4-0 in the championship match April 17 at the Malek Tennis Center, West Point. The men persevered over top-seeded American University in Washington, D.C., April 24 to claim a 4-3 victory for the title.

In celebration of the victories, West Point superintendent Lt. Gen. William Lennox Jr. invited the cadets to his house April 26. In addition to taking the cadets on a personal tour of Quarters 100, Lennox thanked the teams for their outstanding resilience throughout the year.

"I am so pleased with the courage, determination and guts all of you showed on the courts," Lennox said. "Your win-

ning spirit and sportsmanship attest not only to your own personal character, but that of your fellow cadets, this academy and the entire U.S. Army as well.

"You can be extremely proud of all your accomplishments this year, especially in the way each of you handled yourselves as professionals," Lennox said. "What you all have done, and more importantly, the way you all have done it this entire season, represents the great character of this institution."

The superintendent also congratulated the teams for having dispatched Air Force and Navy during all matches this season.

"This is truly a remarkable year you are all having," he added.

Lennox also wished both teams the best of luck as they continue their post-seasons in the NCAA Tournament, which is set to begin May 13.

Editor's note: Maj. Ernest Wong serves as the Army tennis officer representative at West Point.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON POINT— Marines setter Shad Hughes (10) puts the ball over the net against HHC 59th.

Mann wins spring golf tournament

June Mann shot a net score 63 to capture the Spring Handicap Tournament of the Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association on April 27.

Here are the results:

- **First flight** – 1. Tammy Weaver (65), 2. Elke Napier (66), 3. Dee Thonus (70). Napier, closest to the pin. Mann, low putts.

- **Second flight** – 1. Debra Plate (69), 2. Nancy Goss (71), 3. Pam Bucey

(72). Jackie Lane, closest to the pin. Goss, low putts.

- **Third flight** – 1. Tammy Minninger (68), 2. Debbie Fulmore (70), 3. Becky Gaillard (72). Kathy Newton, closest to the pin. Fulmore and Doreen Foster, low putts.

- **Fourth flight** – 1. Fran Shaner (69), 2. Inez Swinford (70), 3. Betty Butler (71). Jackie Clark, closest to the pin. Shaner, Linda Jones and Swinford, low putts.

Anglers net good time at AAAA bass tourney

By TOM GEOFFROY
For the Rocket

On April 21 the fishermen began to arrive at the Joe Wheeler State Park, Elk River Group Lodge, near Rogersville.

The fellowship lasted to the wee hours and launch time, 5:41 a.m., came early.

Most of the 20 boats entered were off by 6, to face the impending storm clouds. The storm hit early and drove many to seek cover. The rain stopped by 9 and the skies grew clear, with the wind picking up as the weigh-in time approached.

Day one yielded 60 bass to be weighed-in, totaling 90.8 pounds. The big fish of the day – a 4-pounder — was caught by Peter Fowles and Josh Butler. The pair added four more fish for a total weight of 9.4, yielding a second-place finish.

First place went to Chuck Hemm and Pat Anderson with five fish weighing 11.2. Jason Watwood and Tim Fey took third place with a five-fish, 9-pound total catch.

Day two was greeted by brisk winds, cool temperatures and 3-to-4-foot swells on the Tennessee River. Most of the 17

boats that launched stayed on some of the smaller tributaries where the wind and waves posed less of a challenge.

The big fish of day two – a 3.8-pounder – was caught by the team of Stew Chen, Matt Boenker, Kevin Zyllo and Jim Rowland. This team also tied with Hemm and Ben Green for day two first place with both teams weighing-in 10.4.

Chuck Ogle and Jim Brown were a close third, netting a 10-pound total. The total haul for day two was 66 fish, weighing more than 100.

The award ceremony included a salute to those present who served in Iraq or Afghanistan and was highlighted with door prizes provided by the sponsors including Tomahawk Tackle, Dynetics, Southwest Research Inc., WESTAR, Post Exchange, Dick's Sporting Goods, Anderson Boats, SRI, SAIC, SRA International Inc., Aerodyne, Avion, Secret Weapon Lures, Dynamics Research Corporation, Yulista, Bill Heard Chevrolet, NP Precision Inc., and the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America.

Next is the AAAA 2005 Fall Bass Tournament.



Courtesy photo
DAY TWO WEIGH IN— From left anglers Jim Rowland, Matt Boenker, Kevin Zyllo and Stew Chen hooked almost 11 pounds of bass.

50 nations to compete in World Cup at Benning

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup USA will bring more than 50 countries and 450 athletes and officials to Fort Benning, Ga., May 7-15.

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning will help run the competition, while USA Shooting, the National Governing Body for the Olympic Shooting Sports in the United States, will conduct this event as the official sponsor and host.

Shooters will compete in international pistol and rifle disciplines in the second World Cup of the current four-year competition period.

“We are very excited to be able to showcase and promote our sport within the U.S.,” said Bob Mitchell, chief executive officer of USA Shooting said. “We may not have the numbers we previously expected — due to the visa and federal firearm permit requirements making it increasingly difficult for foreign competitors to gain access into our country — but with all things considered, it looks to be a great competition, bringing a significant economic impact to the area.”

The USA World Cup will not only provide athletes the opportunity to achieve their Minimum Qualifying Score, a necessity for competitors who plan to attend the 2008 Olympic Games, but also give the athletes an opportunity to qualify for Olympic participation quotas in every event but rapid fire pistol.

Among the top American athletes competing at this World Cup are 2004 Olympians Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker,

the current world record holder in air rifle and a shooter with the USAMU; pistol shooter Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski, also of the USAMU; pistol shooter Libby Callahan (Upper Marlboro, Md.), and Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center resident athletes Sarah Blakeslee, Beki Snyder, Emily Caruso and Jason Turner. Olympians Sgt. 1st Class Tom Tamas (Columbus, Ga.) and U.S. Naval Reserve's Eric Uptagrafft (Longmont, Colo.) will also be competing.



Some of the top foreign shooters that have also confirmed their attendance are Russia's 2004 Olympic medalists Mikhail Nestruev and Vladimir Isakov, China's Olympic medalists Li Du, Qinan Zhu, Jie Li, and Zhanbo Jia, Austria's Olympic silver medalist Christian Planer, and Germany's Christian Lusch.

For more information on the 2005 USA World Cup, please contact USA Shooting's media department at 719-866-4896, or by email at sara.greenlee@usashooting.org. For complete results or to watch the competition as it happens, please log on to www.issf-shooting.org. (Army News Service)



Ten-miler tryouts

Team Redstone will have tryouts for its Army Ten-Miler team 7 a.m. June 25 and July 9 on a 10-mile course that begins and ends in the parking lot at Sparkman Fitness Center. The team is to have six military – including active duty, National Guard and Reserves – and four civilian members. The 21st annual race is Oct. 2 in Washington, D.C. For more information, call Skip Vaughn 876-1500 or Alexander Steel 876-3867.

Bowling challenge

Want to get back at the Provost Marshal Office? The office issues a bowling challenge to any Redstone team – military, civilian or contractor – as a fund-raiser for Army Emergency Relief. Five-member teams are preferred but smaller groups are also welcome. “Males, females, mixed – it doesn’t matter. And it’s all for a good cause, AER donations,” organizer Lee Henry said. For more information and to sign up a bowling team, call Henry 876-4285 or Lt. Kenny Renew 876-2222.

RDEC 5K

RDEC 5K Run and Fun Walk, a fund-raiser for Army Emergency Relief, is May 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the PT track off Corporal Road. Entry fee \$15 includes T-shirt and refreshments. Rain date is May 11. Call Wynema Wooten 842-2775, Carolyn Farmer 876-3810 or Justin Olander 842-2769.

Sports ball

The eighth annual Sports Ball, a formal affair, is May 14 at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for ages 10 and under, with checks made payable to the Officers and Civilians Club. The New South Coalition is this year’s sponsor. The organizers are parents, Alabama A&M University alumni and others who get together to support local children in furthering their education through scholarships nationwide. “My father, Charles Cooke, a World War II veteran, created the program on behalf of my daughter Marion Jones, a former J.O. Johnson High track student,” said Connie Jones, the event’s co-founder. Anyone

interested in sponsoring a student should call Jones 859-4850 or the Officers and Civilians Club 842-0449 or 830-2582.

Senior softball

Slow-pitch senior softball, under auspices of the Huntsville Senior Center and Huntsville Recreational Services, will begin for men over age 55. All games and practices are held at Brahan Spring Field 4. The season starts May 16 with games Mondays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. and 7:15. Practices are Saturdays, Mondays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. until season start. If interested call Ray Beverly 859-7419 or Fred Garcia 883-1135.

Summer sports camps

Child and Youth Services SKIESUnlimited offers many sports summer camps for the Redstone community youth. The Basketball Camp is May 31 to June 3 or July 18-21. The Sunshine Dance Camp is June 6-10 or June 20-24. The Tennis Camp is June 6-10 or July 18-22. Cheerleading Camp is June 13-17 or June 27 to July 1. Volleyball Camp for ninth through 12th-graders is June 16-18. Volleyball Camp for fourth through eighth-graders is July 7-9. Kicks Soccer Camp is June 20-24 or July 11-15. Softball Camp is July 25-28. There will also be a Baseball Summer Camp offered and the dates are to be determined. Any child participating in a summer sport camp must have a valid sports physical completed prior to registration. If your child is attending the CYS Summer Camp Child Care program, transportation will be provided to and from camp. Registration deadline is one week before each camp begins. For more information, call 313-3701.

Tennis clinic

SKIESUnlimited will offer a free Tennis Clinic, May 14 from 11 a.m. until noon at the tennis courts on Goss Road. This clinic is open to Redstone community youth ages 5-18. For more information, call 313-3701.

Summer bike ride

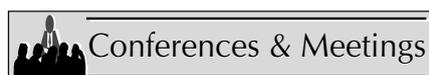
Summer Evening Bike Ride, sponsored by the Spring Cycling Club, will be held at 6:30 p.m. June 7 in conjunction with Test Week 2005. This event is free. Download an application from the web site www.rocketcity-itea.org or call Sherry Hilley 842-6715 for more information.

Golf tournament

Test Week 2005 Golf Tournament will be held at Cherokee Ridge, June 6 at 11:30 a.m., shotgun scramble. Fee is \$75; and hole sponsorships are available for \$150. View the web site www.rocketcity-itea.org for more information or call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

Soccer camps

The Madison Soccer Club will host a free soccer camp May 16, 17 and 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Dublin Park in Madison. Boys and girls ages 6-17 are invited. The club will also conduct summer soccer camps for ages 6-17, available seven different weeks starting May and going through August. Full-day, half-day and mini sessions are available. More information and registration is available online at www.madisonsc.org.



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).

Warrant officers

The Warrant Officer Association, Redstone Arsenal Chapter invites all warrant officers to attend its meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Chapter activities and information can be viewed at <http://www.redstonewarrants.com/>. For more information, call retired Chief Warrant Officer Tommy Vaden 955-0886.

Air Force association

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Air Force Association invites all former and any present Air Force members, reservists or ANG to the Firehouse Pub for an informal gathering on the last Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. “AFA membership is not required to participate and we encourage anyone who has worn the blue suit to stop by and enjoy the camaraderie,” a prepared release said. For information call Terry Roop (256) 230-0396 after 6 p.m.

Contracting forum

DCMA Huntsville will hold a Government-Contractor Forum May 17-18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. For information e-mail Lorena Henderson at warfighter@dcma.mil.

Transition workshop

The Transition Center, Military Personnel Division, Human Resources Directorate, Garrison hosts a three-day transition workshop once each month in building 3493 for personnel transitioning out of the military or leaving civil service, military retirees and family members of all. In this workshop, various service providers brief on retirement and separation benefits as well as resume preparation and preparation for interviews and how to dress. To reserve a seat for May 17-19, call Tanela Jackson 842-2718.

Test week

The Defense Test Resource Management Center will sponsor Test Week 2005, “The Major Range and Test Facility Base: How Should It Transform to Meet the Needs of the Warfighter?” June 6-9 at the Von Braun Center South Hall. Registration fee is \$325 for all attendees. For information call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

Battalion reunion

A reunion dinner for all former members of the 3rd Battalion, 71st Air Defense Artillery is May 13 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville Airport Four Points Sheraton. For information call George Osborne 830-4911.

Marine league

The Brandon-Wilbourn detachment of the Marine Corps League will hold its monthly meeting May 10 at 6 p.m. at American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue. All retired, former, reserve, active or inactive Marines are invited.

Support group

A support group is being formed for anyone who has a member of their family serving overseas in the armed forces. The initial meeting is Friday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Trinity Church, 607 Airport Road, in Wesley Hall with a snack supper served. Separate activities are planned for

See Announcements on page 23

children. To make a reservation, call Mollie 883-3200, ext. 230.

 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 Sgt. 1st Class Harold Cook 876-5390.

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. Go to www.gsaauctions.gov, search by State of Alabama; and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-4667.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-4 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. Military personnel and their families may call the manager for an appointment. The shop is accepting spring and summer items. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. Volunteers are needed. On Saturday, May 7 from 10-2, the shop will have 20 percent off selected ticked items. For more information, call 881-6992.

Computer classes

The Employment Readiness Program offers free self-paced computer tutorials to military family members who would like to develop or enhance their computer skills. Other members of the military community, including active duty personnel, retirees and civilian employees may take advantage of this training on a space available basis. Classes are available for Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Outlook, Access, and Windows XP. A certificate of completion is issued upon successful completion of each course. For more information, call Debra Jefferson at Army Community Service 876-5397.

Enlisted scholarships

The Huntsville Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association has a number of scholarship opportunities available for undergraduates and graduates. Scholarships are available for military personnel, working students and students enrolled in SROTC. For more information, go to <http://www.afcea.org/scholarships>.

Car wash benefit

The Evening Optimist Club will hold its annual car wash to benefit the Youth of Huntsville, May 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Lee's Magic Tunnel Car Wash, 2318 Memorial Parkway southwest. Cost is \$7 for wash and sealer wax (\$13.50 value). In case of rain, the event would be held June 5. For information or tickets, call Bob Allen 772-5966.

Workers' compensation session

The Injury Compensation Office, in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, will conduct a Workers' Compensation information session at request. If your organization wishes to schedule a session at your location choice, call Debra Hammond 842-9038 or Kim Stoufer 876-5294.

Historic homes tour

Civilian Welfare Fund Council is selling tickets to Alabama's Largest Antebellum District Historic Homes Tour. The tour Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. includes five private homes, two residential gardens, the First Presbyterian Church and Weeden House Museum featuring vintage wedding gowns. You may purchase tickets for \$15 by calling Randy Bigler 955-0505 today.

Voices from past

On Sunday from 2-4:30 p.m., the Huntsville Pilgrimage Association is sponsoring Voices from Past Times - Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll with more than 80 Huntsville residents in period costumes representing notables from the past, most of whom are buried at Maple Hill. This event is free to the public. Donations are welcome. For more information about Pilgrimage Weekend, May 7-8, call Margaret Strickland 533-5723 or Gwen Walker 551-9872

Summer camp

Child and Youth Services is conducting summer camp registration through May 15 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Youth whose parent/ guardian are military, retired military, DoD, Army, Redstone

contractor or NASA employees are eligible to participate. Registration cost is \$18 per person or \$40 per family. Required registration items include a current immunization record and the child's Social Security number. For more information, call 876-7801.

Anxiety disorders

To help individuals learn about anxiety disorders, their symptoms and effective treatments, the Mental Health Center of Madison County and the Mental Health Association will hold a free program and screening today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Huntsville Hospital Corporate University.

PX sales

The Post Exchange announces the following: Texier Purse event through May 10, Lighting Bazaar through May 23, and Oriental Rug Bazaar through May 19.

Garage sale

Morale Welfare and Recreation will host a post-wide garage sale from 8 a.m. until noon Saturday. The garage sale — open to the entire Redstone community (active duty and retired military, and civilian and contract employees) — will be held at the south end of the Post Exchange parking lot. Permits to sell items may be purchased for \$5 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711. All items being sold must be personally owned or used and sellers must be in place by 7:45 that morning. No vendors will be allowed. For more information, call 876-4531.

Scholarship offers

"If you are a high school student or a parent of a high school student, we have a wonderful resource for you; it's a huge listing of scholarship and financial aid web sites," says Pam Berry, youth education support services director. "It's not too late to plan for those exciting college years." If you would like these listings, call Berry 876-7801 or e-mail pam.berry@redstone.army.mil.

Flying activity

The Redstone Arsenal Flying Activity will have an open house May 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Mini flying lessons with a certified flight instructor are \$30 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under. There will also be aviation videos, simulators, in addition to free food and drinks. This event is open to the entire Redstone community. For more information, call 880-9495 or 876-0237.

Master's degree programs

The University of Tennessee's executive education programs (both degree and executive development) will have an information reception May 9 from 3-7 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. Meet and interact with program representatives and faculty from three master's of business administration programs (Aerospace MBA, Senior Executive MBA, and Professional MBA) and programming on Lean Enterprise, Process

See Announcements on page 24

Rocket Announcements

Improvement/six sigma, Supply Chain Management, and Leadership Development. These MBA programs are built for the working professional interested in obtaining the degree while maintaining their job. The non-degree executive development programs are designed for those interested in practical and application focused educational opportunities. For more information, visit <http://TheCenter.utk.edu> or call (865)974-5001.

Festival performers

The Big Spring Jam Music Festival is calling on local and regional music acts to apply to perform at this year's event scheduled Sept. 23-25 at Big Spring Park in Huntsville. Submissions will be accepted until May 15 and must include a music sample and biography sheet. Acts that have previously applied or performed are required to resubmit the music sample and bio. The mailing address for the materials is: Lindsey Jennings, c/o DJ Promotions Inc., 2120 Metro Circle, Huntsville, AL 35801.

Military pay update

The Military Pay Office is requesting that all Reserve Component Soldiers called to active duty in support of Contingency Operations schedule an appointment with the local office to recertify their Basic Allowance for Housing zip code. Appointments can be scheduled by calling Lito Valencia 876-7822. "This matter is of the utmost importance as it may affect the amount of BAH a Soldier receives (in most cases an increase and back pay are due)," a prepared release said. For more information call Sonya Morris, military pay chief, 876-1379.

Arts and crafts

May classes for the Arts and Crafts Center include Patriotic Basket, May 14 at 10 a.m., fee \$30; Cap and Diploma Basket, May 21 at 10 a.m., fee \$35; Small Market Tote, May 9 at 6:30 p.m., fee \$20; Cookies for Two, May 23 at 6:30 p.m., fee \$30; Matting and Framing, May 14 and 28 at 10 a.m., fee \$30; Introduction to Woodworking, May 16 at 6 p.m., fee \$30; Adirondack Glider, May 21 and 28 at 10 a.m., fee \$140; Woodturning for Beginners (two-part class), May 9 and 12 or May 23 and 26 at 6 p.m., fee \$40. For more registration deadlines or informa-

tion, call 876-7951 or e-mail art@redstone.army.mil.

Aeronautical classes

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is now registering for the summer term, May 31 to Aug. 1. Classes offered include Aircraft Maintenance Management; Applications in Crew Resource Management; Macroeconomics; Management of Production and Operations; and Satellite and Spacecraft Systems. 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, and Space Studies. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. Deadline to register is May 27. Call 876-9763, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222; contact the web site at <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>; or e-mail 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.

Master's degree

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is now offering a Master of Science in Management program on Redstone Arsenal. Students applying for admission to the Master of Science in Management may choose from specializations in Management of Integrated Logistics; Aviation/Aerospace Industrial Management; Air Transportation Management; Aviation and Aerospace Security; Aviation Enterprises in a Global Environment; and a General Management Option. Courses will be offered in nine-week terms starting in August, and are available online as well. For more information visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222.

Housing area news

Redstone's annual Housing "Spring" Yard Sale is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the housing area.

Yard of Month

The Yard of the Month program begins at



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Lunch break

Kim Marr, left, and Rhonda Sewell, both of Integrated Materiel Management Center, enjoy lunch during the Civilian Welfare Fund Council's spring cleanup day Thursday at the Rustic Lodge.

7:30 a.m. May 9 and will continue on the second Monday each month through September. The Housing Office provided the following checklist for residents: Ensure yards are thoroughly policed; lawn is mowed (approximately 3-inches high); lawn has been edged along walks, driveways and street; lawn has been raked of grass or leaves, and lawn has been watered; shrubbery has been trimmed (should not be over 6 feet tall or growing against the building); no grass or weeds in flower beds; garbage area and street has been policed; no vehicles, boats or trailers parked on lawn; carport and yard are free of excessive open storage items; garden hoses are properly stored; back yard is mowed and free of clutter and debris; no garbage cans left at curbside, unless it's garbage pick-up day; no unsightly fences; and individuals/units have shown initiative in beautifying yard, i.e. attractive flower beds, use of hanging baskets, lawn ornaments, etc. Individuals/units should use discretion decorating their areas. The use of flower beds, yard ornaments, hanging baskets, flags and banners should be kept to a minimum to ensure that the area

is aesthetically pleasing and complimentary to the neighborhood.

Mother's Day buffet

The Officers and Civilians Club is hosting its annual Mother's Day buffet Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. "There will be an incredible assortment of foods prepared by our master chef," a prepared release said. Prices are: club members \$19.95, non-members \$23.95, children 4 through 10 \$9.95, and children 3 and under eat free. This event is open to the Redstone community. Tickets can be reserved by calling 830-2582.

Car show benefit

The Vets with Vettes (Veterans with Corvettes) and Corvettes Owners of the Redstone community are sponsoring a Car Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Officers and Civilians Club. All profits from this show will be donated to Army Emergency Relief. There will be nine classes of vehicles with trophies to the best of class and the runner-up. Trophies will be

See Announcements on page 25

presented to the Best of Show, Most Unusual Entry and the Participants Choice. To register send an e-mail to Bill Lang at mustangcorral@yahoo.com or Jerry Campbell at corvetteman6000@yahoo.com. Entry fee is a requested \$20 donation to AER. Individuals wishing to view the vehicles are also asked to contribute.

Planetary lecture

HAL5 presents a public lecture by Robert Adams speaking on "Planetary Defense," Thursday night at 7 at Huntsville Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Social to follow at Shoney's. For more information, call 882-7726.

Law Day event

North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will have its Law Day celebration Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel, 5 Tranquility Base. Scheduled speaker is Judge Myron Thompson of the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama. Cost is \$15. For information call Maj. Cheryl Boone 876-9017 or Juanita Sales Lee 955-4521.

Mother's Day basket

The National Maintenance Program branch of Maintenance Directorate, IMMC is auctioning a Mother's Day basket as a fund-raiser for Army Emergency Relief. Bids are due today. To submit a bid, go to www.aer-redstone.com or call Paula Glass 313-2509 or e-mail paula.glass@redstone.army.mil.

Calhoun summer classes

Calhoun Community College, Redstone Arsenal Extension, announces summer 2005 registration for eight-week sessions beginning May 31. Registration continues through May 25, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Classes are offered at 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. Courses are open to all area residents. Calhoun, fully accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, is a Servicemembers Opportunity College offering a VA approved curriculum. Academic advising is available for active duty members of the military, and special degree programs are offered for qualified servicemembers. Call 876-7431 for more information, or visit Calhoun's web site at www.calhoun.edu and

click on Schedule Summer 2005 for course listings. Calhoun is in building 3343 on Little John Drive.

Community theater

Theatre Huntsville flex coupons – each good for one seat at any Theatre Huntsville play, a \$14 value – are on sale for \$10 each with all proceeds going to Army Emergency Relief. They can be purchased Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Sparkman Cafeteria. Coupons are also available until May 15 by calling Pat Blackman 842-8101, John Gonzalez 842-2992 or Nancy Morris 313-2469.

Multi-cultural day

To celebrate cultural diversity, the Special Emphasis Program Council at Missile and Space Intelligence Center is sponsoring a festive day of events May 11 at the Richard C. Shelby Center, building 4544. This event will highlight a variety of cultures to include Hispanic, Native American, European American, African American and Asian Pacific American through food sampling, cultural displays and entertainment. The focus for this year's annual event will include individual programs that emphasize the Asian Pacific American and the African American cultures. The Asian Pacific American event will begin at 9 a.m. and will feature music, Vietnamese and Indian dance, and other culturally inspired entertainment. The scheduled speaker is Fred Wong, director of DIA Directorate for Human Intelligence, Washington, D.C. The African American event will start at 1 p.m. and will showcase African American culture through various expressions of fine arts including jazz, poetry and dance. The scheduled speaker is Denise Carter, DIA chief of Office of Contracts Management, Washington, D.C. Cultural food sampling will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are invited to attend. For more information, call James Feagan 313-7250.

Resource managers picnic

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its annual picnic May 12 at 11 a.m. at the NASA Picnic Area. For tickets — \$3 members, \$5 non-members — see your organization representative or call Kim Jean 876-7208 or Lisa Lowry 876-1423.

Free plants

A free plant swap will be held May 14 from 8-11 a.m. at the Farley Community Church parking lot on Bell Road in southeast Huntsville, near Redstone Road. The idea is to "bring a plant, take a plant," a prepared release said. "If you have any perennials that need to be divided, now is the time. Bring your extra plants or plants from your yard that you no longer want and trade them for others. This is a great way for you to try a plant without spending a cent or to clear out a garden that is overgrown."

Military spouse day

Stop by the Post Exchange on Friday to celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Register to win a \$100 shopping spree, a 200 unit phone card, floral arrangement, or a gift pack from Estee Lauder, Clinique or Lancome. "Enjoy a piece of cake as we celebrate the military spouse on this momentous day," a prepared release said.

Military personnel tracking

Under provisions of the Fiscal Year 2000

National Defense Authorization Act, the services were required to track deployed and non-deployed time away from home station. To ensure uniformity throughout all services, Perstempo, a web-based tracking application, became operational in October 2000 for tracking status of uniformed personnel. This does not apply to civilians, only military. Personnel who process TDY orders are usually responsible for submitting the information into the Perstempo web site, since they would know when the Soldier goes TDY and returns. Each unit or activity must appoint a Perstempo user to input this information. Each PAC must have a Perstempo user for in/out processing. When Soldiers in process, the Perstempo clerk will collect their Perstempo Event History Sheet or retrieve from Perstempo. When the Soldier out processes, run the Out Processing Report for the Soldier. A copy of the signed report should be provided to the Soldier and another copy is to be kept for six months after the Soldier departs. For more information, call system administrator Deidra Gay 876-4724.

