

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 54 No. 35

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

August 31, 2005

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Letterkenny leans on customer service

Depot work force producing results

By AL SCHWARTZ
For the Rocket

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — The Letterkenny Army Depot of today is a far cry from the installation it was 10 or five or even three years ago.

Implementation of the 1995 Base Closure and Realignment recommendations caused major realignments and reductions in property and personnel. More than 2,500 positions were cut from the installation roles and about 300 employees received reduction-in-force notices. About 8 percent of the facility, or 1,480 acres, was excessed and turned over to the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority. It also forced the Army and the installation to take a very hard look at the depot's future.

Letterkenny Army Depot lost jobs in the 1999 BRAC. However, the installation and the work force have made significant changes since then. The installation now has 1,230 government civilians, 50 Soldiers, and 720 contractor employees; it has implemented Lean SixSigma; has become profitable and in the past two years has returned \$4.5 million in savings to its customers; and with currently projected workload growth and if the 2005 BRAC recommendations are passed into law, Letterkenny stands to gain new missions and workload, its staff could grow significantly; and it will see new construction, the first new government production facility at Letterkenny since 1977.

"I think one major reason for the turnaround is the outstanding work force with its outstanding work ethic. We have never given them a task that they didn't excel in," Letterkenny commander Col. Bill Guinn said. Another reason he credits for Letterkenny's turnaround is the implementation of Lean practices.

"We began to implement Lean shortly after I arrived," he said. "We began Lean initially

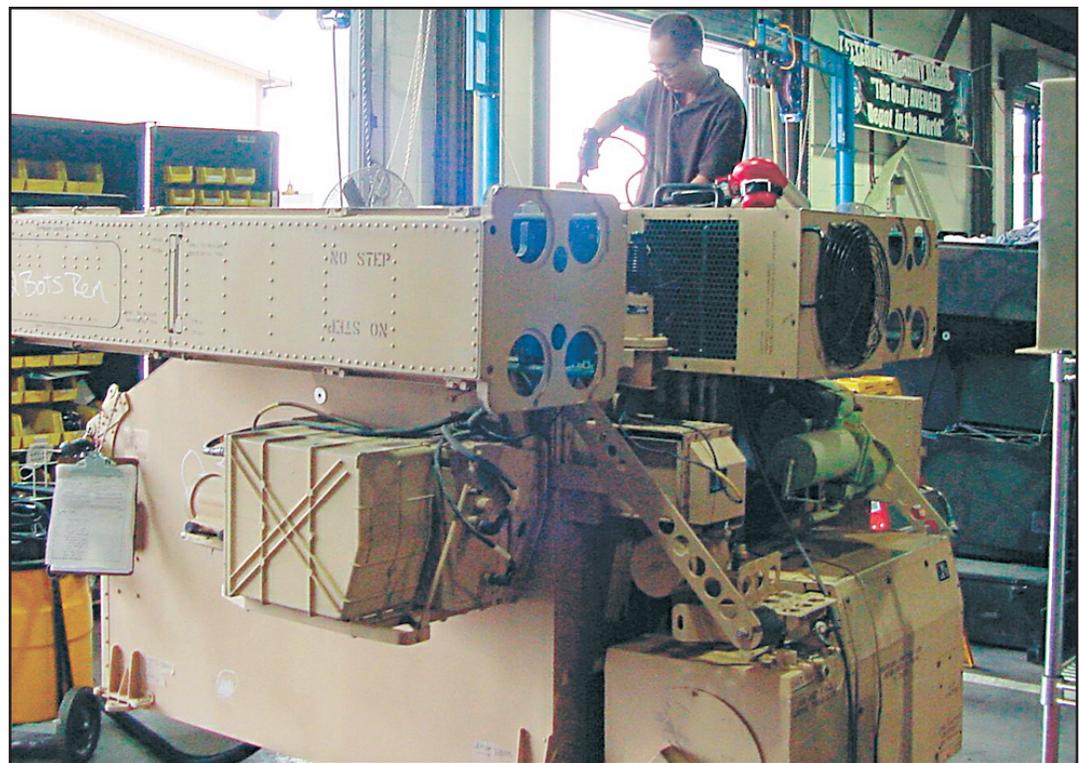


Photo by Don Bitner

AVENGER FIX— Khai Nguyen's efforts to overhaul an Avenger air defense unit for the 1st Cavalry Division is one of the reasons Letterkenny is able to bring the unit up to a level that is as good as when it was manufactured.

because we were told to do it. But as we understood Lean SixSigma better, we realized the benefits the process could provide."

Mark Sheffield, the depot's chief of staff, initially led the Lean process at Letterkenny. "We built an eight person team drawn from throughout the installation," he said. "We looked at the whole range of issues and problems and opportunities, from personnel and production to financial and cultural. We wanted to know if we had the right number of people with the right skills, how we could improve the production line and work flow, and if we were accurately capturing costs.

"And then we focused on our customer, the Soldier, and how we could better support him or her in the field. We wanted to use Lean to develop a flat, team-based structure with a high degree of work autonomy," he said. "A Lean organization breaks down barriers and develops highly-trained, motivated employees who investi-

gate problems and find solutions as part of their job, and that's what we wanted to become."

Jay Bogle agrees. Bogle is the point man for Lean at Letterkenny. "We focus on our customer by incorporating ideas from our employees," he said. Officials point to amazing

results — production time has been reduced, costs are down, waste is down, inventory is down, output is up, employee morale is up and customer satisfaction is up.

See Depot on page 6



Photo by Don Bitner

HIGH ROLLERS— The High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle recapitalization program brings in more than \$81 million per year. Maj. Eric Burkholder, Humvee project manager, says they increased their production rate from just one Humvee in December to 280 this August and expect to increase output to more than 400 per month.

An open lane random survey

What would you like to do when you retire?

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



Chris Barrett
DoD civilian

"I'd like to move to the Caribbean and own a yacht brokerage."

Leon Bradford
DoD civilian

"I want to move to Arizona because of the climate and weather."



Sandra Hazelrig
DoD civilian

"I'd like to travel and see more of our country."

Susan Zimmerly
DoD civilian

"I would like to be a pet groomer."



Quote of the week

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is to try to please everyone."
— *Bill Cosby*

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.

Pool lacks shade

My wife and I have been season pass holders for the on-post pools for the past five years. We learned this weekend that the only pool open daily (normal hours) is Pool 3 on Goss Road until the Labor Day closure. We understand that the start of school lost lifeguards and only a handful remain. What puzzles us is the selection. The Goss Road pool has very little or no shady areas. The few umbrellas available still allow direct sunlight though. Pool 1 on Vincent Road has some natural shade throughout the day around the pool area.

The majority of adults who take the younger kids during the day are usually older and wiser folks watching their grandkids. Shade is very important this time of year. When we asked the lifeguards if they had been asked for input or a recommendation, they stated it was a unilateral Garrison command directive. One would think their input would be important, since many do it year after year. They are a great group of professionals. Lastly, I understand the Garrison command terminated the current pool contractor and MWR will manage the pools next year. Our hope is someone who actually goes to the pool on a regular basis will also be involved in the major decisions next year.

Name withheld at request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for taking the time to send us your comments and concerns regarding the selection of Pool 3 as the only pool that will remain open daily until the Labor Day closure. It is true that loss of lifeguards and the beginning of the school year has required some rescheduling. We selected Pool 3 over the other two pools because it has a larger shallow area which makes it more suitable for our young swimmers. We felt that the majority of the users would be younger and wanted to ensure that there was adequate space for them to enjoy swimming. This pool is also the main pool used for swimming lessons so our young swimmers are familiar and comfortable in this pool. As far as the shade, we have moved additional tables and umbrellas to give our customers more areas to get out of the sun."

"At the present time, MWR is providing management oversight of the three outdoor swimming pools. However, plans for next year have not been determined at this time. We do assure you that your input as well as the input of the staff tasked to operate this service will be taken into consideration when making management decisions."

Letters to the Editor

More on Patriot anniversary

Iwould like to clarify the report in the *Redstone Rocket* regarding what I said at the Patriot 40th anniversary.

In 1976 I changed the name SAM-D to Patriot. I first thought of the name Patriot because of the New England Patriots. However, I did not select the name because of that.

I chose Patriot because the system was being developed and built in New England, the birthplace of this country's first Patriots.

More importantly, those Patriots

symbolize everything this great country stands for. They fought for and defended this country.

What better name for an air defense system?

Patriot was a perfect name for the system and I chose it.

Patriot's great performance over the years has proven that the Soldiers and the system have met the full measure of a Patriot.

Charles F. Means
Retired major general

Hiding number for security

Why does the paper travel voucher, DD 1351, from DFAS Indianapolis Center not have the payee's Social Security Number blacked out? The leave and earnings statement does. This form can easily be lost in transit.

Charles Kroelinger
RDEC

Editor's note: G-8 (Resource Management) provided the following answer. "Defense Finance and Accounting Service was contacted concerning the travel voucher ques-

tion. The DFAS director, Central Disbursing Services provided the following response: 'DFAS is going to request a quote to see what the costs are associated with x'ing out the first five numbers of the SSN on the Advice of Payment and if it's possible to do so without causing internal control problems. There is no official guidance to remove the SSNs from the AOPs. As soon as DFAS gets a proposal and agrees to the cost, they will provide something more definitive. If this does go through, it should be accomplished sometime in FY '06.'

Fast relief wanted at gate

Ican't believe it's going to take six months to complete the new guard-house at Redstone Road, Gate 3. How long can it possibly take to tear down a very small building and put up a new one? It's not like they are doing road work as well. The way the government operates, everything

had to be complete before they closed down the gate to start the project. At a time when South Parkway is under major construction, it is a very bad time to have the gate closed. We have to go way out of our way to get on and

See **Gate** on page 9

Rating gives competitive edge

You are interested in earning the Certified Professional Secretary rating or the Certified Administrative Professional rating, but what should you do first? In fact, what is the difference between the CPS and CAP rating? What advantage is there to being certified? What should you study to prepare yourself? What is the

cost? There are so many questions when you have heard about these certifications but have not been given any details.

I would like to provide some of those details here; however, my highest recommendation to anyone interested

See **Rating** on page 9

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://ams36.redstone.army.mil:4443/portal/page?_pageid=614,1983766&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_cat_id=6&menupair=pridz1870500

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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.

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle

Job: 59th Ordnance Brigade's command sergeant major

Where do you call home?
Valdosta, Ga.

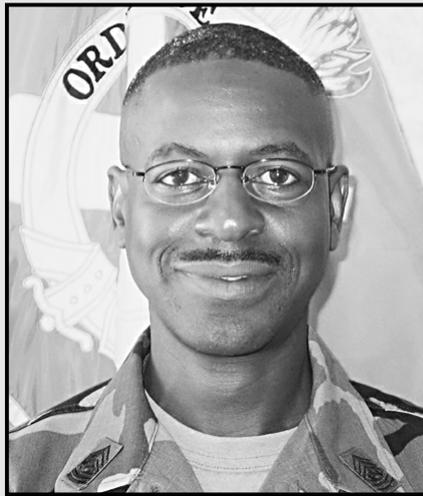
What do you like about your job?

I get the opportunity to help coach, teach and mentor America's young Soldiers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Golf

What are your goals?

My goal is to, after military retirement,



work with at-risk youth here in the Tennessee Valley.

What's your favorite football team?

Atlanta Falcons

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

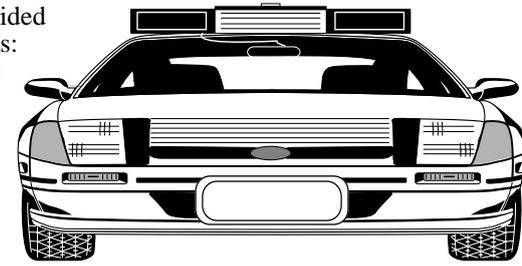
The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

Aug. 19: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol during a vehicle inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and detained in the detention cell until his blood-alcohol content reached an acceptable level.

Aug. 20: 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.

Aug. 21: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol during a vehicle inspection at Gate 10. Further investigation revealed that he was operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license and in possession of marijuana. He was issued three violation notices and detained in the detention cell until his blood-alcohol content reached an acceptable level.

Aug. 22: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license when he was stopped for speeding on Goss Road. He was issued two



violation notices and released.

Aug. 23: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Aug. 24: 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.

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

Violation notices issued: 12 speeding, 1 failure to yield right of way, 2 driving under the influence of alcohol, 5 driving with a suspended driver's license, 1 failure to set parking brake, 1 expired tags, 1 no proof of insurance.

Military officer chapter honored

Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America has received the 5 Star "Levels of Excellence" Award, the highest award possible for chapters in the United States and overseas.

The association for military officers has nearly 380,000 members. The Huntsville Chapter, with 693 members, is among 425 MOAA chapters.

"The many proud members of the Huntsville Chapter who contributed to

winning this prestigious award represent the best tradition of American patriotism and dedication to this country and to their communities," retired Air Force Maj. Steve Crawley, chapter president, said.

Huntsville Chapter, founded in 1961, serves north central Alabama. Guests are welcome to its monthly meetings. For more information, call 883-2323. *(Military Officers Association of America release)*

Prospector vehicle among prospects

Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc. is one of three companies awarded a multi-million dollar contract by the Boeing Company, the lead systems integrator for the Army's Future Combat Systems program, for phase one of the Class III Unmanned Aerial Vehicle development and demonstration under the FCS program. The value of Teledyne's phase one contract is \$3.7 million.

Teledyne Brown's UAV, "Prospector," will be evaluated on Class III critical performance requirements.

The FCS Class III UAV effort is a multi-phase award. Phase one, expected to last 10 months, includes requirements assessment and risk reduction trade studies on initial UAV concepts. Companies will compete for the second phase award, which will consist of prototype production and flight demonstration and is scheduled for a mid-2006 award. A single company will be selected to compete against the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency's vehicle for the third phase award, production. *(Teledyne release)*

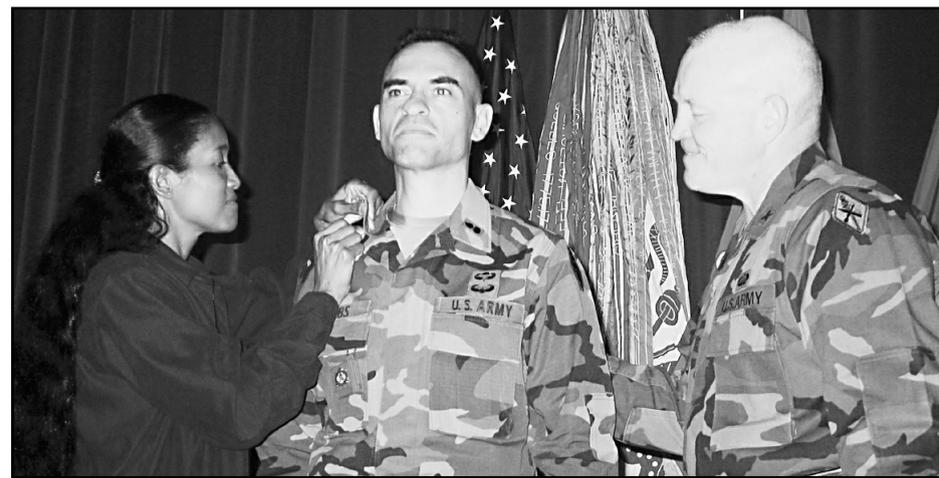


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Chief warrant 5

Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs is promoted to chief warrant officer 5 during a promotion ceremony Friday at Heiser Hall. Pinning on his new rank are his wife, Erica, and Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, chief of Ordnance. "I have never met a Soldier in 29 years that's had the record of achievement and accomplishment of this warrant officer," Boles said.

Civilian wounded in Iraq receives defense medal

*Logistics assistance rep
serving aviation forces*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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This is an award nobody really wants because it's earned in blood.

The Secretary of Defense Medal for Defense of Freedom was awarded to logistics assistance representative Cleveland Rogers after he was wounded in Iraq. The aviation LAR was riding in a Black Hawk helicopter which was attacked by ground fire Sept. 27, 2003 near Fallujah.

He was injured by shrapnel to his right leg.

Rogers, who served in Iraq until January 2004, received the medal Aug. 23 in an afternoon ceremony at the Aviation and Missile Command. The AMCOM senior staff technical representative was recently promoted to GS-13 and is moving from Fort Polk, La., to Fort Hood, Texas.

"It's outstanding," Rogers said of the medal. He laughed as he added, "I'm sorry I had to get it. But you know

this is the award people don't want. Like my nephew told me, 'You can have that award.'"

John Chapman, executive director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, presented the award to the Northampton, Va., native.

"I just can't say how proud I am of you and all the LARs that work for AMCOM," Chapman said.

Rogers, 59, attended grade school in Bristol, Pa., and high school in Trenton, N.J. He entered the Army in August 1963 at Fort Jackson, S.C., and served three tours in Vietnam. He retired as a staff sergeant in March 1984.

He worked as an industrial electrician for Virginia Electric and Power Company from 1984-86 and was hired as a then-MICOM contractor from 1986-88. He became a logistics assistance representative for the command in January 1989 stationed at Fort Polk. Subsequent tours took him to Korea, Bosnia, Germany, Albania, Poland, Iraq and to Kosovo in August 2004.

He and his wife, Gloria, have six children (three boys and three girls), nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WELL DESERVED— Cleveland Rogers, an aviation LAR, receives the Secretary of Defense Medal for Defense of Freedom. Making the presentation is John Chapman, executive director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center.

Specializing in keeping Soldiers ready to meet needs for Army

Proponent office manages skills

By KELLEY LANE

Staff writer

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Ensuring Soldiers get the training they need to perform the jobs that keep the military moving toward the future is business as usual for the Ordnance Personnel Proponent office.

“We manage a Soldier’s career or what a Soldier should be from the time they enlist until they leave the military or retire,” Master Sgt. William Slade, proponent officer and NCO-in-charge for career management fields 89 and 94, said. “We’re responsible for the Reserve and National Guard forces as well. We make the recommendations and set the criteria that every Soldier needs to maintain (a military occupational specialty) or even enter the Army.”

“For example, if we’re creating a new MOS, we have to decide what is the criteria to become that MOS or for that person to enlist in,” Sgt. 1st Class Clyde Henne-man, career management NCO for 94D, 94E, 94F, 94L, 94R and 94W, said. “We’re deciding what test scores should be, security clearance and that sort of thing. We set those objectives for recruitment, too. We maintain those also for the MOS. If we need to change the scores, then we’ll re-evaluate that. We set those type goals for personnel and new people coming in.”

Members of the proponent office make recommendations that shape the future of the Ordnance corps and Soldiers’ careers. They spend hours reviewing documentation, talking with installations, and preparing for visits to the field where Soldiers ply their trade.

“We go out to the field to brief, sometimes with a flak vest on,” Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs, proponent chief for specialties 890A, 918B, 918D and 918E, said.



Photo by Kelley Lane

STAFF MEETING— Master Sgt. William Slade, standing, discusses possible consolidations with Ordnance Personnel Proponent office members.

Each member is a subject matter expert in their particular field. While they oversee those fields separately, they often work together to decide what the requirements of each specialty should be to ensure that both the Army and the servicemember have what they need to perform. They make recommendations in regard to promotions and rank for equal opportunities. They try to foresee the future of the corps in order to make sure that when the future arrives, Soldiers are ready.

“When we come to work, we get in our vehicle and we fly 10 years into the future and see what the force structure looks like,” Slade said. “We look at the current path and say ‘OK what will it look like then?’ We try to focus on what the requirements would be. As we see more of these future combat systems implemented we have to look at where we are now and where we came from. We try to see how relevant we’ll be in terms of training and maintenance.”

“It’s all about the health of the corps,” Hobbs said. “The decisions we make are far reaching. It may sound corny, but we are here for the Soldier. Literally, we would not be here if it were not for that Soldier in that foxhole. We get phone calls from all over the world. Sometimes with our cell phones, it is 24/7. We get calls

See Training on page 11

Depot

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“Waste can come in many forms and one major goal of Lean is to eliminate it,” Bogle said. “Inventory in itself is waste, rework, downtime, setup time, poor communications, even the failure to take advantage of skills of workers is waste.”

“We have had close to 200 formal Rapid Improvement Events and many of our organizations have had their own informal programs to augment what we’ve done formally,” Guinn said. In the Command Group, everyone, from the deputy commander on down, has participated in at least one event. “The guy or gal on the floor leads the change,” Guinn said. “I get a daily briefing during the four-week-long process.”

Guinn says it is his role to make sure the teams have the resources they need, but it is the teams, the employees on the floor, who have the good ideas. “Employees like having a say in how to improve,” he said. “The Rapid Improvement Events have reduced money spent, have reduced turnaround time, and have made this a better place in which to work.”

One of Letterkenny’s current projects using Lean concepts is the recapitalization of Avenger air defense units. It’s a \$34 million program that takes Avengers down to their basic elements and installs new or overhauled parts. Greg Gress, supervisor of the Avenger branch, said the components for the Avenger units are reset to the maintenance standards specified in training manuals and the statement of work agreed to by the unit, the project manager and the depot. By implementing Lean principles, the Avenger branch has been able to save enough money to purchase overhauled power trains. Originally they were only going to be able to clean and repair that equipment.

Today Letterkenny averages about 15 Avengers per month. Soon that will increase to 17, then to 20 per month. “We reset 148 Avengers in FY ‘04,” Gress said. “In FY ‘05 we expect to reset about 180.” Letterkenny is processing 37 units for the 1st Cavalry Division.

“Our focus is not just on performance,” Gress said. “We also focus on customer service.” Members of the units that own the equipment, in this case the 1st Cavalry Division, meet with Gress and his staff to understand the process and what Letterkenny will do.

“We want to establish a relationship with our customer,” Gress said. “We want them to feel they can come here anytime to see what we are doing and to ask all the questions they want. When we deliver these Avengers to Fort Hood (Texas), we’ll send a team to check out the unit with the 1st Cav Soldiers.”

Customer service is something that permeates Letterkenny — whether it is with the recapitalization efforts for the Humvee or Patriot, the up-arming of many types of vehicles or any of Letterkenny’s many other programs.

Guinn, who retires in August, believes the work force at Letterkenny has proved itself to the Army. He said Letterkenny is the only depot that has produced every variant of armor for vehicles and because of the quality of its work and work force other depots moved work there.

“The work done by the employees of Letterkenny Army Depot directly affects the safety of the nation’s Soldiers. They are great Americans and I am proud to have served with them,” he said.



Courtesy photo

Depot commander

Col. Robert Swenson has become the commander of Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pa. He succeeded retiring Col. Bill Guinn in a change of command ceremony Aug. 30.



Army photo

GENERATING EFFICIENCY— Letterkenny Army Depot receives about \$11 million to overhaul generators ranging in size from 5kw to 60kw. As the program continues to grow, the depot will implement Lean SixSigma practices to make the work environment more efficient. Soon to arrive are Aviation Ground Power Units, or AGPUs.



Photo by Don Bitner

AIR DEFENSE ANTENNA— The recapitalization workload for Patriot accounts for about \$105 million each year; and that’s projected to continue through 2012. The program brings the ground support system, including the antenna, to near zero hours and miles and applies the PAC-3 modernization program upgrades. Sonny Chicoli says an entire Patriot battalion is recapitalized in less than a year.

Leader development program gets high marks from grads

Staff college professor describes curriculum

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

This program is seen as a way to help Redstone develop civilian leaders for the future.

The Army Management Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Va., prepares sustaining base leaders – military and civilian leaders who aid this nation's Soldiers to meet their mission in times of conflict and peace.

"The programs that the college offers are key to helping us get where we want to go," Dr. Richard Amos, deputy to the AMCOM commanding general, said. He has attended the college's Personnel Management for Executives course and said he "thought it was great."

Retired Lt. Col. Hollie Montgomery Jr., a professor for the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management course, gave briefings on the college Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"We have a great bunch of folks who really care about our civilian development program," he said.

The school offers six courses of study, including the Sustaining Base Leadership and Management resident and nonresident programs. SBLM teaches the business of the Army with development of key skills such as leadership, communication and problem solving. Personnel Manage-

ment for Executives I and II focus on a leader's skill in dealing with the people issues of any organization.

"We want you to be lifelong learners," Montgomery said. "We're going to teach you things you can use throughout your life, throughout your careers."

Lula Rochelle, a traffic management specialist in the distribution and transportation division of Integrated Materiel Management Center, attended the 14-week SBLM program at Fort Belvoir in early 2002.

"I enjoyed it, I mean I learned a lot," she said. "If you really want to know the Army, that's the best place to go."

To be eligible to attend the SBLM program, civilian nominees must be serving in grades GS-12 through GS-14 (GS-11 and GS-15 by exception) or equivalent non-appropriated fund grades. Army officers, major and lieutenant colonel, warrant officers, or sergeants major/command sergeants major interested in attending the school should contact their career branch assignment officer.

The target audience for PME is Army civilians, GS-13/14 or wage grade equivalent and military majors and above. GS-12 and GS-15 personnel are considered by exception.

Since 1987, Army Management Staff College has graduated more than 10,000 civilian and military leaders from its programs.

The Aviation and Missile Command's point of contact is Michael Davis, AMCOM G-1 Office (Human Resources), at 876-6068.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TEACHING TIME— Retired Lt. Col. Hollie Montgomery Jr., a professor at the Army Management Staff College, says the college's emphasis is on leader education.

■ Patient requested for construction project

Gate

continued from page 2

off post and the traffic on the Parkway is absolutely horrible when you have to crawl for miles. Please tell me that this project will not take six months and we will be able to use it much sooner. You take your life in your hands to use the Parkway at rush hour anyway and with

the overload of all the folks that can't use Gate 3, it's been torture.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The Garrison is extremely sorry for the inconvenience construction at Redstone Road (Gate 3) is causing many of Redstone Arsenal's motorists. Every effort is being taken to

complete the project as efficiently and timely as possible. This project is the culmination of close to a decade of planning, design, re-design, and many years of waiting for funding. This delay however has afforded the opportunity to incorporate current Force Protection requirements for Access Control Points into the design and construction of the new guardhouse. While the old guardhouse took two days to demolish; unfortunately, like anything else, the new construction will take a good bit longer

and, yes, there is a substantial amount of roadwork associated with the improvements. The guardhouse is not being constructed in the exact location of the old.

"Project completion should be anticipated to continue until mid-January.

"It is finally good to see this project come to fruition. The Garrison requests understanding and patience to all persons inconvenienced by this process. Once the project is completed the users of Redstone Road (Gate 3) will notice a vast improvement."

■ How to earn admin professional certification

Rating

continued from page 2

in becoming certified is to go to International Association of Administrative Professionals headquarters' web site at www.iaap-hq.org for so many details it will make your head spin. Just look for the heading, "Professional Certification." In fact I have known some people who believed they had to earn their CPS or CAP rating before they could become a member of IAAP. That is not true!

The exam is given twice a year, in May and in November. The application deadline is postmarked Feb. 15 for the May exams and Aug. 15 for the November exams. If you have not applied to take the test, your first opportunity for testing will be May 2006. Your next step should be to determine what material you should be studying between now and May, make a schedule of study by determining how much material you must study each day in order to have studied all of it by test time, write your schedule down, and do not wait to cram at the last minute. Stick to your schedule!

In the beginning only the CPS exam

was offered, and it covered three categories of study: Office Systems and Technology, Office Administration, and Management. Later a fourth part, Advanced Organizational Management, was added to the exam. An individual may take and pass all four parts of the exam to become a CAP holder or the first three to become a CPS holder. Individuals who had already attained the CPS rating by the time the fourth part was developed need only take the fourth part of the exam to earn the additional CAP rating.

Prentice Hall has published some excellent training materials. They have four books that cover each of the four categories of study and each book for IAAP members costs \$49.99. This is a 35 percent discount off the price to those who are not members of IAAP. Of course there is more study material than that listed above; however, I firmly believe an individual can pass these exams if they have seriously studied this material. The test covers only a sprinkling of material in each category so you know that you don't have to know every fact presented in these books. The problem, however, is that you don't know what questions will be asked

so be prepared by learning as much as you can in all the categories.

Both exams are given the first consecutive Friday and Saturday of May and November. The first three parts of the exam are given all day on Saturday and the fourth CAP portion is given on Friday afternoon. The nearest place to Huntsville to take the exam is at Calhoun Community College in Decatur.

It costs IAAP members a processing fee of \$40 plus a \$150 examination fee to take the CPS exam and non-members pay a \$65 processing fee plus a \$200 examination fee. It costs IAAP members a processing fee of \$40 plus a \$200 examination fee to take the CAP exam and non-members pay a \$65 processing fee plus a \$250 examination fee. This can be paid by check, credit card or a bank draft. Cash and postal money orders are not accepted. It costs IAAP members \$50 per part to retake the parts they previously did not pass and non-members \$75 per part.

In order to qualify for taking the exams an individual with a bachelor's degree needs two years administrative experience,

associate degree needs three years administrative experience and an applicant with no college degree needs four years administrative experience.

Now back to one of the original questions: "What advantage is there for becoming certified?" Professional certification shows employers, clients and associates you are committed as a professional and is a mark of excellence that you carry with you everywhere you go. You will have a competitive edge for promotion and hiring and you will learn more about office operations and build skills by studying for and taking the CPS or CAP exam. It does wonders for your esteem and finally many colleges and universities offer course credit for studying for and passing the CPS and CAP exams.

What are you waiting for? I have given you a place to begin. Now it's time to get busy and go for it! You will be so pleased when you receive your certificate and pin! Good luck!

June Pockrus
CPS

Good fortune brings project manager to post

*Col. Jody Maxwell
retires with 27 years
and 3 tours here*

By **KIM HENRY**
Staff writer
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After four years of service as the Joint Common Missile project manager, now Joint Attack Munition Systems PM, Col. Jody Maxwell will retire from the Army in a ceremony today.

"It's hard to believe it's almost been four years," he said. "We had the good fortune to combine Joint Common Missile and Aviation Rockets and Missiles on the first of June this year. I think it has brought two great program offices together."

The Zanesville, Ohio, native is finishing up his military career with over 27 years of service. He and his family have been stationed at Redstone Arsenal three times.

"It is a great area, there is so much to do here — work and play," he said. "I think you're fortunate if you get assigned here once, but to be assigned here three times I don't know how much luck you have to have to get that. It has worked out well for us."

The West Point graduate says opportunity enticed him to join the military. "I didn't have a real family history with the military — had one uncle who was in the Navy, an enlisted sailor," he said. "It was attractive from the standpoint of doing different things in different places — that was the draw. It's been terrific. Every place we've lived and all the units we've



Photo by Kim Henry

SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED — Col. Jody Maxwell, JAMS project manager, has enjoyed his four years in the JCM and JAMS offices. After retirement, he and his family plan on staying in the area.

been assigned to have just been super. I don't really know any other way to describe it."

Maxwell's first assignment was at the Air Defense Artillery School's Officer Basic course at Fort Bliss, Texas. While there he also got assigned to his first weapons system, Hawk. From there it was on to Germany, where he had his first command in the 3rd Infantry Division. "That was my first battery command and it was just a tremendous opportunity to live in Germany and work in the 3rd ID," he said. "It was just a great opportunity and a lot of fun."

After graduate school, Maxwell began his first assignment at Redstone in 1987, working for the then Strategic Defense Command, now Space and Missile Defense Command. Later he returned to Redstone in 1995 and a year later became

the product manager for Longbow Hellfire, a system that he oversees in his current position.

From Soldiers to civilians, Maxwell sees no difference.

"I have had a chance to work with the civilian work force since the late '80s, when my first assignment was here. And whether you're in a coat and tie or in a BDU, folks are terrific. They're goal oriented and just want to do the absolute best they can do. From that aspect I don't know that there is any difference at all."

Since 1995, Maxwell's family has been in Huntsville. Since his children were beginning their high school years, he wanted them to be able to stay in the area. Meanwhile, he attended Senior Service College at the University of Texas in 1998 and then served as the military assistant to Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera at the Pentagon.

It wasn't until 2000 that he was reassigned back at Redstone where he worked on the PEO Tactical Missiles staff for then Brig. Gen. John Holly. In October 2001 the JCM project office was formed with Maxwell as the project manager.

"To command at this level and spend four years in this job has been a great opportunity," he said. "We got to stand this project up from day one. Actually I got to work JCM before it was a project office as a member of General Holly's staff."

Maxwell, 49, met his wife, Trina, during his senior year at West Point. She is from Syracuse and was attending a women's college near the military academy. She has served as the director of religious education at Good Shepherd Catholic Church here since 1995. They have four children: Sarah, a second lieu-

tenant in the Army Medical Service Corps; Dan, a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering at Vanderbilt; and Colin, a senior, and Joe, a sophomore, at Grissom High.

Maxwell likes to play golf and do woodworking, two things he hopes to spend more time on in his retirement.

"It's been a while since I've been to the craft shop though with this job, given the travel, and everything else like the kids' activities. So hopefully I will get over there sometime soon. The last project I did was a replica of an old steamer trunk," he said. "I don't play (golf) terribly well, but I have great fun playing with guys here at the Arsenal and at the local courses. Maybe I'll get a little bit better at it, we'll see."

He officially enters the retired rolls Nov. 1 and plans to stay in the area. "It just seems appropriate to go out at this level. I think you'll hear most commanders, if not all, say there's not much that can compete with command whether it is brigade or a project management position," he said. "So professionally it seemed like a good time to go as well as personally with the younger two guys in high school. It will give them a chance to finish up and that will keep us in the Huntsville area at least three more years. We'll see what happens after that."

His message to the incoming project manager, Col. Michael Cantor, is simple. "There's a lot of talent here. Mike can rest assured that the brains behind this operation — the brain trust of all the civilian and contractor folks — is the project's greatest asset and that will remain intact when I go. With his leadership they will do wonderful things I'm sure."

Ordnance brigade welcomes new commander

*Enriquez joins 59th
from Aberdeen*

By **Spc. ELIAMAR TRAPP**
Staff writer
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The Soldiers of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School and the 59th Ordnance Brigade marched onto the Redstone Parade Field to welcome Col. Jose Enriquez as the new commander of the 59th, and to say farewell and good luck to Col. Joyce Napier, outgoing commander, during a change of command ceremony Friday.

During his speech, Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, chief of Ordnance, thanked Napier and her husband, Dennis, for having "mastered a duty well done and a nation well served."

Boles reminisced about the time when Napier took command of the 59th and referred to it as a time of mission transformation which required the 59th team to adapt with "no timeouts."

"Under (Napier's) leadership the team did exactly that," he said. "The list of (the team's) accomplishments boggle the mind. They graduated more than 8,500 citizens into Soldiers. They did that by understanding that Soldiers go to war from AIT."

Boles welcomed Enriquez and his wife, Maria, and said their reputation of selfless service, duty and competence combined with caring for Soldiers and their families precedes them. "As a combat veteran we expect you to bring those hard-earned lessons to the schoolhouse to ensure our Soldiers and their training continue to improve," Boles said.

"All of you look great," Napier said to her Soldiers as she stood before them for the last time as their commander. "The time has come for me to say farewell to you. You will always be in my heart and I wish each and every one of you the best in all of your future endeavors. Continue to work hard, graduate and move onto your next duty assignment."

See **Commander** on page 15



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp

INCOMING— Col. Jose Enriquez, 59th Ordnance Brigade commander, accepts the Ordnance flag from Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, chief of Ordnance, during the 59th Ordnance Brigade change of command ceremony. At far right is outgoing commander Col. Joyce Napier.

Families travel hours to talk with Soldiers

Video teleconferencing technology allows face-to-face visit with troops

By LIRA FRYE
For the Rocket

Video teleconferencing facilitators at Redstone Arsenal have been helping families make face-to-face connections with their deployed Soldiers for years. But never in the numbers they experienced Aug. 20.

Eighty-eight family members and friends of Soldiers deployed with the Charlie Company, 926th Engineer Battalion in Afghanistan were able to see and talk with each other during a video teleconference at Redstone. Many had not seen each other since the unit deployed six months ago.

Sherry George and her grandson Jacob drove 10 hours from Baxley, Ga., to talk with her son and Jacob's father, Spc. Jeffery George.

"I was thrilled to get to see him and see that he was physically OK," George said. "To look at his face and to see his smile ... a mother can tell a lot."

The unusually large number of families took some coordinating on the part of the staff. Families first waited in the Bob Jones Auditorium. When it was time to talk with their Soldier, facilitators escorted them into the small VTC seating area and then to the VTC room. Each family had approximately eight minutes to talk.

Julie Armstrong, a video teleconferencing scheduler and facilitator, said the VTC group coordinates these face-to-face visits at least every other month, but typi-

cally with only two to three families.

"I heard a lot of people say this was better than talking on the phone," she said. "They were excited at first and cheerful at the end when they were leaving."

Initially, technicians said they had some concern about the unit's VTC capability. During the test run, the unit used a portable VTC system sitting on the back of a truck. For the conference, the unit was able to move the system into a small wooden chapel.

"Everything turned out well, and it was great for the families," 1st Sgt. Tommie Dudley, family readiness liaison and rear detachment officer, said. "Some came out with tears in their eyes, but they were tears of joy."

Dudley said he couldn't say enough about the staff at Redstone. Daniel Bailey, Julie Armstrong, Steve Cataldo and Melonie Morgenwick, all video teleconference facilitators, worked to make the event special for the families.

"There were a couple of little kids who hadn't seen their parent in months," Armstrong said. "We zoomed the camera right in so they could see how much they'd grown."

The team also videotaped each family visit and gave the tape to the families to take home with them.

When asked if eight minutes talking to her son was worth the 10-hour drive, George responded with an emphatic yes.

"I would drive around the world to see Jeffery for 60 seconds," she said. "I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

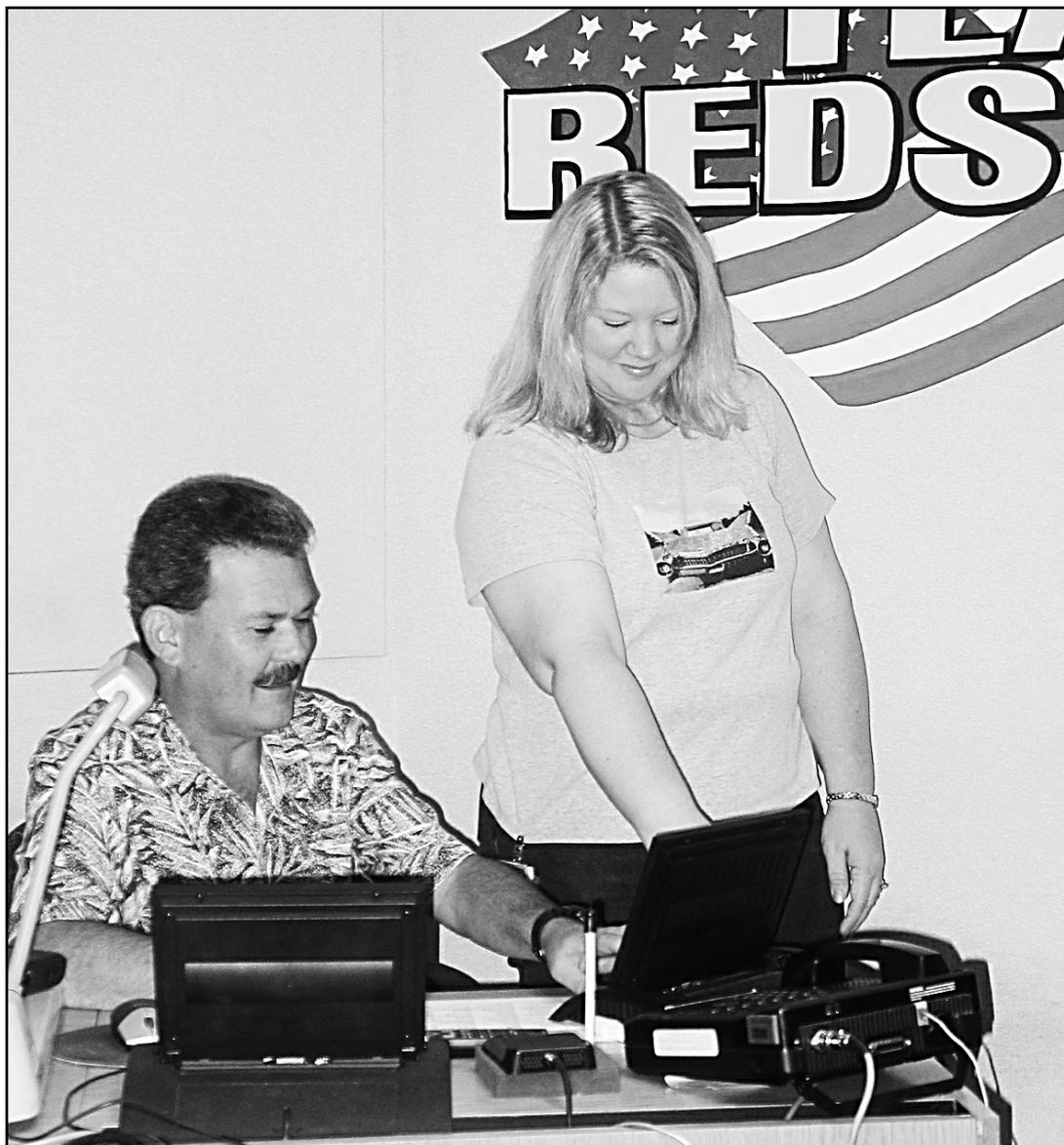


Photo by Lira Frye

SETTING UP FOR SHOW— Julie Armstrong, right, and Steve Cataldo, both video teleconference facilitators, set up for an upcoming VTC. Both helped coordinate the 926th Engineer Battalion's family and friends visit.

■ Proponent office helps Soldiers stay on track with careers

Training

continued from page 5

from Afghanistan or Iraq. They might want to put in for warrant officer or be checking on a job or nominative assignment. We have to service them to make sure they get the information they need. That's what a proponent is supposed to do, be an advocate for the Soldier."

While the health of the corps is the primary focus, they are also doing their part for the health of the Soldier's career. By anticipating the Army's needs and technological advances, they consolidate or alter training requirements to keep training programs current, cost effective and practical. This keeps Soldiers from becoming obsolete in their training and provides continuity in opportunities for

advancement.

"The Army is transitioning to modularity," Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Wilkes, career management NCO for specialties 94H, 94K and 94Y, said. "We need to check for each MOS that the grading structure is appropriate so that individual Soldiers can have a good career progression. We don't want people to stagnate."

The office handles soft skills like electronic repair, while its counterpart at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., handles the hard skills, such as engineering and mechanics. They work in conjunction with proponent Sgt. Maj. Timothy Ozman, under Lt. Col. John Kearney and chief of Ordnance Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles, to make difficult decisions.

"We're checking the documentation, which is a lot of our time in front of the computers

with our eyes hurting, and we make a lot of phone calls to Army G level staff," Slade said. "It's a tedious job, but we know it's important."

"From the EOD side, we're working on the force structure for the future Army and the accession requirements for EOD is a major one," Sgt. 1st Class Chris Lenker, career management NCO for 89D, said. "We're trying to help the force get up to full strength."

"You work your whole career to get a job like this," Slade said. "Folks are at war, getting shot at. We're in an office here. We want to make sure that we have the right people here that think about those things. We want to make sure they think about Soldiers getting promoted, their families and that if they put their whole lives into the Army they have a real good chance of being pro-

moted. You're not just going to cap out at a certain level. These decisions keep you up at night. When we decide that something is a good recommendation, it means somebody's moving. Somebody might go to war."

While it may seem like a difficult responsibility to shoulder, the alternative is not an option for these offices.

"It's an awesome responsibility," said Sgt. 1st Class Dave Hays, who will succeed Henne-man when he changes post. "You can do nothing and not help the Ordnance corps or you can look at the Army strategic planning guide and implement it using your best judgment and experience. If you can do that you can be successful in this job and help the Ordnance corps. We're here to do the right thing."

Besides working with career fields already in place, the office works with new equipment not yet fielded. They are a part of the

Critical Task Selection Board and the Logistics Demonstration Board.

"We assist with analysis with what the future force structure will look like," Slade said. "We go out and assess the training required to ensure that they are within guideline and do not present safety issues for Soldiers or the force structure. We look at new systems. We look at the skill set and the training required for it. We monitor to ensure that it meets certain standards and criteria."

The proponent office is there to ensure Soldiers receive the training they need to stay viable in their fields and careers, and to do their job to the best of their ability by making sure that the Army is healthy and viable.

"Our concerns are to meet the Army's needs and also provide the required skill sets and career progression for the Soldiers," Slade said.

Soldiers lend a helping hand to needy Iraqis

Unit sponsoring adopt-a-family

By Master Sgt. LEK MATEO
Army News Service

ALI AIR BASE, Iraq — It's a heart-wrenching sight — young Iraqi children lining the shoulder of a busy two-lane asphalt road during the early morning hours begging for food. The scene greets Soldiers every day as they depart the large air base to start their daily patrols.

The Soldiers of 142nd Infantry Battalion, 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division, were so touched that they started a program among themselves to lend a helping hand to the needy Bedouin families living in their patrol area.

The Bedouins are mostly herders who live a nomadic existence in a very harsh and unforgiving land. The only possessions they own are the small herds of sheep or camels that they raise and sell for their needs.

Staff Sgt. Arthur V. Perez, of Victoria, Texas, started the adopt-a-family program in the unit after seeing other Soldiers drop off small amounts of food and water to the local families when they went out on patrol. That is when he got everyone together and pitched the idea of adopting a local family.

The idea quickly became a hit. Soldiers started asking their families and friends back home to send school supplies and shoes to give to the children instead of care packages for themselves.

Perez said they know that they have a military mission to perform, but it doesn't hurt to step down and help other people in need to get back on their feet — especially for the children to whom many of his men have become very attached.

"It chokes you up inside seeing a child that is hungry," Perez said. "You hope that you don't have to see your child living the way the Iraqi children have to live."

Seeing young Iraqi children standing barefooted on the dusty ground in the triple-digit afternoon heat waving and smiling at them as they pass by in their Humvees was a painful reminder for Spc. Jeremy S. Luce as he thought about his own family back at home.

The Corpus Christi, Texas, resident said it is really hard to see the way the Iraqi children have to live because he has three children of his own and there is no comparison to the way his kids live to the way the Iraqi children live.

"The Iraqi kids here definitely remind me of my children," Luce said. "They all want to play, yet they need a lot of things that our children at home have available for them."

Luce added that it was really good to get out into the community and be able to interact with the families in their area because it allows them all to get to know

one another better. He said he is confident the future of Iraq will get much better especially for the children he hopes will have an opportunity to grow and prosper after what their country has been through.

"My children are a big part of my life," Luce said. "To be able to interact and play with the children here is a small substitute that helps make being separated from my family a little more bearable."

Farhan Kamel is a 14-year-old Bedouin boy who has the huge responsibility of being the head of the household of a family of seven and represents the hope and future of Iraq.

The Soldiers of the unit have come to accept him as a little brother and have

adopted his impoverished family, which lives outside the camp gates in a new tent bought by the Soldiers with their own money. It replaced the family's tattered tent made from old burlap grain sacks.

Farhan, who learned to speak English by hanging out at the gate with his American friends, now works as the camp translator. He said he and his family are very grateful for the help given by the Soldiers and that they worry about them all the time, especially when they don't come by their house to visit.

"Sergeant Perez really cares about me and my family," Farhan said. "I will remember him and all the Soldiers from Texas for a long time."



Photo by Master Sgt. Lek Mateo

THIRST QUENCHERS— Staff Sgt. Nick Martinez (left), of Eagle Pass, Texas, and Staff Sgt. Jose L. Padilla of San Antonio, Texas, hand out drinking water to Bedouin children in their patrol area. Members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, the Guardsmen are assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry Regiment, based in Lubbock, Texas.

Attorney votes for more women's progress

Career achievement awards presented during luncheon

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Stacye Choate remembers seeing her mother, a working woman, take the time to cast her vote on election day.

"I recall the profound effect her act of voting had upon me," the Cookeville, Tenn., attorney said.

Choate, speaker for the Women's Equality Day celebration Aug. 24, noted the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the suffragists who brought about that change which gave women the right to vote.

"We reap the harvests of our predecessors' great work," she told the 299 attendees at the Officers and Civilians Club.

But that work is not finished. Choate pointed out that women represent half the population but 70 percent of the world's poor and two-thirds of those who cannot read or write. She also said daily struggles continue in the



Photo by Skip Vaughn

NEVER FORGET— Stacye Choate, Women's Equality Day celebration speaker, reminds the audience about the importance of voting.

workplace in every state.

"I urge all of you to cherish your right to vote," she said. "And give all you can to improving the status of women in the workplace today."

Various local agencies presented awards to outstanding women employees and outstand-

ing supervisors. Outstanding Career Achievement Awards were presented to Maj. Shilisa Geter, program manager, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; Frances Lucas, executive administrative support assistant, MSIC; Brenda Wood, intelligence officer, MSIC; Patricia Chomskis, chief of business management division, Cargo Helicopters Project Office; Susan Caldwell, supervisor for installation support branch, Garrison's Directorate for Information Management; Deanna Desarro, secretary, Logistics Support Activity; Sgt. Tamara Price, retention NCO, 59th Ordnance Brigade; Linda Beauchamp, secretary, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School; Jane Romine, administrative officer, Research Development and Engineering Center; Lynne Marinello, supervisory general engineer, RDEC; Suzanne Murdock, civil engineer and chief, geotechnical branch,

Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville; Pamela Bourque, attorney-adviser, Marshall Space Flight Center; Teresa Foley-Batts, procurement analyst, Marshall Space Flight Center; and Patricia Puckett, office automation assistant, Marshall Space Flight Center.

Supervisory Awards were presented to Larry Davis, chief of applications software division, MSIC; Patricia Merritt, chief of business management division, Close Combat Weapons Systems Project Office; Sara Matala, chief of support services division, LOGSA; 1st Sgt. Karen Amborski, Garrison's Headquarters and Headquarters Company; Valarie Clinkenbeard, chief of technical management design integration branch, Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville; Emily Vandiver, director of applied technology initiatives directorate, RDEC;

and Rosa Caudle, supervisory budget analyst, Marshall Space Flight Center.

Mary Peoples of Space and Missile Defense Command received the Outstanding Distinguished Service Award from the Federally Employed Women organization.

Team Redstone sponsored an essay writing contest and a static display contest in support of the Women's Equality Day observance. Essay winners included Maj. Mary Ewing of Headquarters & Alpha Company, first place; Sgt. 1st Class Michael McGilton of HHC 59th, second place; and Spc. Ceola Wilson of HHC 59th, third place. Static display winners were Electronics Technical Training Department of Delta Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, first place; Bravo Company, second place; and Fox Army Health Center, third place.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

VIDEO SHOW— Luncheon attendees see photos from the winning static displays for Women's Equality Day.



Photo by Bill Richardson

Luncheon speaker

Emily Vandiver, left, president of the Association of the U.S. Army, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, receives an appreciation award for being guest speaker at the ASMC luncheon Aug. 11. Making the presentation is ASMC president Christina Ridgeway.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Campaign strategy

Discussing the upcoming Combined Federal Campaign are, from left, Garrison loaned executive Susan Gustafson, Local Federal Coordinating Committee chairperson Donna Johnson, Security Assistance Management Directorate loaned executive Marie O'Boyle and Integrated Materiel Management Center loaned executive Cindy Janes. The Tennessee Valley CFC is Oct. 3 to Nov. 11 with a \$1.8 million goal. A reception was held Monday at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

Theatre Huntsville has Redstone ties

When the curtain rises on Theatre Huntsville's 2005-06 season opener, the revival of the comedy "The Nerd," two longtime Redstone Arsenal employees will take the leads.

Tom Voight, a senior analyst with Computer Sciences Corporation, Sparkman Center, has since 1999 been responsible for providing documentation and briefing/multimedia support to PM Aviation Systems and its seven product offices and directorates in support of the Project Manager for Aviation Systems, part of the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

Gary Gee, a senior multimedia developer with SAIC, has been working in 3-D animation for the past six years with the

Warfighter Protection Lab in building 5425 and the Apex Lab in building 5400. Prior to that, he was an on-post multimedia specialist for both Nichols Research and SysTeam Inc.

Voight and Gee were last seen in award-winning productions of "The Boys Next Door" and "The Lion in Winter" as the emotionally disabled "Arnold Wiggins" and a hot-tempered "Richard the Lionheart," respectively. Both shows were directed, as is "Nerd," by Jim Zielinski, himself an environmental specialist with EDAW Inc., contracted to Missile Defense Agency.

"The Nerd" takes stage Sept. 9-11 and Sept. 15-17 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. (*Theatre Huntsville release*)

■ Enriquez arrives from Aberdeen Proving Ground

Commander

continued from page 10

Napier is leaving Redstone Arsenal for a yearlong deployment to Kuwait.

Before commanding the 59th Ordnance Brigade, Enriquez was the deputy test and evaluation director for the joint logistics planning enhancement, Joint Test and Evaluation, Army Developmental Test Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. He and Maria have two sons, Jose, 24, a student at Rutgers, and

Alexandro, 20, a student at North Carolina State.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with a bronze star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Reserved Medal with bronze hour glass, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Ribbon and the Parachutist Badge.

Carpooling makes cents, saves gas and reduces stress

Commuter statistics support findings

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

Gas Buddy. Gas Price Watch. The hit counters on these two popular web sites keep climbing each day, while the hit counter and number of carpool customers on the Team Redstone Carpool Connection site remain relatively constant.

"Historically, we have found that two things: gas availability — not price — and parking availability are the factors that determine how many people opt to join carpools," the Garrison's Bobby Noles said. "Right now, neither gas nor parking availability appear to be issues that would drive more folks to join carpools."

Nonetheless, the Team Redstone Carpool Connection site (<https://dpd17.redstone.army.mil:4448/>) stands ready to accommodate those who want to take advantage of the opportunity to save gas money.

On Aug. 24, Gas Buddy showed a range of \$2.41 to \$2.57



for a gallon of gas in the Redstone Arsenal commuting area.

What's more, one week ago, new gas consumption rules made the news.

"Under our proposal, every pickup, SUV and minivan purchaser will benefit by buying vehicles that are as fuel-efficient as possible, regardless of who makes it or how big it is," National Highway Traffic Safety administrator Jeffrey Runge said in a statement. The NHTSA will take comments on the proposal

through the end of the year, issuing their final ruling in spring 2006.

A post-Sept. 11 creation to help ease traffic congestion at the gates in light of increased Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection access measures, the Team Redstone Carpool Connection lists a scant 29 entries, despite what many might think would be a much higher response to the stimulus of recent gas price hikes.

One of those entries on the

site is Rogersville resident Sherry Landers of G-6.

"I did register because I am a good candidate for a carpool, traveling 110 miles in a round trip everyday," Landers said. "The logistics of matching up with a future carpooler can be quite challenging. For example, a person has to consider work schedules and locations. I have not been able to get in a carpool myself, but I have replaced my SUV with a car decreasing my fuel bills. I also now work four 10-hour days, which means I have two fewer commute days in a two-week pay period."

Commuter Connections, a British Columbia based non-profit society's web site, says Canadians' reliance on single occupancy vehicles as the preferred choice of transportation continues to contribute to global warming. Environment Canada says overall transportation represents the largest single source of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 27 percent of the total.

Also, the site says that carpooling is a simple way for individuals to help meet the climate change challenge while saving money, reducing congestion as

well as conserving energy.

By sharing rides, motorists produce such benefits as arriving at work feeling relaxed, saving money and assuring a healthy environment for future generations.

In 100 years Canada has gone from horse and buggy transportation to more than 14 million cars. The Canadian Automobile Association says the average commuter spends about \$7,500 per year or \$15 per day to operate a car. These figures are based on a mid-size car being driven 11,185 miles annually, based on the rate of a daily 18.5 mile round trip. That annual figure also includes the operating costs for fuel, maintenance as well as the ownership costs for financing, insurance and depreciation. The association also reports that SUV and minivan owners can expect to spend more than \$9,000 annually.

Carpooling reduces the impact of automobiles on roadways and environment. By traveling in groups — rather than alone — carpooling decreases the number of vehicles on roads, and frees up more parking spaces for workers when they arrive at their destinations.

International students tour volunteer state

The International Military Student Office took six international soldiers on a field studies program trip to Lynchburg, Tenn., and Nashville on Aug. 20. Soldiers were from Egypt, Taiwan, Botswana, Jordan, Philippines and Bulgaria.

The first stop on this trip was to visit historic Lynchburg and the Jack Daniels Distillery. The distillery is the oldest registered distillery in this country and is a national historic site. Licensed in 1886 the distillery still makes whiskey the way it did when it opened. Students learned the history of the Jack Daniels Distillery and were shown how the whiskey is made. Jack Daniels is sold in more than 140 countries worldwide. This distillery is the major employer in this area and generates tax revenues over \$180 million per year for the government.

The next stop was the Parthenon in Centennial Park in Nashville. Originally built for Tennessee's 1897 Centennial Exposition, this replica of the original Parthenon in Athens serves as a monument to what is considered the pinnacle of classical architecture.

Highlight of this tour was seeing the 41-foot-10-inch tall, 12-ton statue of Athena which is the largest indoor sculpture in the Western World.

The last stop was the beautiful Gaylord Opryland Hotel which is the largest non-gam-

ing in-hotel facility in the world. The students were surrounded by nine acres of lush indoor gardens, winding paths and pathways, and sparkling waterfalls. This hotel contains 2,881 rooms and 200 suites.

The trip was a success and

gave the soldiers an opportunity to see and learn more about American industry and history. It also allowed them an opportunity to see America away from Huntsville. (International Military Student Office release)



Courtesy photo

PIECE OF ART— From left Master Sgt. Pei-Yi Yang from Taiwan, Lt. Col. Milko Donchev from Bulgaria and Sgt. Mothibedi Mokaba from Botswana study artwork inside the Parthenon at Centennial Park in Nashville.



Courtesy photo

Right on target

Jim Schwierling of Project Manager Instrumentation, Target and Threat Simulators has been named Employee of the Quarter for January-March 2005 in the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation. Schwierling, a project director at the Target Management Office for six years, was recognized for successful management of contracts involving Infantry Platoon Battle Course, Multi-purpose Machine Gun ranges and Convoy Live Fire ranges in the support of the Global War on Terrorism. He also directed the Precision Marksmanship range targetry programs and the Army's first Precision Scoring Sniper Range at Fort Bragg, N.C.

MPs bring joy to orphans, volunteers



Photo by Pfc. Laura Bigenho

LULLABY— Pfc. Bianca Natividad, Headquarters Detachment, 720th Military Police Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas, finds contentment in holding a young Iraqi girl while rocking her to sleep.

Soldiers visit Iraq orphanage

By Pfc. LAURA BIGENHO
Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers taking a break from their normal daily mission brightened the day of nearly 20 handicapped children, feeding and holding them, at an orphanage in a small Baghdad neighborhood.

Carrying cases of diapers, baby wipes, clothing and other necessities, Soldiers from 720th Military Police Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas, were accompanied to the front door by neighborhood children happy to be in their presence.

Once inside, they were greeted by a young boy in a wheelchair, lighting up the room with his grin. You'd never be able to tell by the overall aura and positive attitudes of its occupants, but the orphanage is currently facing major challenges.

"The biggest challenge right now for these nuns and volunteers will be to find a new place while taking care of the children," said Capt. Steven Slauson, chaplain for 720th MP Battalion. "They don't know where they're going. They just know they have to leave."

An American-owned orphanage owned the property that serves as this orphanage since 1991. The Americans handed the property over to the Iraqis to use

as an orphanage for children with disabilities, but the Americans are taking it back to use as a school for their orphans.

"One of the nuns said something that kind of struck me. She said, 'next time you visit, we may not be here.' It made me realize that the next time we show up and ring that little bell, they may not be there to answer," Slauson said.

"Sure, they enjoy our help and they love it when we come, but their main concern is taking care of the kids," he said. "They're in a constant state of prayer looking for a place."

It was a difficult reality check, yet Slauson vows that he and his Soldiers will continue to visit the orphanage as long as the children are there. The visitations are valuable experiences for both the Soldiers and the children; it is a time for Soldiers to see that not everything over here in Iraq is bad, Slauson said.

"As much as the nuns and children appreciate us, the Soldiers appreciate the children. There's something very humbling and almost therapeutic in holding an infant and feeding a child who cannot feed himself," he said.

Spc. Robert Gregoire, driver, 411th MP Co., volunteered to go when he learned about the visit. Much like the other Soldiers, Gregoire was touched emotionally just being in the children's presence.

"(Being there) was a good heart check. It was great holding

the children, but I felt so bad at the same time. I wanted to take all of them home," Gregoire said.

Despite present hardships, Slauson feels positive about the futures of the Iraqi children in the orphanage, and building and establishing a free, liberated society is the first step toward getting these children the help they need.

"As (Americans and coalition forces) make this a better place, people are going to have an opportunity to care for children like these. They'll be able to take care of themselves first, and then they'll be able to take care of the children," Slauson said.

A number of children have already received special care thanks to Soldiers and members of the coalition forces. One child has gone to the United States for care, and 3-year-old Nora will be joining two others who have gone to Australia for prosthetic limbs. Although these are extremely rare occurrences, they have given the children hope for their futures.

For now, Soldiers continue to help these children by showering the children with love and by filling their cabinets with necessities at a time when life is especially uncertain.

"Seeing the joy in a child's face as a result of you hugging them, holding them, and making them laugh ... it makes you realize that maybe your situation is not so bad," Slauson said. "It is by far one of the greatest gifts we can both give and receive."

Army doctor saves heart of 8-year-old Afghan

By Sgt. TARA TEEL
Army News Service

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Life-saving closed-heart surgery was performed on an 8-year-old Afghan girl Aug. 14 by Maj. Michael Myers at Bagram Airfield.

Karishma Naghshban had heart problems that developed at birth and doctors said the condition would have kept her from having a normal, long life. But she is currently in recovery at Bagram and expected to return home within a week.

"The surgery went extremely well," said a Special Forces physician. "She is a strong little girl. She will live a long, happy, healthy life."

About a year ago, two U.S. Special Forces medical personnel — a sergeant and doctor — crossed paths with Karishma, ultimately leading up to last week's operation.

Karishma was three months old when her family found out she had heart problems from a doctor in Peshawar, Pakistan. They diagnosed her with Ventricular Septal Defect, which is a type of heart malfunction present at birth or congenital



Photo by Sgt. Tara Teel

RECOVERY ZONE— Karishma Naghshban, 8, rests after her heart surgery by military doctors at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Aug. 14.

heart disease. Basically, a heart with VSD has a hole in the wall.

Seven years later, her father, Abdula,

was introduced by the village elders to the SF medical sergeant and SF doctor, both from a Special Forces unit conducting sick-call near Jalalabad in September 2004.

"I told Abdula that I could not treat Karishma, but would do some research on the Internet about the problem and asked him to return a few days later," said the SF sergeant. "I researched the condition and found three non-profit organizations that could help. The same day I received a response from the Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J., that offered to perform the surgery free for the family through a program called 'Children of the World Program.'"

The Deborah Heart and Lung Center reviewed Karishma's charts and made a final diagnosis that she had Patent Ductus Arteriosus, a condition where a part of her aorta did not close and develop after birth.

Karishma and her mother were set to travel to New Jersey for the operation free of charge when they received notice from the SF doctor that the surgery could be performed in Bagram.

Almost a year after initially seeing Karishma in Jalalabad, the SF doctor

overheard Dr. Myers, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Bagram Airfield's hospital, stating that he did a similar surgery and asked Dr. Myers if he would like to do another.

The SF doctor relayed the message to the SF sergeant who found out that Myers had actually performed the same surgery about a week prior on another patient.

"I told Dr. Myers about Karishma and asked him if he was interested in doing another one, and he said 'Sure, why not,'" the SF doctor said.

When the family was told about Myer's ability to perform the surgery, they gladly agreed.

Her family is very excited and happy about the surgery, explained the sergeant. They would never have been able to get the operation from a local hospital because it costs too much for them. Abdula is a tailor with a family of five daughters and five sons.

"I am very happy and very thankful to the Americans for helping Karishma," Abdula said.

Editor's note: Sgt. Tara Teel serves with Combined Joint Task Force 76 Public Affairs.

Let good times roll in new bowling center

Redstone Lanes offers plenty

By PATRICIA KLAVER
MWR Sales and Marketing

Have you seen the new state-of-the-art, 32-lane Redstone Lanes Bowling Center? If not, you are missing out.

Lanes manager John Howard, with more than 30 years of bowling center experience, has added plenty to ensure fun and good times.

Anytime is the right time to begin to bowl. Automatic bumpers are on each lane and an automated system puts them up or down as needed, which means the entire family can bowl on one lane without needing to set and reset the bumpers.

Redstone Lanes offers a wide variety of bowling balls for use and bowling shoe rental is \$1.50. Games are \$1.50 during the day and \$1.75 at night. Each lane has an automated scorekeeper for your convenience. Extreme Bowling, equipped with glowing bowling balls and neon everywhere, is also available. Play times for Extreme Bowling vary, so call the bowling center at 842-BOWL for information.

If you're ready for the next step, sign up for one of the many leagues that are now forming. There's one for everyone, with each league setting its own pricing and time. As an added bonus, if you join a league, open bowling for you at anytime is \$1. Because this new bowling center has 32 lanes, both league play and open bowling are available.

The new Strike Zone Restaurant has a variety of food and beverage items for you to enjoy. Come in and try the pizza buffet every Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. for \$5.95. Other menu items include Philly cheese steak, Philly chicken steak, Cajun chicken steak, and buffalo chicken sandwiches, chicken fingers, pizza and wings. Local favorites include the Betty Burger special, a house salad with grilled or fried chicken, and beginning Sept. 1, a chicken cordon bleu sandwich.

Sit and eat in the Strike Zone or go over to the Strike Zone Lounge and take advantage of the big-screen television during lunch. Play a game of pool or shoot some darts while you're there in the new sports-themed lounge. Redstone Lanes also hosts an arcade, complete with air hockey, video games, Skee-ball, and a change machine so you can play for hours. Drum up a different kind of competition; karaoke is coming soon for your after-hours entertainment.

Are you looking for a fun party for your child? Have a pizza and bowling party in the party room. It's \$8.50

Alabama, Auburn, A&M picked to win

College football
openers slated

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

It's time again for college football and that means "Skip's Picks."

Each week during the season, I'll predict the outcome of select games on the major college schedule.

I'll try to select the top games weekly without dodging the tossups in which the teams are evenly matched. Tie games count as ties in my won-loss record.

Bowl games don't count against my percentage at the end of the year. It's just too tough to pick the bowl game winners; and besides I'll need a break. So, I'll just predict the bowl winners for fun.

There's plenty of football to be played before January, so let's get started. Here are Skip's Picks for this week:

Middle Tennessee at Alabama – **Bama**
Georgia Tech at Auburn – **Auburn**
Alabama A&M at Tennessee State – **Ala. A&M**
South Carolina State at Alabama State – **Ala. State**
UAB at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
Vanderbilt at Wake Forest – **Vanderbilt**
Boise State at Georgia – **Georgia**
Wyoming at Florida – **Florida**
Cal Poly at Troy – **Troy**
Central Florida at South Carolina – **South Carolina**
Murray State at Mississippi State – **Miss. State**
Southwest Missouri State at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Louisville at Kentucky – **Louisville**
Ole Miss at Memphis – **Memphis**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

HAPPY DAYS— Regardless of loyalties, football fans look forward to this time of year.

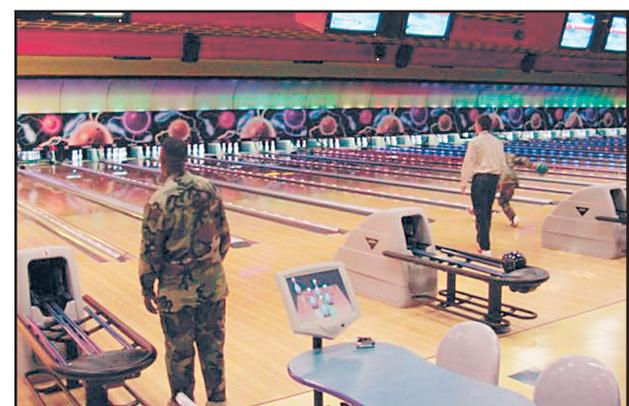
per child (requires a minimum of eight children) for a two-hour party. This price includes one large pizza, drinks, bowling and shoes; and you, the parent, don't have to clean up afterward.

The Morale Welfare and Recreation bowling center is open to the entire Redstone community. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 1-8 p.m. It is closed Monday. The location is building 3424 on Hercules Road. For more information, call 842-BOWL.

Photo by Patricia Klaver

BALL OF FUN— Redstone Lanes features 32 lanes with automated scorekeepers.

Miami (Fla.) at Florida State – **Miami**
Furman at Jacksonville State – **Furman**
Tennessee Tech at Chattanooga – **Chattanooga**
Grambling at Alcorn State – **Alcorn State**
North Texas at LSU – **LSU**
Tulane at Southern Miss – **Southern Miss**
Texas A&M at Clemson – **Clemson**
Duke at East Carolina – **East Carolina**
Hampton at Jackson State – **Hampton**
Florida International at Kansas State – **Kan. State**
Davidson at VMI – **VMI**
Maryland at Navy – **Navy**
Air Force at Washington – **Wash.**
Southern Cal at Hawaii – **USC**
TCU at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
Notre Dame at Pittsburgh – **Notre Dame**
Arkansas State at Missouri – **Missouri**
West Virginia at Syracuse – **West Va.**
Eastern Michigan at Cincinnati – **E. Mich.**
Oregon at Houston – **Oregon**
Western Illinois at Toledo – **Toledo**
Temple at Arizona State – **Ariz. State**
Minnesota at Tulsa – **Minnesota**
Indiana at Central Michigan – **Indiana**
Arizona at Utah – **Utah**
Ball State at Iowa – **Iowa**
Bowling Green at Wisconsin – **Wis.**
Miami (Ohio) at Ohio State – **Ohio State**
Ohio at Northwestern – **Northwestern**
Rutgers at Illinois – **Illinois**
Boston College at Brigham Young – **BC**
Colorado State at Colorado – **Colorado**
Northern Illinois at Michigan – **Michigan**
South Florida at Penn State – **Penn State**
Western Michigan at Virginia – **Va.**
Charleston Southern at The Citadel – **The Citadel**
Illinois State at Iowa State – **Iowa State**
Maine at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
Baylor at Southern Methodist – **Baylor**
UCLA at San Diego State – **UCLA**
Texas-El Paso at New Mexico State – **UTEP**
Virginia Tech at North Carolina State – **Va. Tech**
UNLV at New Mexico – **N.M.**





Sports & Recreation

Bass tournament

The Buddy Bass Tournament is Sept. 17, beginning at safe light (about 5:30 a.m.) until 3 p.m., at Wheeler Reservoir, Decatur Boat Harbor. First prize is \$1,000, based on 30 boats. Sponsors include American Bass Anglers, The Boat House, and Tomahawk Tackle. Register early, by Sept. 15, at Tomahawk Tackle in Huntsville or The Boat House in Athens. Race day registration is 4-5 a.m. For more information, call tournament director Patrick Anderson 842-2471.

Atlanta baseball trip

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center is hosting a tour to the Atlanta Braves vs. Florida Marlins baseball game Sept. 24 at Turner Field in Atlanta. Tour will include chartered bus transportation, and reserve seats at "field level" down the first base line. There will be an early dinner stop on the way to the game. The bus will depart the recreation center, building 3711 at noon. Game time is 6:05 p.m. CST. Sign up is under way and the cost is \$68.50. Seating is limited. For more information and to register for the tour, visit building 3711 between 1:30 and 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday (weekends 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or call Gail 876-4531.

Golf tournament

A golf tournament benefiting the scholar-

ship fund of the Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers is Sept. 14 at Sunset Landing Golf Course. The organization's monthly luncheon will be held at the Sunset Landing Clubhouse at 11 a.m. prior to the shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. The entry fee of \$55 per person includes green fees, cart, a goodie bag, range balls and lunch. An awards ceremony with munchies follows the tournament. For entry forms and other information, call Phil Loftis (256) 217-2532 or e-mail philip.loftis@parsons.com.

Bowling league

American Legion Post 237 needs two bowlers for the Wednesday night league at Parkway Lanes. Bowling begins tonight and continues for 32 weeks. You must be active duty or retired military, National Guard or reservist and a member of Post 237 or be eligible to join the legion post. If interested call Paul Eickholt, retired sergeant first class, 876-2525.

Discount tickets

The MWR Information, Ticketing and Registration Office, building 3711, has Visionland combo tickets available at Redstone community discounted prices. Visionland in Birmingham offers adult tickets at \$26.50, a savings of \$6.14 off the gate price and \$18.75 for junior/senior tickets (ages 3 through 9 and 62 and over), a savings of \$3 off the gate price. Visit the ITR office — open 1:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday — or call 876-4531 for more information.

Street hockey

If you like team sports, like to have fun and need some exercise, then Madison street hockey is looking for you. This adult-non-contact-tennis-shoe league plays on Sundays starting in October. For information call Al Bryan 679-2506 or e-mail bamabryans@knology.net.

Hunter orientation

Redstone Hunter Orientation Course for the 2005-06 season will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 8 and 22, Oct. 6 and 20 and Nov. 3 and 17 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711, Aerobee Road at Patton Road. Items required to hunt on Redstone Arsenal include: 1. Alabama state hunting license; 2. any state's hunter education certificate (more information can be found regarding local classes at www.outdoorAlabama.com); 3. Redstone Arsenal hunting orientation; and 4. Redstone Arsenal hunting permit. Hunters must have items 1-3 before they can purchase the Redstone permit.



Conferences & Meetings

Project management

The North Alabama Chapter of the Project Management Institute and the Defense Acquisition University South Region will hold the third annual Professional Development Symposium on Sept. 15 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. This year's theme is "Achieving Superior Results Through Project Management Excellence." Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are available. Information can be requested via e-mail from pds@northalabama.com.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter, Federally Employed Women will meet Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Kathryn Szymanski, acting executive deputy to the commanding general at Army Materiel Command. Tickets cost \$11 and can be purchased from the following: Rona Brownridge, building 5400, 842-8718; Judy Darwin, MSFC, 544.4222; Shirley Gomez, building 5681, 313-4213; Renee Smith, Sparkman Complex, 955-9096; Robbie Holcombe, SMDC, 955-5466; and Donna Rigsby, Wynn Drive Complex, 313-3021. For more informa-

tion, call Kathy Whisenant 876-2626. All are invited.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Carl Flemons, Paralyzed Veterans of America. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows are invited. For more information, call retired Air Force Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323.

Federal bar

The Federal Bar Association will meet Sept. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Green Hills Grille, 5100 Sanderson Road, for its annual Business/Membership Appreciation Luncheon. It is free for members in good standing of the North Alabama Chapter. For reservations, call parliamentarian Devinti Williams 544-0012 by Thursday.

Hispanic heritage panel

Individuals interested in participating in the planning, coordination and execution of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration are invited to attend the weekly planning committee meeting held every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Garrison Equal Employment Office, room 124, building 111.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its monthly meeting Sept. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center on Airport Road. Ted Godzwa, from Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Indianapolis, is to speak on "General Fund Enterprise Business System," considered the accounting system for the future. For tickets — \$10 members, \$11 non-members — see your organization representative or call Kim Jean 876-7208 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

University women

American Association of University Women will present a free public lecture at 7 p.m. Sept. 6 featuring Susan Parker, organizer of the Constitutional Reform Education Campaign in North Alabama, at the Beville Center on Sparkman Drive, UAH campus. Social begins at 5:45, with dinner (\$12) at 6. For dinner reservations and more information, call 881-8171.

See Announcements on page 21

Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society) will meet Thursday night at 7 at Huntsville Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Scheduled speaker Dennis Wingo is to discuss "Commercial Space's Role in Vision for Space Exploration."



Miscellaneous

Oktoberfest

It's once again time for "the best 'Fest west of Germany." Redstone Arsenal's 10th annual Oktoberfest – Sept. 15-18 on the post activity field off Patton Road — is a delight for adults and children of all ages, and it's open to the public. Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express will be in the 'Fest tent each night with all the games, music and traditional Bavarian dance you can handle. 5 O'Clock Charlie will be there as well for your entertainment. There will be games, carnival rides, a kids' area, an arts and crafts fair, a National Hunting and Fishing Day Expo, complete with booths and displays from S & L Marine, Wiley's, a boat show, archery demo and more. Parking is included with the gate admission. Come see the Antique Tool Show and buy, sell or trade good tools for the traditional woodworker. More than 30 tables of quality tools — only \$1 with Oktoberfest admission, \$2 without. Bring your tools in for free market appraisals, sell or trade your traditional hand tools, watch demonstrations and enter daily to win door prizes. Special viewing for the Redstone community will be Sept. 15-16 from 1-4 p.m., and Sept. 17 from 12-3 p.m. For more information, call 876-7974. Oktoberfest 2005 will be held on the activity field near the intersection of Patton and Aerobee Roads. 'Fest times are that Thursday from 5-11 p.m.; Friday 5 p.m.-1 a.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 a.m.; and Sunday 1-8 p.m. Price is Sept. 15, \$8; and Sept. 16-18, \$10. No advance ticket sales — all tickets for purchase at the gate. For more information, call 876-5232. To become an arts and crafts vendor, call 876-5492 or 876-4531.

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 pos-

sess 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. The shop will begin taking winter clothing Sept. 20. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. Volunteers are needed. The shop will be open Sept. 10 from 10-2 for a "Hat Trick" special – pull out a chip and save. For more information, call 881-6992.

Motorcycle safety course

Motorcycle safety training – for experienced riders — is conducted behind the Rocket Harley-Davidson Dealership building off I-565 and Greenbrier Road, exit 3. The contact is Keith Coates of the Garrison Safety Office 876-3383 (e-mail keith.coates@redstone.army.mil). Students in this Experienced Rider Course should have ridden for at least a year, and have ridden more than 1,000 miles. Bring your own motorcycle – fully serviceable, good tires, charged battery and topped off with fuel. You can rent a bike at the dealership for \$25. To participate you must have a DOT approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeve shirt or jacket, boots or

shoes that cover the ankles, full fingered gloves, and long pants. The course will start promptly at 8 a.m. and should be completed between 5-6 hours. If it rains, rain gear is required. Cost is covered for active duty and retired military and Defense Department civilians. All others pay their own fee. The instructor is Ralph Harris 341-9424, ext. 424.

9/11 remembrance

A one-hour 9/11 commemorative tribute will be held 9 a.m. Sept. 7 in Bob Jones Auditorium. The theme for the ceremony is "Americans, United We Stand, A Tribute to the Soldier, Civilian and Contractor Support." This tribute is a way for Team Redstone members to show their support for those who risk their lives fighting the War on Terrorism. For more information call Sam Wright, chairman of the Sept. 11 Committee, at 955-3154 or e-mail september11@redstone.army.mil.

Quarterly retirement event

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate. If you would like to participate, call Sgt. 1st Class Russell Kimball 876-2819 by Sept. 8. Retirement ceremonies are scheduled Dec. 15, March 23 and June 22.

Infantry reunion

Veterans of the 88th Infantry (Blue Devil) Division and Trieste U.S. Troops are invit-

ed to join the Southeastern Chapter, 88th Infantry Division Association, at its 51st reunion Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 at the Holiday Inn Baymeadows in Jacksonville, Fla. For more information contact Ron Schulz, 1200 SW 130th Ave., G204, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027-2127, phone (904) 432-6048 or e-mail www.robmccall@aol.com.

Military families

Have you ever attempted to mail a letter without a stamp? Living the military lifestyle without taking Army Family Team Building classes is like mailing a letter without a stamp. If you are willing to allow AFTB to help you make the connection, there will be a level one session Sept. 20-22 from 6-9 p.m. Classes will be at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Please call 842-8375 before Sept. 6 if you need free child care or to enroll in this class. Dinner will be provided nightly.

Team building kickoff

The Army Family Team Building kickoff for 2005-06 is 5-6 p.m. Sept. 8 at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. RSVP by Friday by calling 842-8375 or e-mail larry.leggett@redstone.army.mil.

Language lessons

English as a Second Language classes will be offered at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road,

See Announcements on page 22

