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Post profile



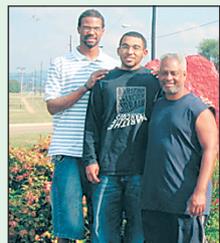
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Sampling the Army's best eateries

Dining facility inspected
as Connelly award finalist

By SKIP VAUGHN
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This was Redstone's time at bat in the World Series of Army dining facilities.

A three-member evaluation team visited the Redstone dining facility Oct. 25 as its third stop at the seven finalists in the large facilities category for the 38th annual Philip A. Connelly awards competition. Each finalist is the winner from its respective region.

"What we're doing now is selecting the best of the best," Chief Warrant Officer Pete Motrynczuk, the Army food adviser at the Quartermaster Center and School at Fort Lee, Va., said. "Best of the seven."

His evaluation teammates were Sgt. Maj. Paul Cyr, food service sergeant major for the food management division at Fort Lee, and George Baggott, representing the International Food Service Executives Association.

"It's all about providing the best possible food services for Soldiers and all the customers that eat at Army dining facilities," Motrynczuk said.

The evaluators observed the breakfast and lunch operations at the facility, which represents the Southeast region, and talked with its workers and customers. They reviewed the food selection, sanitation and controls.

"The main thing is good healthy food for the troops," Baggott said. "That's the main thing."

"The first thing that I'm looking for is talking to the diners," Cyr said, "the Soldiers that actually eat in the dining facility."

One aspect that impressed Motrynczuk was the homemade baked goods, as opposed to manufactured items. He said he liked the desserts being made from scratch rather than bought from a store.

"When I see them baking the products instead of buying pre-made stuff, that says a lot



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LUNCH MEAT— From left are Chief Warrant Officer Pete Motrynczuk, cook-2 David Oden and Sgt. Maj. Paul Cyr. Motrynczuk and Cyr evaluate the dining facility for the Philip A. Connelly awards competition.

about the management," Motrynczuk said.

Hal Weatherman serves as food program manager and contracting officer representative for the Garrison's Directorate of Logistics. K and K Food Service, out of Hopkinsville, Ky., employs 63 workers at the dining facility which serves from 1,000 to 1,500 meals per day to the troops. Dan Tyree is the facility's manager, and Dennis Hardin assistant manager.

Weatherman was optimistic during the evaluation team's visit. "Going great so far," he said. "I feel good."

The Army will announce the winning dining facility by the end of December. The award will be presented at the IFSEA conference April 5-9 in Miami, Fla.

The seven finalists in the large dining facility category



Photo by Skip Vaughn

HOMEMADE GOODS— Chief Warrant Officer Pete Motrynczuk says he likes the fresh-baked desserts shown by cook Rungtiwa Renew.

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Supervisor helps ensure organization's diversity

Recruitment efforts honored with award

By KARI HAWKINS
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Working with people from different nationalities and cultures is part of the job requirements for employees at the Defense Intelligence Agency's Missile and Space Intelligence Center.

So, hiring and promoting a diverse staff of engineers, technical employees and support staff is a top priority at all levels of MSIC management. One of the leaders of those efforts is Les Stamps, staff director and chief of the Office of Program Management at MSIC, who recently received the DIA's annual Diversity Management Award during the agency's 35th annual Honorary Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"It's very important to have a work force that is representative of the community and the customers," Stamps said.

"Everybody in leadership positions has an opportunity to promote women and minorities, and to foster their professional development ...

Receiving this award is reinforcement that we are heading in the right direction. It's nice to know that we are doing something that someone else thinks is fostering the agency's objectives."

In his role at MSIC, Stamps is responsible for the center's contracting, human resources, security, logistics, finance management, operations center, supply, mail, travel and other non-technical and support functions. His organization is responsible for integrating and providing program management and operational support to MSIC. Fifty-seven employees report to him.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

CITED FOR WORK— Les Stamps, staff director and chief of the Office of Program Management at the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, holds the Diversity Management Award he recently received at the Defense Intelligence Agency's 35th annual Honorary Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Since assuming his position in 1995, Stamps has developed one of MSIC's most diverse organizations based on age, race, gender and disability. Within the organization, women are represented in all career fields from traditional secretarial roles to senior managers. Sixty percent of the organization's senior leadership positions are held by women, which is more than any other MSIC office.

MSIC, which is part of DIA's Directorate for Analysis, has about 400 employees at Redstone Arsenal, located at the Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile

Intelligence. Of those, about 16 percent are minorities and there is a 60-40 ratio of men to women.

"Our numbers are going up," Stamps said. "But we probably don't have as quite a diverse work force as our headquarters in D.C., and that's because we are hiring mainly in the engineering fields and there is a larger pool of minorities for DIA to recruit from in the D.C. area. The numbers of women and minorities within DIA has gone up considerably over 10 years or so."

MSIC provides information on foreign missile systems to the Army, Navy, Air Force and State Department. It is challenging work that involves reverse engineering on systems that don't come with an owner's manual.

To get the job done, MSIC must hire the most qualified engineering and technical employees possible. At one time, that meant not being able to hire many women or minorities.

"Before the 1990s, most of the engineers, scientists, mathematicians and computer scientists graduating from college were white males," Stamps said.

"Since the late '80s and early '90s, we are seeing a lot more females and minorities taking the technical track. Colleges have been aggressive in recruiting women and minorities out of high school, and that has led to an increase in the number of women and minorities we can recruit."

That dramatic change — along with MSIC's move into the DIA organization in 1992 — has given MSIC more opportunities to diversify its work force.

"We started being influenced by the direction of DIA in the early '90s when they began offering a wide range of programs to promote diversity," said Stamps of DIA, which has about 6,000 employees worldwide.

"And now, we can get good engineers and mathematicians and a broad representation of minorities when we attend recruiting fairs at universities like UAH, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Mississippi State and Alabama. Now, there is all manner of diversity in languages and cultures."

But, attracting women and minorities

is still a challenge because other government agencies and private industry also have diversity goals they are trying to reach. Competition in the form of hiring packages, benefits, training and promotion opportunities is stiff when recruiting women and minorities.

"Sometimes we can get in a bidding war," Stamps said.

"We've competed fairly well because we send our employees back to college for advance degrees and we have exciting work to offer with foreign military systems. We offer six-month promotions, retention bonuses, very interesting travel around the world and a lot of freedom. We can present engineers with exciting opportunities. We really expect them to work with other relatively new analysts and we give them responsibility quickly."

Stamps has long been known as an advocate for the employees who work for him. Currently, he has two employees participating in DIA/MSIC's Degree Assisted Career Transition program, which provides support assistants the opportunity to transform into professional job series; and one of his female employees is MSIC's only female Equal Employment Opportunity counselor.

In the past year, Stamps has aggressively pursued a desk audit/review for a female employee whose job position needed to be upgraded. He encourages all levels of further education for employees and works to fully utilize the skills, capabilities and talent of employees while also being sensitive to the need for flexible work schedules. He is an active supporter of DIA/MSIC's Special Emphasis Program.

Stamps has served the Department of Defense for 28 years, including 21 with DIA/MSIC and its predecessor organization and service in the Army as an armor/cavalry officer. In 1994, he received the Redstone Arsenal Federal Women's Program award as Supervisor of the Year and in May of this year he was the recipient of DIA's Meritorious Civilian Service Medal in recognition of his exceptional efforts, talents and professionalism.

Personnel system overhaul takes step

Town Hall information meetings scheduled here in December

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management announced Oct. 26, submission of final regulations for the National Security Personnel System to the Federal Register.

The final regulations define the rules for implementing a new human resources system that will affect about 700,000 DoD civilian employees regarding pay and classification, performance management, hiring, work force shaping, disciplinary matters, appeals procedures and labor-management relations.

The first Team Redstone employees, about 1,000, to move into NSPS about February, under Spiral 1.1, will be the Space and Missile Defense Command, Civilian Personnel Operations Center and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. There are no Army employees in Spiral 1.2. Spiral 1.3 is planned for fall 2006 and will include more than 5,000 Team Redstone employees in Aviation and Missile Command, Logistics Support Activity, Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity, Program Executive Office for Aviation, PEO Missiles and Space, the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center, MEDDAC, DENTAC and Redstone Technical Test Center. Spiral 2 is planned for fiscal 2007 and includes about 1,400 Team Redstone employees in Garrison, other PEOs and the Ordnance Munitions Electronics Maintenance School. Spiral 3 is planned for fiscal 2008 and includes about 2,300 employees in the Research Development and Engineering Center.

“To transform the way DoD achieves its mission, it must transform the way it leads and manages its people who develop, acquire, and maintain our nation’s defense capability,” said Gordon R. England, acting deputy secretary of defense, who also serves as the DoD senior executive for NSPS. “Our civilian work force is

critical to the department’s success and NSPS will provide a modern, flexible system to better support them.”

NSPS will improve the way DoD hires, assigns, compensates and rewards its employees, while preserving the core merit principles, veterans’ preference and important employee protections and benefits of the current system.

The regulations are the result of a broad-based effort that included input from DoD employees, supervisors, managers, senior leaders, union representatives, Congress and public interest groups. As a result of input received from the DoD unions as well as more than 58,000 public comments, DoD and OPM leadership have made a number of changes to the proposed regulations.

“Preserving the fundamental rights of our employees was a critical factor throughout the design process,” England said. “We believe the regulations strike a balance between employee interests and DoD’s need to accomplish its mission effectively and to respond swiftly to ever-changing national security threats.”

The implementation plan for NSPS includes a multi-year schedule. The Labor Relations System will be implemented for all bargaining unit employees shortly after the enabling regulations are in effect. The Human Resources System and the appeals process will be phased in once implementing issuances are in place and training is under way. Spiral One of the transition to NSPS, comprising approximately 270,000 employees, will be phased in over the next year. Spiral 1.1 organizations, with about 65,000 employees, should transition employees to new performance standards beginning in early 2006. These organizations will fully convert to NSPS after employees receive the January 2006 general pay increase and within grade buy-ins. As a result, no employees will lose pay upon conversion to NSPS.

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“Moving forward, implementing the regulations will require a great deal of training and communications with

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Policing a better life for Iraqis



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FAMILY TIME— Maj. Gen. Joe Fil, who recently returned from a 13-month tour of duty in Iraq as commander of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, is enjoying spending time with his wife Wendy and their two daughters, who have lived in Redstone Arsenal housing during Fil's tour. They will soon move on to Fort Hood's 1st Cavalry Division, where Fil has served as both a battalion and brigade commander during previous assignments. Fil has served nearly 30 years in the Army.

Law enforcement commander returns from year's tour

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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On the other side of the world, in a place where bombings, kidnappings and shootings are common occurrences, there is a country of people who desire the very same thing Americans live for every day – the freedom to build a better life.

And with each police officer trained by the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, that freedom becomes more of a possibility in Iraq.

During nearly 13 months as the commander of CPATT, Maj. Gen. Joe Fil came to understand the sacrifices the Iraqi people are willing to make for their chance at freedom.

"The Iraqis are the most amazing people," Fil said. "They are really strong of character and their resilience is just inspiring. The hardships they'll endure are unimaginable. We would never put up with that in the states."

Fil has seen Iraqi police officers continue to work for peace on city streets despite threats and kidnappings involving their own families. He has seen Iraqi people wait in line to vote while suicide bombings and drive-by shootings threaten their very lives. He has seen new Iraqi leaders rise up to take the place of previous leaders who have been killed by car bombings and explosions.

Now back in the U.S. and staying with his family at Redstone Arsenal until his transfer to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, Fil knows the Iraqi people will prevail in their quest for freedom. And he is strong in his belief that America and other free countries should help them in their quest.

"I think what we are doing there is absolutely the right thing, and someday our country will look back on it and know we did the right thing. I have a lot of respect for the Iraqis and I have a lot of hope for the country. I think they will really make it because they are so resilient in the face of great hardships," he said.

"What inspires the Iraqi police and the Iraqi people are the exact same things that inspire us – a better life for their children, a career with stability and being part of something bigger, something more noble, than themselves."

Fil arrived in Iraq in September 2004. His assignment with CPATT was to organize, manage, train and equip all Iraqi security forces, which includes the country's police officers, border guards and highway patrols.

At the time, Iraq's police force was in a shambles and almost non-existent. In the city of Mosul, officers were being killed, police cars, weapons and uniforms were being stolen, and police stations

were being blown up. The police force, as a whole, was despised and feared by Iraqis because of their many years of corruption and abuse. Insurgents were able to take advantage of the situation to destroy all types of policing authorities.

"Our first challenge was that the police force came from a really horrible legacy of the Ba'athist regime (a radical, left wing, secular Arab nationalism political party once under the control of Saddam Hussein)," Fil said.

"The police were considered on the low rung of the ladder. There had been 35 years of neglect and corruption, and they had decrepit installations. We needed to work them out of that reputation of abuse and corruption, and bring them into the Western view of protecting and policing."

Beyond incorporating professionalism and a sense of duty into the police force, CPATT also recruited Iraqis who were willing to put their lives in danger to protect the Iraqi people.

"The police are one of the main targets of terrorism with officers exposed every day to car bombs and drive-by shootings," Fil said.

"It's the most vicious insurgency possible. There's a combination of former Ba'athists who want to see Saddam back in power, the Al-Qaeda terrorists, Islamic extremists who resist any Americans on their soil and a heavy dose of plain old criminals who are all united in their desire to see an unstable, unpeaceful Iraq."

If these groups succeed at demonstrating that the government can't establish peace and order, Fil said, then they will get what they want – a failed democratic government and, in its place, the old regime or an Islamic state.

And, that's why it is important to establish a credible, professional and highly trained police force.

While Fil served in Iraq, the police force grew to 250,000 officers. Fil worked with an international coalition of about 1,000 Soldiers and civilian police officers to set up and operate seven police academies – six in Iraq and one near Amman, Jordan. CPATT, part of the Multi-National Security Transition Command reporting to the Office of Security Transition, included Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines as well as Soldiers from other countries.

"We set up academies everywhere from Basra in the south up to Irbil and Mosul in the north," Fil said.

Eighteen-hour days seven days a week made the time go by quickly for Fil. At first, the academies provided Iraqi police with eight-week training courses. Those have expanded into 10-week courses to provide further instruction.

"There's a balance with trying to get as many police fielded as quickly as we could and still give them quality training," he said.

Reservists cited for serving health center during war

Global War on Terrorism medal presented by Fox commander

By SKIP VAUGHN
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When Soldiers deploy to war, somebody has to do the stateside job they leave behind. Such is the case at Fox Army Health Center.

Seven reservists left their homes and families in September 2004 when they were activated for an 18-month unaccompanied tour to backfill FAHC Soldiers who were deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

They were recognized by Fox commander Col. Robert Noback in an awards ceremony Friday at the health center. Each received the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

"These guys have made a significant difference," Noback said.

The reservists and their Reserve unit of assignment include Lt. Col. Roseanne Dwyer, Lt. Col. Lillie Mitchell, Maj. Jennifer Rhodes, Staff Sgt. Sahr Lebbie, Staff Sgt. Lorenz Ramirez and Sgt. Lawrence

Swan, all of 2290th Combat Support Hospital, Washington, D.C.; and Sgt. Kern Duncan of 5501st Army Hospital, San Antonio, Texas.

"Everything you've done is absolutely outstanding," Noback said.

The reservists acknowledged that the activation disrupted their lives but expressed their appreciation for the positive experience at Fox.

"My experience here has been incredible," Rhodes said.

"I'd just like to thank everybody for welcoming us here," Swan said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON HOMEFRONT— The activated reservists recognized for their service at Fox Army Health Center include, from left, Maj. Jennifer Rhodes, Staff Sgt. Sahr Lebbie, Staff Sgt. Lorenz Ramirez, Sgt. Kern Duncan and Sgt. Lawrence Swan.

■ Dining facility among seven finalists for Connelly award

Dining

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include Southeast – Redstone Arsenal; Southwest – Belas Hall Dining Facility, Presidio of Monterey, Calif.; Northeast – 548th Corps Support Battalion, Fort Drum, N.Y.; Northwest – 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Riley, Kan.; U.S. Army Europe – 100th ASG, Grafenwoehr, Germany; 8th Army – Three Kingdoms Inn DFAC, Yongsan, Korea; and U.S. Army Pacif-

ic – 45th CSG K-Quad, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

This evaluation team had already been to Korea and Hawaii before visiting Redstone. Next stops would be California, Kansas, New York and finally Germany on Dec. 8.

Philip A. Connelly awards program was established in March 1968 to recognize excellence in Army food service. Connelly, former president of the International Food Service Executives Association, was responsible for obtaining IFSEA's sponsorship.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BETWEEN MEALS— Hal Weatherman, left, food program manager and contracting officer representative for the Garrison's Directorate of Logistics, talks with Connelly evaluator George Baggott.

Reservist finds refuge from storm

Redstone Lodging houses New Orleans native

Editor's note: Some 16 families representing nearly 70 family members took refuge at Redstone Lodging to escape the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Some have moved on while others still remain. Here is one story of an Army reservist from New Orleans who is leading his family through difficult decisions in the aftermath of one of the nation's worst natural disasters.

By KARI HAWKINS
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The 10-hour drives to New Orleans are mixed with emotions for Lt. Col. Alexander Lafargue. The frequent trips are heartfelt as he travels back to a devastated city that is home to many wonderful family memories and, possibly, his family's future happiness.

Lafargue knows these trips are necessary if he and his family are to live in New Orleans again. He travels the highways between his temporary lodging at Redstone Arsenal and the east bank of New Orleans to check on the conditions at his home, at the homes of his sister and mother, and in the city as a whole.

And, every time, he returns to Redstone dismayed by the devastation, the emptiness and the uninhabitable conditions that he finds in his neighborhood.

"The support and infrastructure is coming around," he said. "It is a busy enterprise of demolition right now and of restoring city services. Property is steadily being cleared of junk and trash. It is just going to take a lot of time."

Lafargue, a 50-year-old Army reservist who is an individual augmentee currently assigned to the Army Materiel Command and who also worked for the U.S. Post Office in New Orleans, evacuated to Redstone Arsenal after Hurricane Katrina destroyed the city that has been his home all his life. Ever since then, he's been trying to return home.

"My home has been declared uninhabitable," Lafargue said. "Eighty-five percent of the roof is gone. It is a two-story structure that has extensive wind and water damage. Part of the rear of the house is gone. There is no electricity anywhere in the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

BRIEF REUNION— Army reserve Lt. Col. Alex Lafargue, right, recently spent time with his sons Timothy Miller, center, and Markus Lafargue while staying in Redstone Lodging. Lafargue has taken refuge in lodging at Redstone Arsenal while trying to rebuild his family's homes in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and subsequent flooding.

neighborhood."

Lafargue was out of the country when he heard the first reports of Hurricane Katrina. On Aug. 28, he was in Korea on Army business when he spoke on the phone to his son Markus Lafargue in New Orleans. At the time, Hurricane Katrina was "just another hurricane," a feeling shared by many New Orleans residents who have lived their lives facing hurricanes brewing out of the Gulf of Mexico.

Lafargue didn't know then that those minutes on the phone with his son would be the last he would hear from his family for several days.

"On the 29th, the Army started putting out notices asking who has family in Louisiana and in New Orleans," Lafargue recalled. "On Sept. 1, I was back in the U.S. and then I was sent to Fort Bliss (Texas)."

That's when the search for his family began.

"I lost Markus and my mother and my sister for 10 days. For that 10-day period, I simply didn't know where my family was because phones were dead and communication was difficult," he said. "I put their names on the Red Cross web site and on sites within the Reserve community. About the 8th or 9th, I saw an e-mail from Markus. That was fol-

lowed by a great phone call."

Lafargue's mother and sister had evacuated New Orleans on Aug. 28. They went to Baton Rouge and then later to relatives in Natchez, Miss. His son, 19-year-old Timothy Miller, who is a sophomore at Loyola University, left his new apartment near the college and evacuated to Houston.

But, 22-year-old Markus actually lived through Hurricane Katrina and the city's flooding.

Markus, a Grambling State University student who had been holding down part-time summer jobs with the Navy's MWR, Pizza Hut and the post office, had tried to leave New Orleans on Aug. 28. But he waited too late in the day and bad weather forced him to take refuge at his grandmother's house in the heart of New Orleans for the evening.

"I woke up falling into water," Markus recalled. "I thought 'time to get out of here.' I grabbed a backpack with two shirts, underwear, a part of shorts and a pair of sandals. It was hard to get out of the house because the water pressure was pushing against the door. I got the door open and climbed to the roof. I sat there in my pajamas and watched the water rise over my 2005 Avalanche."

After three days, he was res-

cued from the rooftop, he said during a visit with his father at Redstone Arsenal.

"I was left on I-10 for five days and I was in the Superdome. I found my girlfriend, Amanda Atkins, while we were waiting for buses to go to Houston. I've been in the Houston Astrodome, and now my girlfriend and I have found an apartment in Dallas. I'm now looking for a job."

Shortly after locating his family, Lafargue also learned that Redstone Arsenal had housing available to military evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. The Arsenal is closer to New Orleans than Fort Bliss, so Lafargue made his way to Huntsville in mid-September.

Since arriving at Redstone, Lafargue has made three trips back to New Orleans to try to assess what his family should do next. He spends nights either in two rooms on the bottom floor of his damaged home or in his truck.

"My mother's house is not demolished," he said. "But it will need extensive restoration. There is a lot of mildew. My sister's house is in the same area. It was covered to the roof with water, totally submerged. They may have to just be gutted."

New Orleans, itself, is now a deserted shadow of what it once was.

"It looks like a ghost town. It's hard to find people you know. When I was there, it was me and two neighbors out of a neighborhood of 320 people," Lafargue said.

"You can only be in the city between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. Everything is brown and dead. What really gets your eye are all the abandoned cars covered with a light coat of grime left by the brackish flood waters."

Even when the city recovers from Hurricane Katrina, Lafargue isn't sure it will ever be like it once was.

"I've heard that four out of 10 folks say they are not coming back," Lafargue said.

"We've all been through other hurricanes before, but the difference is this one came with a twist to it (the subsequent flooding). In the best recovery mode, we'd say 'This is our living environment. No one or nothing is going to muscle us out.' There was good, quality living in New Orleans. But I don't know if we can get that back."

The city now has no infra-

structure in its neighborhoods. The homes and buildings are saturated with mildew and fungus. Everything is contaminated by pollution from the waters.

"I think health should be a big concern," said Lafargue, who had a skin rash on his leg after one trip to New Orleans.

"There are folks who are still trying to hold on to what is in New Orleans and they want to get it back to normal. I think it will be next year before we can return. They are only talking demolition right now in New Orleans, not restoration. They've got to clean out all the debris. Restoration is down the road."

Lafargue's sister is back at work at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chase, La. She and their mother are living at the Naval Support Activity in Algiers, La. Timothy hopes to return to Loyola University in January for the spring semester, but he has yet to check his apartment there. Markus and his girlfriend may remain in Dallas. Other relatives are scattered in Georgia, Mississippi and Texas.

"Cities have opened their doors to us. The temptation is there for anybody who wants to bring everything from New Orleans – including their memories – and relocate," Lafargue said.

Lafargue would like to move closer to New Orleans, possibly to Keesler Air Force Base, but there is no place there right now for him to stay. He has applied to FEMA for a trailer to be put on his property in New Orleans. It will be some time before electricity is restored to his neighborhood and insurance claims are settled on Lafargue's home so that he can make a decision about whether to rebuild his life in New Orleans or move on.

"I've looked at Huntsville, at El Paso," Lafargue said. "There are possibilities of relocation. I have a place here in Huntsville that I can branch out into, but I also have a home to re-establish in New Orleans. We all have to decide if we will recover in the city, recover at a distance or go on with our lives elsewhere."

Lafargue knows if he does pursue a job in Huntsville or El Paso with the post office or another employer, he will be putting down roots that will possibly keep him from returning to New Orleans. And that is a decision he is not ready to make.

Tour Redstone's homes for the holidays

Tickets on sale for community

You have a chance to see Redstone's new homes in their holiday season finest.

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold the Holiday Tour of Homes on Dec. 1 from 5-9 p.m. The tour will begin at Bicentennial Chapel, progress to the three new General Officer quarters on Cribbins Court and end at the festively-decorated Officers and Civilians Club.

"Everyone would like a peek at those new homes on Cribbins Court – and to see them decorated for the holidays will be a special treat," OCWC president Chris Swart said.

"The post chapel has magnificent stained glass," tour co-chairman Pam Stieglitz said. "Tours of the chapel will run every 30 minutes."

It is a long-standing tradition for OCWC member Atty Allred to plan and lead the members in decorating the Officers and Civilians Club for Christmas. "Atty is a professional and she turns the O' Club into a holiday wonderland," Swart said.

"This is a truly unique opportunity to experience holiday hospitality Redstone Arsenal-style," tour co-chairman Teri Holly said. "We look forward to hosting the community on our tour."

Tickets for the Holiday Tour of Homes, \$10 per person, are available at the Officers and Civilians Club. OCWC members will sell tickets Nov. 15 and 22 in the Post Exchange mall. Tickets will be sold through Nov. 28 at Parisian's Parkway Place. You may also call Christa Devanney for tickets at 881-0033.

Because of increased security, visitors who do not have access to Redstone Arsenal must purchase tickets by Nov. 25. This will ensure adequate lead time to process the request for entry. The following documents are required at the gate: a valid driver's license, certificate of registration (for states that require operators to maintain one in their privately-owned vehicle), and proof of insurance.

"Invite your friends to this event," Swart said. "Tickets would make a wonderful gift." (*Officer and Civilian Women's Club release*)



READY FOR VISITORS— From left Marilyn Phillips, Gabriel Cannon and Becky Pillsbury have graciously agreed to open their homes on Cribbins Court to the community for the Holiday Tour of Homes. OCWC president Chris Swart is at far right.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

West Point accepting applications

Each year, approximately 150 regular Army Soldiers are offered admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Although some Soldiers are offered direct admission to West Point, the majority attend USMAPS. The prep school provides the appropriate academic, military and physical instruction to qualify and motivate Soldiers for admission to and graduation from West Point, and for commissioning as Army second lieutenants.

The prep school curriculum prepares Soldiers for success at West Point through an intensive curriculum focused on both English and mathematics. Interested Soldiers must be U.S. citizens, be unmarried, with no legal obligation to support dependents, be a high school graduate, not be 23 years old before July 1 of the year entering USMA (not be 22 before July 1 of the year entering the prep school), be of high moral character and have a sincere interest in attending West Point and becoming an Army officer.

Maj. Steven Isenhour, from the West

Point Admissions Office, will be at the Heiser Hall on Nov. 15 at 5:30 a.m. to give admissions brief to all Soldiers on the process of making application. Interested Soldiers should contact their chain of command and arrange for time to attend the briefing. All interested Soldiers are encouraged to attend regardless of high school academic performance.

This is a great opportunity for Soldiers who desire a first-rate college education and officer's commission. Soldiers who meet the aforementioned basic eligibility requirements, have achieved SAT scores greater than 1,050 or ACT composite score of 22 or higher, and achieved good grades in a college preparatory high school curriculum are especially encouraged to apply. All application requirements must be met by April 1, 2006 to be considered for an appointment to West Point or the prep school in July. Interested Soldiers should contact Isenhour to request an application by telephone DSN 688-5780 or (845) 938-5780 or e-mail tc2324@usma.edu. (*West Point release*)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jailhouse blues

The "IMMC County Jail" is full Oct. 25 during the Combined Federal Campaign carnival sponsored by the Integrated Materiel Management Center. Working the desk are Brenda Haywood, left, and Carrie Voss, both of the Attack Directorate. The inmates include from left Heriberto "Eddie" Aguilar, John Jensen, Jim Lee and Sandra Denton.

Exchange programs reduce shipping costs overseas

"A typical (military) family can easily spend \$1,500 a year shipping shampoo, baby powder, bedding, phone cards, toothpaste and similar items (to Iraq and Afghanistan)." These are the disturbing findings of New York congressman Vito Fossella Jr.

Fossella, along with more than a 100 congressional representatives, has been taking a close look at the cost of military mail. His findings confirm what advocates of deployed troops have long known; mailing care packages to troops overseas is extremely expensive.

To combat prohibitive shipping fees, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service offers two initiatives that make it easy and affordable to support military families and troops.

The first effort is dubbed "Gifts from the Homefront." This program relies on more than 55 exchanges, filled with shampoo, baby powder, bedding and more, in and around Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. An efficient military logistics operation ensures these "PX/BX" operations are stocked with the health and beauty items, movies and comfort foods troops crave.

Servicemembers can redeem "Gift from the Homefront" gift certificates at Tactical Exchanges throughout the Middle East for items priced the same, if not less, than family and friends would find in the United States.

"Gifts from the Homefront" save the sender money and put the choice of what items the Soldier, Airman, Marine or Sailor

want back into their hands," Redstone PX general manager Kim Sumpter said. "Military men and women use the gift certificates just like cash to buy favorite foods, DVDs and other comfort items."

Reports from Iraq and Afghanistan indicate "Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates, available at www.aafes.org or 877-770-4438, are being redeemed for snacks, soft drinks and CDs. Because all of these items have already been shipped to field Exchanges in Iraq and are available at stateside prices, gift certificates addressed to "any servicemember" are subject a flat shipping charge of only \$4.95 for orders of \$5 to \$5,000.

"For only \$4.95 shipping anyone could send up to \$5,000 worth of 'Gifts from the Homefront,'" Sumpter said. "At 65 cents a bar, that would be the equivalent of 7,692 bars of Dial soap."

As Fossella understands, phone cards provide a critical link between the front lines and the home front. AAFES' second initiative, called "Help Our Troops Call Home," was created for this very reason.

The effort utilizes the Military Exchange Global Prepaid platform to provide phone cards designed for the unique needs of deployed troops. With rates as low as 19 cents a minute, Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards, available in denominations ranging from \$14.99 to \$39, can provide more than two hours of talk time from any of 69 phone centers located throughout Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Anyone who wants to support our

troops through "Gifts from the Homefront" or "Help Our Troops Call Home" can log on to aafes.org to participate. Gift certificates are also available toll free at 877-770-4438, phone cards can be sent by calling 800-527-2345. Both forms of sup-

port can be sent to an individual servicemember (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any servicemember" through the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House or USO. (Exchange release)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

New supervisors training

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center's Sharon Dukes, human resources specialist, teaches 16 new supervisors from throughout Team Redstone during the HR for New Supervisors course Oct. 24-28.

Special Olympians have special day of track and field

Volunteers support annual competition

By KELLEY LANE
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

It may have been cold outside, but the participants and attendees of the 38th annual Special Olympics Track and Field event shared a warm feeling inside.

A record 391 athletes and 200 Soldiers took the field at Milton Frank Stadium on Oct. 25, along with parents, teachers and 600 volunteers, to celebrate the can-do spirit that is the foundation of the Special Olympics.

"We normally have about 300 athletes. This year we have signed up almost 400," event committee

chairperson Joni Haas said.

Army Community Service was on hand to provide hot drinks and doughnuts, which were appreciated by all on the chilly morning. Providing refreshments to such a large crowd takes more than just a trip to the grocery store, though.

"We have about 70 dozen doughnuts," Natalie Taylor, Exceptional Family Member coordinator at ACS, said. "The dining hall did the coffee for us this year."

The official kickoff began with the torch relay led by Redstone's NCO of the Year, Sgt. 1st Class Roger Craig.

"This was a big honor," he said afterward.

After the torch made a complete circuit of the track in the hands of Craig and several ath-

letes, Robbie Stuchlik used it to light the Olympic fire on the field, with the assistance of Huntsville Police chief Rex Reynolds.

While there are always noteworthy community members in attendance at Special Olympics events, Kay Scott, Special Olympics director for Madison County, said they weren't the only celebrities there.

"The athletes are our VIPs," Scott said. "We're not introducing any important people on the field this year. The most important people here are our athletes."

Participants competed in the 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 100-meter walk, 200-meter dash, standing long jump, running long jump and softball throw. In addition to the sporting activities patterned after traditional Olympic

events, audience members were treated to a special performance by the Huntsville Explosion — the Special Olympics cheerleading squad. With their help, spirits soared for the four-hour event.

Soldiers from the 832nd Ordnance Battalion and the NCO Academy lent their hands and smiles to the event. As with the spring bowling tournament, Soldiers give a little assistance and a lot of support to the athletes. Their attendance and the games themselves mean a lot to the children and adults who take part.

"Special Olympians don't always get to participate in things in the community, like your regular soccer and T-ball,"

Haas said. "This gives them a way to get out, to train and do just like everybody else."

While the weather was worse than expected, organizers weren't going to let it stop the festivities.

"It's a lot colder this year," Scott said. "Some years we worry about getting sunburned. I don't think that's the case today. We might get wind burned, but it's still going to be a great day for the athletes. For some of them this is the only event they do all year long."

Taylor concurred.

"We're in hats, coats and earmuffs but we're here," Taylor said. "We're having a good time."



Photo by Kelley Lane

LET GAMES BEGIN— The Olympic torch is lit by athlete Robbie Stuchlik, signifying the beginning of the day's events.



Photo by Kelley Lane

OPENING CEREMONIES— Redstone NCO of the Year, Sgt. 1st Class Roger Craig, runs the first leg of the torch relay.



Photo by Kelley Lane

GOOD TIMES— Between events, Sgt. Jeff Place and athlete Emma Hayes find time for the Chicken Dance.

Medics romp to third straight win in flag football

MEDDAC rolls against Marines

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

The only question was whether MEDDAC would score as many points on defense as it did on offense.

That's how dominant MEDDAC was on this night of flag football.

The medics beat the Marines 46-0 on Oct. 24 at the troop field off Patton Road. MEDDAC improved to 3-0 on the season.

"I think we played with teamwork," MEDDAC coach/linebacker Johnny Davis said. "We may not be the best team out there but we play with heart."

Quarterback Eric James threw four touchdown passes and had a 20-yard TD run. The medics led 33-0 at halftime.

"They got behind 13 points and just quit," James said.

Kenster Shannon had two touchdown catches of 30 and 15 yards. Tyraze Clayton caught a 55-yard touchdown pass and scored on a 30-yard interception return. Davis scored on a 45-yard interception return. Scott Pearson had a 25-yard touchdown catch.

Extra points came on two Clayton runs, a James run and a James pass to Pearson.

"Our guys stayed level," Davis said. "They kept their cool all night long. And I thought they maintained good sportsmanship."

MEDDAC kept pressure on Marines quarterback Timothy Collins and showed speed on both offense and defense. The Marines fell to 0-3.

"We just didn't execute," Marines coach/receiver Marvin Fletcher said.

James opened the scoring with his touchdown run at 14:37 in the first half; and Clayton ran in the extra point for a 7-0 lead. Pearson's touchdown catch upped the lead to 13-0 at 9:25. Clayton added his touchdown reception and interception return. Shannon made his 30-yard touchdown catch on the final play of the half.

James connected with Shannon again from 15 yards at 15:13 in the second half. Davis ended the scoring on his interception return with 9:58 left.

Standings entering this week were: MEDDAC (4-0), HHC 59th (4-1), Head-

quarters & Alpha (3-1), NCO Academy (2-1), Charlie (2-3), 326th Chemical (1-3), Bravo (1-3) and Marines (0-5).

Here are last week's results:

• **Oct. 24** – MEDDAC def. Marines 46-0, NCO Academy def. Headquarters & Alpha 14-6 and HHC 59th def. 326th

Chemical 25-22.

• **Oct. 25** – HHC 59th def. Bravo 13-8, Headquarters & Alpha def. Charlie 27-6 and NCO Academy def. Marines 22-20.

• **Oct. 27** – Headquarters & Alpha def. Marines 7-6, MEDDAC def. 326th Chemical 24-20 and HHC 59th def. Charlie 26-16.

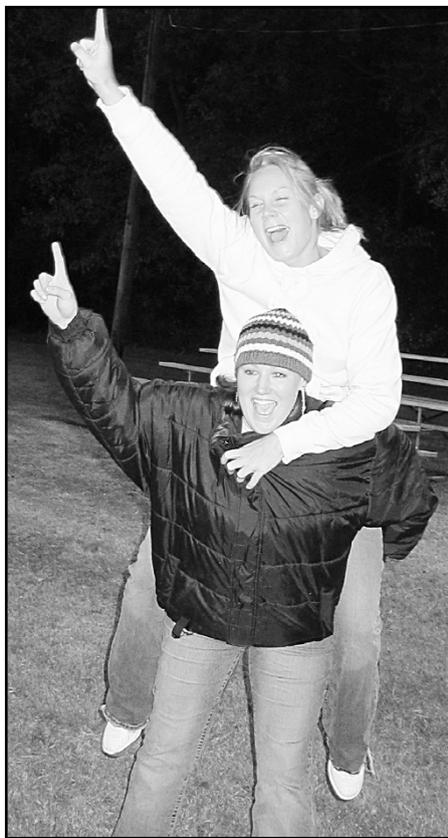


Photo by Skip Vaughn

YEAH!— Sara Johnson, top, and Jessica Martin cheer for MEDDAC against the Marines.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ENJOYING ACTION— MEDDAC quarterback Eric James watches his team's defense during the second half of the 46-0 win over the Marines.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

JUST PRACTICING— MEDDAC linebacker Freddie McElveen gets ready to rush on the line of scrimmage during pregame warmups.

Ladies golf update

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association held the second annual Nancy Reilly Memorial Scramble Tournament on Oct. 26.

The champions of this tournament for 2005 are Jung-Hee Norrell, Debra Plate, Fran Shaner and Millie Moore.

Best Halloween costume was won by Beverly Robbins.

Notre Dame to waltz past Tennessee at home

Fighting Irish over Volunteers

By SKIP VAUGHN

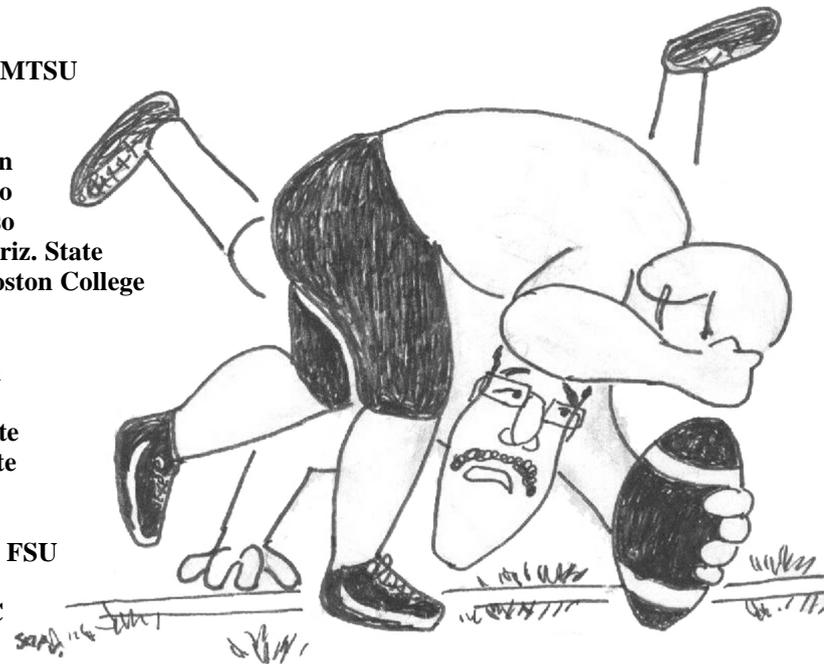
Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Skip's Picks were 389-143 for 73 percent nine weeks into the college football season. Here are my predictions this week:

Tennessee at Notre Dame — **N.D.**
Miami (Fla.) at Virginia Tech — **Va. Tech**
Alabama at Mississippi State — **Bama**
Auburn at Kentucky — **Auburn**
Jackson State at Alabama A&M — **Ala. A&M**
South Carolina at Arkansas — **S.C.**
Appalachian State at LSU — **LSU**
Army at Air Force — **Air Force**
Tulane at Navy — **Navy**
Vanderbilt at Florida — **Florida**
Grambling at Alabama State — **Bama State**
Florida Atlantic at Troy — **Troy**
Connecticut at West Virginia — **W.Va.**
Pittsburgh at Louisville — **Louisville**
Toledo at Ohio — **Toledo**
South Florida at Rutgers — **Rutgers**
Southeast Missouri State at Tenn.-Martin — **Tenn.-Martin**
The Citadel at Chattanooga — **Chattanooga**
Texas A&M at Texas Tech — **Texas Tech**
Samford at Tennessee Tech — **Samford**
Louisiana Tech at Utah State — **La. Tech**

Mississippi Valley State at Alcorn State — **Alcorn**
New Mexico State at Boise State — **Boise**
Rice at Southern Methodist — **SMU**
California at Oregon — **California**
Oregon State at Washington — **Oregon State**
Furman at Georgia Southern — **Furman**
Hawaii at Nevada — **Hawaii**
Houston at Central Florida — **Houston**
Arkansas State at Middle Tennessee — **MTSU**
Colorado State at TCU — **TCU**
UCLA at Arizona — **UCLA**
Southern at Texas Southern — **Southern**
San Jose State at Fresno State — **Fresno**
Tulsa at Texas-El Paso — **Texas-El Paso**
Arizona State at Washington State — **Ariz. State**
Boston College at North Carolina — **Boston College**
Brigham Young at UNLV — **BYU**
Duke at Clemson — **Clemson**
Iowa at Northwestern — **Northwestern**
Illinois at Ohio State — **Ohio State**
Kansas State at Iowa State — **Iowa State**
Michigan State at Purdue — **Mich. State**
Minnesota at Indiana — **Minnesota**
Missouri at Colorado — **Colorado**
North Carolina State at Florida State — **FSU**
Nebraska at Kansas — **Nebraska**
Stanford at Southern California — **USC**
Temple at Virginia — **Virginia**
Texas at Baylor — **Texas**
Wake Forest at Georgia Tech — **Tech**
Wisconsin at Penn State — **Penn State**
Wyoming at Utah — **Utah**



Servicemembers returning to work force have their rights

Employees protected after military service

By Capt. DANIEL PAPAJOIK
Legal assistance chief

Servicemembers have significant reemployment rights when they return from military training or service. This article outlines common questions and answers for de-mobilized servicemembers as they return to their civilian jobs, specifically addressing substantive rights servicemembers can assert under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Q. Am I eligible for reemployment rights if I perform military service?

A. Yes. Under USERRA, you are eligible if you meet five tests: 1. You must hold a civilian job. (Jobs that are held for a brief period and not expected to last indefinitely do not qualify for protection.) 2. You must give notice to your civilian employer that you will be leaving the job for military training or service. 3. You must not exceed the five-year cumulative limit on period of service. 4. You must be released from service under honorable conditions. 5. You must report back to your civilian job in a timely manner or submit a timely application for reemployment. USERRA applies to voluntary as well as involuntary military service, in peacetime as well as in time of war.

Q. What kind of notice must I give my civilian employer?

A. Generally speaking, you must give advance written or oral notice to your employer. This is not required however, if giving such notice is impossible, unreasonable, or prohibited by DoD regulations. The law does not say how much advance notice is required but you should give your employer as much lead time as possible.

Q. I am a federal employee, and I receive 15 days of paid military leave each year. May I take time off from work beyond this 15 days?

A. Yes. When you have exhausted your right to paid military leave, you still have the right to use your accrued civilian leave or to take an unpaid leave of absence.

Q. Can I be required to use my earned vacation while performing military service?

A. No. You may not be forced to use earned vacation. You are entitled to earned

vacation or leave in addition to time off taken to perform military service. An exception would be a case where there is a standard plant shutdown at a certain time of year and all employees must take their vacations during that period and your period of military service happens to coincide.

Q. How long do I have to report back to work or apply for reemployment?

A. For periods of service of up to 30 consecutive days, you must report back to work for the first full regularly scheduled work period on the day following the completion of the period of service and safe transportation home plus an eight-hour period for rest. If reporting back within this deadline is “impossible or unreasonable,” through no fault of your own, you must report back as soon as possible after the end of the eight-hour period.

After a period of service of 31-180 days, you must submit an application for reemployment, either written or oral, with the employer not later than 14 days after the completion of the period of service. If submitting the application within 14 days is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of your own, you must submit it as soon as possible thereafter.

After a period of service of 181 days or more, you must submit an application for reemployment not later than 90 days after completion of the period of service. These deadlines can be extended up to two years to accommodate a period during which you were hospitalized for or recovering from a service-connected injury or illness.

Q. What if I am late in reporting back to work and I don't have a valid excuse?

A. You do not automatically forfeit your right to reemployment, but you will be “subject to the conduct rules, established policy, and general practices of the employer pertaining to explanations and discipline with respect to absence from scheduled work.”

Q. Do I have the right to employee benefits during my military training?

A. Yes. USERRA gives you the right to elect continued health insurance coverage for yourself and dependents during periods of military service. For periods of up to 30 days of training or service, the employer can require you to pay only the employee share of the cost of such coverage. For longer tours, the employer is permitted to charge you up to 102 percent of the entire premium. If you elect coverage,

your right to that coverage ends on the day after the deadline for you to apply or reemployment of 18 months after your absence from your civilian job began, whichever comes first.

USERRA gives you and your previously covered dependents the right to immediate reinstatement of your civilian health insurance coverage upon return to your civilian job. There can be no waiting period and no exclusion of preexisting conditions (other than for those conditions determined to be service-connected). This right does not depend on your having chosen to continue that coverage during your service.

To the extent that your employer offers other non-seniority benefits (e.g. holiday pay or life insurance coverage) to employees on furlough or leave of absence, the employer is required to provide those same benefits to you during your period of military service. If the employer's treatment of persons on leave of absence varies according to the kind of leave (jury duty, educational, etc.), then the comparison should be made with the employer's most generous form of leave. Of course, you must compare periods of comparable length.

Q. To what am I entitled upon application for reemployment?

A. You have four basic entitlements: 1. Prompt reinstatement (generally a matter of days, not weeks, but this will depend on the length of your absence). 2. Accrued seniority, as if you had been continuously employed. This applies to rights and benefits determined by seniority as well, such as job status, rate of pay, pension vesting, and credit for the period for pension benefit computations. 3. Training or retraining and other accommodations. This would be particularly applicable in case of a long period of absence or service-connected disability. 4. Special protection against discharge, except for cause. The period of this protection is 180 days following periods of service of 31-180 days. For periods of service of 181 days or more, it is one year.

Q. When I return from military duty, will I get my old job back?

A. USERRA provides that, if your period of service was less than 91 days, you are entitled to the job you would have attained if you hadn't left, provided that you are still, or can become, qualified for that job. If you are unable to become qualified for a new job after reasonable efforts by your employer, you are entitled to the job you left.

For periods of service of 91 days or more, the employer may reemploy you in the position you would have attained or position you left, or in a position of “like seniority, status and pay” to the duties of your old job.

Q. What if I'm not qualified for my old job? What if I'm injured or disabled?

A. If you have been gone from your civilian job for months or years, your civilian job skills may have been dulled by a long period without use. You must be qualified to do the job in order to have reemployment rights, but the law requires

the employer to make “reasonable efforts” to qualify you. “Reasonable efforts” means actions, including training, that don't cause undue hardship to the employer. If you can't become qualified after reasonable efforts by your employer and you are not disabled, you must be employed in another position of lesser status and pay, the duties of which you are qualified to perform, with full seniority. USERRA also requires the employer to make “reasonable efforts” to accommodate a service-connected disability. If upon your return from military service you are suffering from a service-connected disability that cannot be accommodated by reasonable employer efforts, the employer is to reemploy you in some other position that you are qualified to perform and which is the “nearest approximation” of the position to which you are otherwise entitled, in terms of seniority, status and pay. A disability need not be permanent in order to confer rights under USERRA. For example, if you break your leg during your annual training, your employer may have no obligation to reasonably accommodate your broken leg, or to place you in another position, until your leg has healed.

Q. Does the new law protect me from discrimination by my employer or a prospective employer?

A. Yes. Section 4311(a) of USERRA states that servicemembers “... shall not be denied initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment by an employer” on the basis of military service. The act further provides protection against retaliation for exercising one's right under USERRA such as by testifying, initiating a complaint, or helping with an investigation.

Q. Where do I go for more information or for help?

A. Army Reservists with questions or concerns about their civilian job rights should first consult with their command. Contacting a judge advocate for help may be the best step. For more assistance and information, Army Reservists and their employers may contact the National Committee for Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve, toll-free at (800) 336-4590. NCESGR ombudsmen are trained to provide information and informal mediation services concerning civilian job rights of Army Reservists. If you believe your employer has violated your rights under USERRA and you wish to file a formal complaint, contact the Veterans' Employment and Training Service of the U.S. Department of Labor. You can call (800) 442-2838 to obtain the address and telephone number of the VETS office closest to you. VETS is required to investigate all complaints. Under the new laws, VETS will perform investigations for federal employees claiming reemployment rights, as well as employees of state and local governments and the private sector.

Editor's note: This article is based on a TAKE-1 information letter prepared by the North Carolina State Bar's Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel. It is reprinted with permission from the committee.

New leader appointed to NATO program

Messervy succeeds German officer

During the 34th meeting of the Medium Extended Air Defense System Steering Committee held at the NATO MEADS Management Agency in Huntsville members honored Maj. Gen. Thomas Gericke, the outgoing NAMEADSMA general manager, and welcomed Dr. Steven Messervy as the incoming NAMEADSMA GM.

Gericke, a German general officer, assumed the NAMEADSMA GM's position on the Jan. 1, 2003 and was recalled to national service as the commander of 1st German Air Force Division, Fuerstentfeldbruck, Bavaria on Nov. 1. During his time as NAMEADSMA GM, Gericke led the agency through a successful Risk Reduction Effort to include an Integrated Final System Demonstration conducted at Pratica di Mare Air Force Base, Italy and worked to ensure a smooth transition of the MEADS Program to the Design and Development Phase.

"I would like to thank the NAMEADSMA staff, national representatives and Steering Committee members for your steadfast support, often during very difficult times, over the last three years," Gericke said at his farewell dinner. "Without your contributions and support, the



Courtesy photo

Dr. Steven Messervy

successes of the past three years would not have been possible and the MEADS Program would not be the success that it is today. As I look to the future, I am confident that with your outstanding support, Dr. Messervy, my successor, will lead you to even greater successes in the future."

As the Steering Committee member representing the United States, Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space, was responsible for proposing a candidate from the United States that the MEADS Steering Committee would approve for nomination to the NATO Secretary General for endorsement and appointment to the NAMEADSMA GM's posi-

tion. This action was necessary since the NATO charter that established NAMEADSMA as a NATO Agency changed the nationality of the GM's position from European to American.

"I believe that Dr. Messervy is the right leader to serve as NAMEADSMA general manager. In the U.S., future improvements to the Patriot system are linked to the MEADS Program through an overarching initiative called the Combined Aggregate Program," Cannon said. "With Dr. Messervy's background, experience and understanding of both the US CAP and tri-national MEADS programs, the U.S. strategy to field incremental improvements to the Patriot system and eventually field MEADS can be realized. Dr. Messervy has my full trust and confidence to lead NAMEADSMA in the implementation of the strategies necessary to make both the CAP and MEADS programs successful."

Messervy assumed the NAMEADSMA GM position on Nov. 1 after his nomination by the MEADS Steering Committee and subsequent appointment by the NATO Secretary General. Upon learning of his appointment to GM Messervy said, "I am honored to have been selected by the MEADS Steering Committee and Secretary General of NATO to

succeed Maj. Gen. Gericke as the next NAMEADSMA general manager. At the same time I am humbled by your confidence and trust and therefore pledge to do everything in my power to build upon the fine track record of Maj. Gen. Gericke and the previous NAMEADSMA general managers to ensure success in the future.

"At this time my primary objective is successful execution of the Design and Development Phase of the program to attain the system performance required by the warfighter within cost and schedule constraints agreed by the participating nations. In addition I plan to work with General Cannon and my U.S. associates in PEO Missiles and Space, and the representatives of Germany and Italy to ensure MEADS/Patriot Integration objectives are met without any adverse impact to the tri-nationally agreed MEADS Program. I look forward to working with the representatives of the three participating nations to ensure that the MEADS Program successfully meets all D&D Phase objectives so that a smooth transition to production can be made in anticipation of eventual fielding to the warfighters of Italy, Germany and the United States."

Messervy comes to NAMEADSMA with extensive experience in the management of large complex

systems to include aviation, missile and space systems. Before joining NAMEADSMA, Messervy served as the deputy to the program executive officer for missiles and space. In this assignment, Messervy served as the principal Department of the Army civilian adviser on all U.S. Army missile and space systems.

MEADS is envisioned to be a tactically mobile and transportable air and missile defense system capable of countering air breathing threats including cruise missiles and tactical ballistic missiles, to improve the limited area defense of vital assets, both military and civilian, as well as having the capability to move with and protect maneuver forces. The high mobility and rapid transportability required of MEADS, combined with its required capability to counter threat, will provide coalition forces with a system capability that is currently not available — a 21st century weapon system that can be deployed where it is needed with the versatility to provide force and asset protection during all phases of operation. It will be employed either in combination with other systems as a part of integrated air defense or individually in stand-alone operations. (NAMEADSMA release)

General officer sees progress in streets of Iraq

Fil

continued from page 6

"The Iraqis learn about all the law and order tasks with a fairly heavy dose of instruction on policing in a democratic society. We are teaching human rights and international values because they are not part of their legacy. Since they are policing in an insurgency, they also get a heavy dose of combative skills. It has become a highly successful program."

Of the 250,000 officers who have been trained, 100,000 make up the country's police force. It is hoped to increase that number to 135,000. The other officers trained serve in the country's other security forces.

"Some acts of terrorism go on in all parts of the country," Fil said. "But in 14 of the 18 provinces things are well on their way to having peaceful, safer, law abiding communities with safer and more secure neighborhoods."

When Fil deployed to Iraq, he knew he was going into a dangerous country. But the environment was still difficult to comprehend.

"What surprised me was the depth of this insurgency and how really resourceful these terrorists can be," he said. "It's a very sophisticated enemy. The toughness and steadfastness of these terrorists is amazing."

Headquartered in Baghdad, Fil often traveled to the various major cities in Iraq to oversee training at the police academies and to provide support to police chiefs. During those trips, he saw some of the beauty of the country.

"It is a fascinating country because there is so much history there," he said. "Unfortunately, Saddam Hussein just absolutely neglected the infrastructure of the country while he built beautiful palaces for himself. The roads are shot. The infrastructure for producing oil is poor. And the electrical structure is weak."

It continues, however to be difficult for the military and private contractors to make a difference in rebuilding the country's infrastructure.

"The insurgents will attack anything that shows progress," Fil said. "They will destroy new construction, which delays projects and makes construction very expensive. In Falluja, we had five planned police stations. But they are struggling to get even one built because contractors are under attack."

In returning to the U.S., Fil has been amazed at the constant negativity he has seen in the media about Iraq and the American presence there.

"The news of what is going on over there is so much different in Iraq than here," he said. "There's a negative, almost gloomy view here in the U.S. The truth is the nation is very successful over there.

The coverage in the media gives a sense of almost hopelessness. That's just not the image of reality. We have every reason to be optimistic. But it is going to take time and, as a nation, we need to be prepared to stick with this."

Fil mentioned the constitutional referendum on Oct. 15, a day that saw only 19 total terrorism attacks in the entire country, as a major accomplishment for the Iraqi people. Thousands of polling sites were kept secure by Iraqi police backed by the Iraqi Army, which was reinforced by the coalition forces.

If the U.S. were to turn its back on Iraq, Fil believes the war would be brought to the shores of the country by terrorists. "Right now, most of the resources of Al-Qaeda are focused on Iraq," he said.

During his brief stay at Redstone Arsenal, Fil is enjoying time with his wife Wendy and daughters Rebecca and Mary, catching up on sleep and reading newspapers.

"This post has been so good to Wendy and the girls," Fil said. "The kids have

done well here. This has been, in a lot of ways, a year of blessings for my family."

Fil is sure he will eventually be returning for another tour of duty in Iraq.

"Most Soldiers will have more than one tour in Iraq," he said. "It won't end until there is enough security on the streets where terrorists don't own the streets and the villages, and the Iraqi people start standing up to terrorists. It's starting to happen now. Iraqis are starting to stand up to terrorism because they have had a taste of freedom."

While there are pockets of terrorists throughout the Middle East, Fil believes what is happening in Iraq is sending a message that freedom is a possibility for Iraq's neighboring countries.

"There seems to be a reverberation throughout the Middle East," he said. "All of these nations are turning to democracy. It's affecting the entire Middle East."

Besides bringing freedom to the Iraqi people, American Soldiers are also showing them a time-tested truth — the best way to defeat terrorism is by embracing democracy.

More troops, supplies arrive in Pakistan

By ANNETTE FOURNIER
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Additional U.S. Army medical, aviation and engineer units from Europe, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Kansas and Texas are now helping with relief efforts in Pakistan following the earthquake earlier this month.

The Army is focusing efforts in Pakistan-administered Kashmir where rain, hail, high winds and more than 700 quake aftershocks have complicated relief efforts. More than 54,000 were killed, 75,000 injured and up to 3 million have been left homeless as a result of the earthquake.

Coalition Forces Land Component Command sent a shipment of heavy construction equipment from Kuwait Oct. 27. The shipment included cranes, fuel tankers, road graders, dump trucks and other heavy equipment from theater sustainment stocks available for use in Pakistan.

CFLCC also shipped four containers of medical supplies. The new equipment is in addition to the 200 pallets flown to Pakistan from Kuwait City International Airport. The palletized tents, cots, blankets and packaged meals sent to date are valued at approximately \$4 million.

Troops diverted from OEF

Combined Joint Task Force-76 operating in Afghanistan sent eight helicopters, five CH-47 Chinooks and three UH-60 Black Hawks, to Islamabad to assist with relief and rescue efforts there. The task force has sent medical personnel as well as a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital capable of treating 30 patients at a time.

Aircraft crews are delivering relief supplies, dropping some by parachute to remote areas that are inaccessible as a result of the quake's destruction. The relief efforts are being coordinated with Pakistani authorities so the military can best support the country's needs, said Lt. Col. Edwin Hernandez, Combined Joint Task Force, Logistics.

About 200 Army Reserve Soldiers from the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment deployed with 12 CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters. The unit will conduct rescue operations, work to rebuild infrastructure elements, and transport personnel and cargo.

The unit was recently mobilized from Olathe, Kan., and had reported to Fort Sill, Okla., to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their orders were changed so they could support relief operations, but the Soldiers will proceed to Afghanistan upon completion of duty in Pakistan.

Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 6th Cavalry Regiment already serving in Afghanistan were sent with five CH-47 Chinook and three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and supplies Oct. 10 to assist relief operations. They are assisting in evacuation of the injured and delivering relief supplies.

Five U. S. service members from Office of Security Cooperation Afghanistan Air Division and four OSCA interpreters accompanied relief teams sent



PROVIDING RELIEF— U.S. Army Sgt. Kornelia Rachwal gives a young Pakistani girl a drink of water as they are airlifted from Muzaffarabad to Islamabad, Pakistan, aboard a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter on Oct. 19.

Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Mike Buytas

by the Afghan National Army to assist with medical treatment and delivering supplies. Afghanistan also sent 34 doctors, including three women, for medical treatment.

Relief operations in full swing

U. S. Army Europe sent about 200 Soldiers from the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, the 160th Forward Surgical Team, and the 123rd Main Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division to Muzaffarabad, Pakistan to assist in medical relief efforts and set up a water purification site. The 66th Military Intelligence Group is providing translators.

Fifty Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 227th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade deployed with five Chinook helicopters Oct. 14 to 18. This is the unit's third deployment in three months, after supporting both hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Engineers assessing damage

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Afghanistan Engineer District has been assessing damage in the Muzaffarabad region from aircraft to evaluate roads and bridges leading to some of the areas most in need of relief. Landslides and tremors have covered many roads with rocks, dirt and uprooted trees, complicating efforts to reach these areas.

Engineers are also assessing the extent of damage to housing, and the structural stability of public buildings like schools and hospitals. Twenty six hospitals and more nearly 600 health clinics in Pakistan were destroyed or have sustained too much damage to reopen, according to the World Health Organization.

Engineers from the Combined Joint Task Force-76 in Afghanistan are also conducting aerial reconnaissance of damage to major roadways and other infrastructure to assess rebuilding needs.

(Editor's note: This story was compiled from news releases.)



Army photo

CLEAN WATER— A 3,000 gallon water bladder nearly filled with treated water sits next to the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit belonging to the 123rd Field Support Brigade. The Dexheim, Germany, unit is deployed to Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, as part of Task Force 212.

Pace issues guidance to help military 'shape the future'

Marine general takes office as Joint Chiefs chairman

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The war on terror underlies every word in the Chairman's Guidance to the Joint Staff.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, who took office as the 16th Joint Chiefs chairman on Sept. 30, issued the guidance so members of the Joint Staff would understand his priorities and focus on what he considers important in the coming years, defense officials said.

Pace reiterates in a number of places in the guidance that he considers the war on terror to be winnable, but will be "a war of long duration."

Pace's guidance is subtitled "Shaping the Future." He said that while the emphasis must be on the war on terror, the U.S. military must be ready for any eventuality.

Pace's priorities are concise and mutually supporting. At the top is winning the war on terror.

"Our enemies are violent extremists who would deny us, and all mankind, the freedom to choose our own destiny," Pace wrote in the guidance. "Finding this distributed, loosely networked enemy is the greatest challenge we face."

The U.S. will meet and beat the enemy on the battlefield, but that is not enough, he said. Building better economies, encouraging good government and assisting governments as they live by the rule of law will help the world shape "an environment that precludes the flourishing of

terrorism, much as a healthy body rejects the onslaught of disease."

The United States must harness all elements of national and international power to stop terrorists and stop young people from wanting to join jihadist organizations.

"My military advice to our nation's leaders will favor recommendations that integrate and coordinate our efforts with the work of others fighting this war," Pace wrote. "Through closer coordination within the Department of Defense and interagency (cooperation) we maximize the impact of our military power and build trust, synergy and momentum."

His second priority is to speed up transformation processes within the military. Changing the old mindset is the most important aspect of this change. He wrote that at its heart, transformation "is a willingness on the part of the individual and the organization to embrace innovation and accept analyzed risk."

His third priority is to strengthen joint-warfighting capability. He said the U.S. military must transition "from an interoperable to an interdependent force." The fights in Afghanistan and Iraq have been more joint than any before, officials said. Still, much more can — and must be — done.

Pace said this move toward jointness does not mean a diminution of the service cultures. "I want you to bring your service perspective to the decision process," he wrote. "The strength of this staff, like the



File photo

Marine Gen. Peter Pace

strength of the nation, lies in the articulation of multiple views. Individual service perspectives brought together jointly, foster better solutions, which we then execute in a joint framework."

His final priority is to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and their families. "Bringing our people home alive and intact is Quality of Life Job No. 1," he wrote. "The best leadership, the most innovative tactics, the best equipment and the best force protection are indispensable to this goal."



Joe Ramirez/Photo Lab

Defense Department first

Dan Crock of Marshall Space Flight Center, Carl Rodenburg and Edd Gancarz of Installation Operations Center, Lisha Adams of AMCOM G-3 and Kathy Miller of Marshall accept, for the Arsenal, the National Weather Service's StormReady designation. The National Weather Service bestowed the honor to acknowledge and certify Team Redstone's efforts for severe weather preparedness.

Defense moves forward on new personnel system

Overhaul

continued from page 5

employees to get this right. OPM stands ready to provide the support and technical assistance needed to ensure the success of the NSPS system," Office of Personnel Management director Linda Springer said.

The AMCOM NSPS implementation team is scheduling Town Hall meetings for the first week of December. By that time additional detailed information should be available. Watch for Town Hall meeting notices, with specific informa-

tion about times and dates, in the Rocket. Communication is critical to the NSPS transition, and the Department of Defense has made a serious commitment to ensure employees receive the information and training they need throughout implementation of the program. In addition to the NSPS web sites, DoD plans a robust training program on all elements of the new system.

The final regulations may be downloaded from the NSPS web site at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps>. A wealth of additional information is available on the DoD web site and the Army NSPS web site at <https://cpo.army.mil>. (DoD release)



Monday night football

The entire Redstone community is invited to the Firehouse Pub each Monday night for NFL Monday night football. Doors open at 4 p.m. for game prep and pre-game rivalry. Free hot dogs, hamburgers and other foods with beverage purchase. Watch the game on the big screen television. For more information, call 842-0748 or 830-2582.

Youth basketball

Youth sports is registering Redstone community youth ages 5-17 for basketball. Practice begins the week of Nov. 14; and registration ends Friday. Volunteer coaches are needed for this league. For more information or to register, stop by the CYS Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road, or call 313-2177.

Tailgate party

A tailgate party is in store for Right Arm Night from 4-7 p.m. Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club. All Redstone Arsenal personnel are welcome. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. For information call the post command sergeant major office 876-1874.

Bowling band

The band 5ive O'Clock Charlie will perform at the Redstone Lanes bowling center lounge Friday and Dec. 2 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. Redstone Lanes is in building 3424, just inside Gate 10. For more information, call 876-6634.

Racquetball tournament

Family Fitness Center of Huntsville is holding an Open Racquetball Tournament Nov. 11-13 at its facility at 200 Members Drive. For information call Bob Frazier or Leon Stanley 880-0770.

UAH hockey

The UAH Charger Athletic Department will pay tribute to all military veterans, active duty military, and Redstone Arsenal employees on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The Charger Athletics Department would like to invite all those who have or are currently serving in the military or working on the Arsenal to come out and watch the

UAH Chargers hockey team take on Niagara at the Von Braun Center Arena at 7:05 p.m. If you are a veteran, active duty military or an employee on Redstone Arsenal, call the Charger Athletic office 824-6584 to reserve your tickets for the UAH Charger hockey game on Nov. 11. The deadline for ordering your tickets is noon Nov. 9.

Ballroom dance classes

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center is starting the second session of ballroom dance, featuring fox trot and rumba. Classes start Nov. 8 from 7:30-9 p.m. There will be five classes each Tuesday through Dec. 13. No experience necessary; instruction will be at the beginner level. Registration is \$27.50 per person (\$55 per couple). The registration deadline is Sunday. A dance partner is required. For more information or to register, visit the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711, or call 876-4531. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 1:30-8 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Security awareness week

The G2s for Aviation and Missile Command, Space and Missile Defense Command, in addition to NASA Security, are sponsoring Security Awareness Week from Nov. 14-18. The training offered will satisfy the mandatory annual Department of Army security awareness training requirement for participating organizations. The projected participants in the Security Awareness Week include AMCOM, SMDC, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, PEO Aviation, the Research Development and Engineering Center and NASA. Each of these organizations will have specific times throughout the week to attend training sessions in Bob Jones Auditorium. The purpose of the Security Awareness Week is to promote security awareness in the Redstone community through a series of events that will inform and educate in a manner that will interest, entertain and have a solid impact on the community. For information on the schedule, call Doug Lee 313-5783.

Terrain summit

The Alabama Modeling & Simulation Council, in conjunction with the Advanced Prototyping Engineering and eXperimentation Lab of the System Simulation and Development Directorate at Research Development and Engineering Center and the Simulations and Analysis Directorate of the Future Warfare Center, will host the 2005 Huntsville Terrain Summit Nov. 7-8. This event will include guest speakers from both government and industry as well as product demonstration from vendors. The keynote speaker is Mark Phillips, the research and development lead for the new Joint Advanced Training Technologies Laboratory-Joint National Training Capability. For more information, visit the Terrain Summit web site <http://terrainsummit.amsc.to/Home.htm>.

Acquisition conference

The 33rd Symposium on Government Acquisition and the annual Eastern Briefing Conference sponsored by the North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will be held Nov. 2-3 at the Huntsville Marriott. The conference is open for all Acquisition professionals and offers a wide range of acquisition topics and speakers from both the private and public sector. Cost for attending both days is \$325. For more information, call Cindy Van Rassen 955-5717.

Toastmasters

Tennessee Valley Toastmasters meets the first and third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Radisson Inn, 8721 Highway 20 West, Madison. For information call 876-8706 or e-mail amy.donlin@us.army.mil.

Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society) will meet Thursday night at 7 at the Huntsville Madison County Library, 915 Monroe St. Social to follow at Shoney's. For more information, call Ronnie 509-3833.

Marine Corps league

Marine Corps League 820 Detachment will hold its monthly meeting Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue. All active, inactive, former and retired Marines are invited.

Enlisted spouses

Enlisted Spouses Club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at

the Challenger Activity Center. Its next meeting is Nov. 10. New members are always welcome. Child care reimbursement is available to members. For more information, call Jean Mulcahy 881-7024.

Women accountants

American Society of Women Accountants meets Nov. 8 at the Holiday Inn Select (formerly Huntsville Hilton) in the Sun Room of Lofton's. Social begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 and the program at 6:30. Amanda Mullins of Smith Barney is to speak on "Showing Gratitude in Business." Cost is \$16.50 for members, \$17.50 non-members and \$10 full-time undergraduate students. Reservations are due by noon Friday. Call 830-0377.



Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B/74B information systems operators and 75B/H unit administration. For 25B/74B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For specialty 74C or 74F, they have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B/74B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt. 1st Class Harold Cook 876-5390.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include

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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.gsauctions.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 is accepting winter clothing/items. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. "Join us Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10-2 for some great bargains," a prepared release said. Volunteers are needed. For more information, call 881-6992.

Bible study

Protestant Women of the Chapel members invite all the women of the community to join them at their weekly Bible study Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. Four studies take place from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. A lunch study begins at 11:30 until 12:15. Child care is provided at the chapel. For more information, call Toni Welch 489-5646 or Erica Hobbs 489-3018.

Computer classes

Self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service to assist military spouses in learning or enhancing their computer skills. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher and Windows XP. All classes are free and are offered Monday through Friday anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Certificates will be given after successful completion. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Education week

American Education Week is Nov. 13-19. The local American Education Week Committee will sponsor the annual American Education Week luncheon Nov. 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Von Braun Center East Hall. Theme for this year's event is "A Strong America Starts With Great Public Schools." Army theme is "Education Anywhere - Anytime -- Helping Soldiers Achieve." This year 23 area educators will be recognized including Teachers of the Year awardees, Soldiers from Redstone Arsenal, Golden Apple Teacher honorees (sponsored by The Huntsville Times), and the Toyota International Teacher Program and Alfa Teacher of the Month awardees. Tickets for the luncheon are \$18 per person and \$175 for a table of eight. Tickets

must be purchased in advance; and deadline for purchase is Nov. 9. For ticket purchases, make checks payable and mail to the following: American Education Week Committee, P.O. Box 42, 7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896 or call Liz Bowden of Virginia College 533-7387. For more information call the Directorate of Human Resources, Garrison, Army Education Center, 876-6435. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Chapel services

Weekly services at Bicentennial Chapel, on Goss Road, include: Weekdays (except Friday) - noon Catholic Mass. Saturday - 5 p.m. Catholic Mass. Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, 10:45 a.m. CCD, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, 11 a.m. Protestant Worship Service. Many Bible studies are throughout the week. For information call 876-2409.

Merit awards

The rising cost of higher education is a growing concern; and the Officer and Civilian Women's Club can aid their members in this endeavor through the OCWC Merit Awards Program. Applicants for merit awards must be a member, spouse of a member, or the dependent of an OCWC member in good standing as of Oct. 18, 2005. Merit awards are based on the applicant's scholastic achievements, citizenship and sincere desire to pursue higher education. Application categories are as follows: high school seniors, undergraduates, graduates and member/spouse. Applicants must live within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and have no prior felony arrests or convictions. The application deadline for merit award consideration is Feb. 3, 2006. Previous winners may compete in succeeding years, but may only win once in each category. In addition, students receiving full scholarships (defined as a scholarship that covers tuition, books and related expenses) are not eligible to apply for a merit award. Applications will be available at OCWC monthly luncheons. For more information, call merit award chairperson Sharon Samuelson 880-1594.

Women's club membership

Membership in the Officer and Civilian Women's Club is offered to spouses, adult family members and former spouses who hold a valid ID card of active duty officers, retired, deceased officers and federal government employees grade GS-9 and above (includes Reserve and National Guard Components); and active duty and retired officers and federal government employees grade GS-9 and above and non-appropriated fund equivalent. For OCWC membership information, call Chris Swart 955-6703.

Education week luncheon

American Education Week luncheon is Nov. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Von Braun Center East Hall. Tickets are \$18 each, \$175 per table. For tickets call Liz Bowden 533-7387 or the Education Center 876-9761.

Aviation scholarships

Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America is spon-

soring two Aviation Challenge 2006 Scholarships in conjunction with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Children and grandchildren (between the ages of 9/attending or completed fourth grade and 18, not started college) of individuals who are Tennessee Valley AAAA Chapter members by Dec. 31, 2005 will be eligible to compete for the scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded in the form of certificates for use during 2006. Applications for scholarships and membership and more information on Tennessee Valley AAAA Aviation Challenge Scholarship application procedures will be available at the Tennessee Valley AAAA Halloween Social event Thursday and at the chapter Christmas social as well as on the TVC web site at www.tennvalleyquad-a.org/scholarships.html. Applications are due Jan. 31 in accordance with the instructions on the application. For more information call Tom Harrison, chapter vice president for scholarships, 882-6709.

Quarterly retirement event

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate. If you would like to participate, call Sgt. 1st Class Kimball 876-2819. Deadline for signing up to participate is Nov. 21.

Identification cards section

Hours of operation for ID/CAC Card

Issuance, building 3494, have changed. To better accommodate its customers, the ID/CAC Card Section will open one hour earlier Monday through Thursday. Here are the new hours: Military Personnel Division, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed on federal holidays); ID Cards, Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed on federal holidays) and Friday 8:30-4; CAC Cards, Monday through Thursday from 7:30-3 (closed on federal holidays) and Friday 8:30-3.

Book signing

Stop by the Post Exchange on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Fall Author Expo. You will be able to visit with six local authors. For more information call Kim Sumpter 881-6100, ext. 122.

Calhoun registration

Calhoun Community College, Redstone Arsenal Extension, offers spring 2006 pre-registration through Dec. 15, Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Spring term begins Jan. 9. For more information, call 876-7431 or visit www.calhoun.edu.

Pageant entries

The Miss Starlight USA Pageant for ages up to 27 is Saturday. For more information, call Stephanie Bell in Huntsville 658-5553.

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Transition workshops

The Garrison, Human Resource Directorate holds monthly Transition Assistance Program workshops for personnel leaving the military. If you have 12 to 18 months before separating, it is mandatory that you attend this workshop at least once. You can register and attend the workshop without a copy of your retirement or separation orders. Call Tazella Jackson 842-2718. Seating is limited so register early. The Transition Center staff members say they look forward to providing you and your dependents the best possible service the Army has to offer. The 2006 TAP workshop dates are as follows: Jan. 10, 11, 12, Feb. 14, 15, 16, March 14, 15, 16, April 11, 12, 13, May 9, 10, 11, June 20, 21, 22, July 18, 19, 20, Aug. 15, 16, 17, Sept. 12, 13, 14, Oct. 17, 18, 19, Nov. 7, 8 and 9.

Poppy sales

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5162 will distribute Buddy Poppies at the One-Stop, Main Exchange, and Commissary Nov. 11-13 during normal business hours for each facility. "The Veterans of Foreign Wars bylaws require that all proceeds from our distribution of the Buddy Poppy must be used to benefit disabled veterans, needy veterans, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans right here in our local community," Veterans of Foreign Wars post commander Bob Davenport said.

Women's club luncheon

Retired veterans John Reitzell, Mike Durant and Jeff Wishik will share their perspectives and personal military service experiences at the Officer and Civilian Women's Club luncheon Nov. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Reservations are required by Thursday. Membership in the Officer and Civilian Women's Club is offered to spouses, adult family members and former spouses who hold a valid ID card of active duty officers, retired, deceased officers and government employees grade GS-9 and above (includes Reserve and National Guard components), active duty and retired officers, employees GS-9 and above and non-appropriated fund equivalent. Call Chris Swart 955-6703 for more information or the November luncheon or membership in OCWC.

Federal forum

FPMI Solutions will hold a free federal forum Nov. 15 at the Huntsville Marriott on "Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges Today." The presenter is Harriette Rinaldi, a former member of the Central Intelligence Agency. All fed-

eral employees are eligible to attend, but registration is required. For more information, visit the web site www.fpmisolutions.com/conferences.

Communication workshop

Society for Technical Communication announces an Advanced Hands-On Editing Workshop from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at Morton Hall, room 204, at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. The presenter is Cynthia McPherson, lecturer in the UAH English Department. Cost is \$10 for STC members and students, \$20 for all others. Bring cash or check payable to STC. For more information, contact Holly Snow at vicepresident@stc-na.org.

Free plants

Fall is the time to plant spring's flowers. On Saturday from 9-11 a.m. there will be a free plant swap at Farley Community Church. Thin out your perennial plants and bulbs and bring any extras. You may pick others from the selection there. Label plants with type, light/water needs and any other info (bloom color/time, etc.). Turn right onto Hobbs Road just past the South Parkway Wal-Mart, turn left onto Bell Road at the light; the church is on the right about a block away. For information call Lynn Moore 883-9384.

Furniture for rent

Do you have a large gathering for the holidays? Don't have enough tables and chairs? Don't worry because Morale Welfare and Recreation rents 8-foot aluminum folding tables and light-weight Samsonite folding chairs. Tables are \$5 each and chairs \$2 apiece for a 24-hour period. MWR offers a "special deal": one set (a table and eight chairs) for \$10 for 24 hours. This offer is available to active and retired military, government civilians, NASA employees, Redstone contractors and their family members. For reservations call 955-7727 or 955-7728.

Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center announces holiday hours for Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The Primary Care Extended Hours Clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to noon for scheduled appointments. All other clinics and the pharmacy will be closed. The health center is closed on Sundays. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments.

Nashville bus trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring the Christmas in Nashville/Opryland bus trip on Sunday, Dec. 4. The

package includes round-trip luxury bus transportation, plus tickets to the Fantasy in Ice display and the Radio City Christmas

Spectacular starring the Radio City Rockettes. Cost is \$61 per person. Bus departs the Kroger parking lot at Drake Avenue and

South Memorial Parkway at 9 that morning. For more information call Charles Urban, CWFC event coordinator, 955-7662.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING DATE	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN & SERIES	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE (FROM - TO)	WHO CAN APPLY?																			
								A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U								
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																											
SCBK05893339	Administrative Officer	2-Nov-05	PEO-C3T	GS-0341	9	TG/11	42,034 - 66,115	X																			
SCBK05893992	Lead Logistics Mgmt Spec	2-Nov-05	IMMC	GS-0346	13		72,486 - 94,229	X																			
SCBK05914919	Budget Analyst	2-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DE-0560	2		27,742 - 79,238	X																			
SCBK05913084	Program Analyst	2-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DE-0343	4		72,486 - 111,355	X	X																		
SCBK05903646	Logistics Mgmt. Spec.	2-Nov-05	IMMC	GS-0346	12		60,955 - 79,238	X	X																		
SCBKNAF050118	Recreation Assistant	3-Nov-05	Recreation Service	NF-0189	2		7.27 - 13.07	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBKNAF050119	Water Leader	3-Nov-05	Business Oper. Div	NL-7420	3		8.44 - 8.44	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05903888	General Engineer	4-Nov-05	Acq Support Center	NH-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X																		
SCBK05903888D	General Engineer	4-Nov-05	Acq Support Center-PEO Aviation	NH-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X																		
SCBK05864964	Public Affairs Specialist	4-Nov-05	Corps of Eng's Huntsville	GS-1035	11		50,858 - 79,238	X																			
SCBK05864964D	Public Affairs Specialist	4-Nov-05	Corps of Eng's Huntsville	GS-1035	11		50,858 - 79,238	X																			
SCBK05888751	Project Mgmt Specialist	4-Nov-05	Corps of Eng's Huntsville	GS-0301	13		72,486 - 94,229	X																			
SCBK05915750	Human Resources Assistant (MIL/OA)	4-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0203	6		30,923 - 40,201	X																			
SCBK05883150	Public Affairs Specialist	4-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DE-1035	4		72,486 - 111,355	X	X																		
SCBK05905212	Equipment Specialist (Aircraft)	4-Nov-05	IMMC	GS-1670	12		60,576 - 78,745	X																			
SCBK05866638	IT Specialist	4-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-2210	13		72,486 - 94,229	X																			
SCBK05867815	Equal Employment Manager	7-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0260	14		85,656 - 111,355	X																			
SCBK05862420DR	Technical Support Assistant	7-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0303	5		27,742 - 36,069	X	X																		
SCBK05862420R	Technical Support Assistant	7-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0303	5		27,742 - 36,069	X	X																		
SCBK05902169	Management Assistant (OA)	7-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0344	7		34,363 - 44,673	X	X																		
SCBK05890790	Budget Analyst	8-Nov-05	Acq Support Center-PEO C3T	GS-0560	13		72,486 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK05912685	Police Officer	8-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0083	7		34,363 - 44,662	X	X																		
SCBK05896854	Procurement Analyst	9-Nov-05	AMC-Lead AMC Integration Sup Ofc	GS-1102	13		72,486 - 94,229	X																			
SCBK05912685D	Police Officer	9-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0083	7		34,363 - 44,662	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05929996	Training Instructor (Hazardous Devices/NRC)	9-Nov-05	USAQMEMS	GS-1712	11		50,858 - 66,115	X	X																		
SCBK05890802D	Contract Specialist	9-Nov-05	SMDC-Contract Oper. Div.	GS-1102	13		72,486 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK05890802	Contract Specialist	9-Nov-05	SMDC-Contract Oper. Div.	GS-1102	13		72,486 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK05914059	Logistics Mgmt. Spec.	10-Nov-05	IMMC	GS-0346	12		60,955 - 79,238	X																			
SCBK05621863R	Aerospace Engineer	11-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05621863DR	Aerospace Engineer	14-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05849549	General Engineer	14-Nov-05	SMDC	GS-0801	14		85,656 - 111,355	X	X																		
SCBK05866813	Lead General Engineer	14-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05866813D	Lead General Engineer	14-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05901057	Program Analyst	14-Nov-05	Acq Sup Center PEO Soldier	NH-0343	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK05929813	Lead Police Officer	14-Nov-05	Garrison	GS-0083	7		34,363 - 44,673	X																			
SCBK05907560	Logistics Mgmt. Spec.	14-Nov-05	AMC-Lead AMC Integration Sup Ofc	GS-0346	13		72,486 - 94,229	X																			
SCBK05907560D	Logistics Mgmt. Spec.	14-Nov-05	AMC-Lead AMC Integration Sup Ofc	GS-0346	13		72,486 - 94,229	X																			
SCBK05888999	Operations Systems Analyst	15-Nov-05	Acq Sup Center PEO Aviation	NH-0301	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK05888999D	Operations Systems Analyst	15-Nov-05	Acq Sup Center PEO Aviation	NH-0301	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK057891190R	Mechanical Engineer	16-Nov-05	Corps of Eng's Huntsville	GS-0830	12		60,955 - 79,238	X	X	X																	
SCBK057891190DR	Mechanical Engineer	16-Nov-05	Corps of Eng's Huntsville	GS-0830	12		60,955 - 79,238	X	X	X																	
SCBK05921593	Electronics Engineer	16-Nov-05	Acq Sup Center PEO Aviation	NH-0855	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK05921593D	Electronics Engineer	16-Nov-05	Acq Sup Center PEO Aviation	NH-0855	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X																		
SCBK05920156	Supervisory General Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05920156D	Supervisory General Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05878226	Lead Electronics Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05878226D	Lead Electronics Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05923948	Lead General Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05923948D	Lead General Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05924221	Supervisory General Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05924221D	Supervisory General Engineer	20-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05918443D	Supervisory Accountant (Internal Review Evaluator)	21-Nov-05	AMC-Internal Review & Audit Office	NH-0510	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05918443	Supervisory Accountant (Internal Review Evaluator)	21-Nov-05	AMC-Internal Review & Audit Office	NH-0510	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05793378DR	Aerospace Engineer	21-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05793378R	Aerospace Engineer	21-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
WTS05840265	Supervisory General Engineer	21-Nov-05	AMC-Threat Sys Mgmt Ofc	GG-0801	15		100,756 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05893736	Lead Aerospace Engineer	25-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05893736D	Lead Aerospace Engineer	25-Nov-05	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4		85,656 - 130,988	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05883139	Materials Engineer	28-Dec-05	AMRDEC	DB-0806	3		60,955 - 94,229	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK05883139D	Materials Engineer	28-Dec-05</																									