

Redstone Rocket

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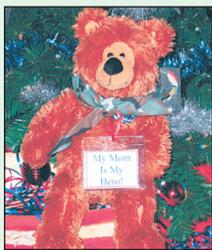
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Post youngsters better watch out

Santa to visit
housing areas

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Hey kids ... Santa Claus is coming to Redstone Arsenal!

In the midst of preparations for his Christmas Eve ride, Santa will take the time for a special visit with children of all ages living on the Arsenal during the annual "Santa Run" on Saturday, Dec. 17, beginning at about 9:30 a.m.

The Sergeants Major Association has once again invited Santa to join them and Redstone's Military Police and Fire Department in a Santa Run that will take them throughout the Arsenal's housing areas. As the caravan travels through the neighborhoods, Santa's volunteer elves-for-the-day will knock on doors seeking out children who want to visit with Santa. They will also distribute candy to children.

"Some of the kids will actually come out to the truck and get their picture with Santa," says Sgt. Maj. Robert Johnson of the 59th Ordnance Brigade, who is helping coordinate this year's event.

"We give candy to whoever comes to the door when we knock. We welcome everybody to see Santa, parents, too. It's always fun to see how joyful and happy the kids are to see Santa."

Santa will begin his visit at the Vincent fire station and will first stop at the Columbia Centre housing area. He will then continue to Voyager Village and Apollo Landing, on to Freedom Landing and Pathfinder Pointe and then on to Endeavor Village, New Endeavor Village and Saturn Pointe. He will make a brief stop at Redstone Lodging and finish his visit at Challenger Heights.

Although Rudolph and Dancer will not be with Santa, he will be accompanied by military police cars and fire trucks. His arrival in each neighborhood will be announced with sirens and horns.

Santa Claus has made special visits with children living



Photo by Ryan McClymont

HOLIDAY SPIRIT— Santa and his elves give children a chance to make a Christmas wish with help from the Sergeants Major Association and the fire department in December 2003.

on the Arsenal since at least the early 1990s. It is an annual event that is especially meaningful for members of the Sergeants Major Association who want to show their support for today's military families during the holiday season.

"When you have young children ask 'Can you bring my mommy or my daddy back home?' it just grips at your heart."

— David Rivera
retired sergeant major

"We do this for the children of all the families here on post," says retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jean Rose, a volunteer Santa's helper.

"It's our way of spreading a little bit of Christmas cheer. Some children don't get out to see Santa, so we bring Santa to them and wish them a nice Christmas."

Children who come out to the truck to sit on Santa's lap often ask for the same kinds of things children around the world ask for — a doll or truck, a bicycle or board game, a Game Boy or Ipod.

"You always get surprised," says retired Sgt. Maj. David Rivera, a volunteer Santa's helper. "The young children are

very, very interesting to listen to when they are talking to Santa. It makes their day and it makes our day."

But, sometimes, they ask for things Santa can't promise that he'll bring them on Christmas Eve.

"If they ask for pets, Santa will tell them that is really up to their parents," Rivera says. "The last thing Santa wants to do is promise to bring a pet to a child when their parents don't think that is a good idea."

The hardest thing, though, for Santa is to hear children ask for their parents to come home for Christmas.

"When you have young children ask 'Can you bring my mommy or my daddy back home?' it just grips at your heart," Rivera says.

"Santa tells them their mommy or daddy is protecting all of us right now and that he will say special prayers for them so they stay safe and hurry home. He tells them that, even though their parents are not here, they are always thinking about them."

Johnson's two children — 8-year-old Desalyn and 13-year-old Rosalyn — are among the children looking forward to this year's visit from Santa.

"Santa will go by their house, as well," Johnson says. "Santa will do everything he

can to visit all the children on the Arsenal on this special day."

For young children who may be afraid of seeing Santa, the elves will take special care to make the visit enjoyable.

"The elves do a real good job helping the kids relax and have fun," Rivera says. "Santa's helpers will pick the children up at their door, escort them out to Santa and then take them back. Santa will be sitting on a chair in the back of a pickup and we will help the kids get in the truck so they can sit on his lap."

In years past, Santa has visited up to 600 children on post. That number varies from year to year, depending on how many military families are living on Redstone Arsenal.

"Some of the kids we will see over and over again because they will run through the neighborhoods to get another peek at Santa," Rose says. "They are pretty ingenious little folks. They get so excited about Santa. It's truly amazing."

Members of the Sergeants Major Association enjoy Santa's visit as much as the children.

"It's a great event that the kids love," Rose says. "It's fun getting out in the community and sharing Christmas cheer with our military families."

An open lane random survey

What are your Christmas shopping plans?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Susan Blankenship
badge checker



"Just whenever my family gives me their list, I go out and get whatever I can find and what I can afford to buy."

Jeff Tanner
badge checker

"Getting it done as quick as possible."



Eric Going
badge checker



"To get it over with as quickly as possible to avoid the holiday rush."

Cheryl Thigpen
badge checker

"Well, my Christmas shopping plans are simple: just a few gifts for my son and friends and family."



Quote of the week

'He who goes strictly by the book ends up reading alone.'

— *The editor*

Letters to the Editor

Reasons to give thanks

How many reasons do we have to be thankful. Let me count the ways, the many times our nights were turned into days.

When the lights were off and miraculously they came back on, where there use to be blues, now our hearts sing a happy song.

Mountains before you that you never thought you would be able to climb and a voice says "In time" and you notice what was once in front of you is now behind.

Going from summer to fall, what a drastic change and you think about the beauty of a rose oh summer still remains.

When you asked yourself will your kids ever grow up? Somehow you realized you had room to grow too, knowing that through the toughest of times you made it through.

Let's not forget about the ones who are less fortunate who will not have bread to break, think about what you can do for them instead of that moment of silence we usually take.

Time is so precious, to give it away is a gift, to show someone that you care a kind word to uplift.

Countless ways to be thankful, but our minds stay on what we don't have, the result! Thinking mostly of ourselves instead of someone else will be the aftermath.

Horace L. Wilson
CPOC

THAAD missile completes flight test

Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced the successful completion of a flight test Nov. 22 of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense element of the Ballistic Missile Defense system at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The test involved the launch of a THAAD interceptor missile, which is designed to intercept and destroy short to intermediate range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase of flight. The THAAD interceptor has the capability to intercept a ballistic missile inside the earth's atmosphere (endoatmospheric) or outside the atmosphere (exoatmospheric). The test did not include a target missile, so no intercept was planned.

The primary objectives for the test included the evaluation of high endoatmospheric flight environment effects on

the THAAD Block 04 interceptor design; demonstration of proper interceptor launch from its ground-transportable storage canister, validation of booster, kill vehicle and shroud separation dynamics; and operation of the interceptor's divert and attitude control system consisting of small rocket motors to maneuver the kill vehicle to place it in the path of a target missile for a "hit to kill" intercept. Equipment on the test range also collected a large amount of interceptor telemetry data to help refine and improve THAAD technology.

While this flight test focused on interceptor fly-out and controllability, the continuing flight test program will progress to operationally realistic target intercepts at White Sands Missile Range and also at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

Redstone gate update wanted

My question is: When is the Redstone Road gate scheduled to open back up?

Greg McPherson
AMCOM

Editor's note: In late January, according to Dwain Elder, chief of operations division at the Garrison.

Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 21 and Dec. 28. After the Dec. 14 publication, our first issue next year is Jan. 4.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season.



The test starts a new round of THAAD developmental testing that builds on the investment from earlier THAAD tests, which included two consecutive target intercepts in 1999. It is the first missile defense system that is capable of intercepting a target missile both inside and outside the atmosphere. An important capability of THAAD is its rapid mobility to where it is needed. A THAAD launcher (containing eight missiles) and its radar and command center can be air-lifted and then trucked to forward locations to protect deployed forces overseas and allies and friends.

The THAAD program is managed by the Missile Defense Agency in Washington, D.C., and executed by the THAAD Project Office in Huntsville. Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company is the prime contractor.

Redstone Rocket

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Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Nov. 18: An individual was found to be wanted on a misdemeanor warrant issued by the Arab Police Department during a routine inspection at Gate 9. The individual was detained and released to the Arab Police Department.

Nov. 18: An individual reported that someone removed a personal jump stick from her computer workstation at build-

ing 5250. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 19: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol after he was observed approaching Gate 9 at a high rate of speed and then striking a concrete safety post. He was issued a violation notice and detained at the Provost Marshal Office until his blood alcohol level reached an acceptable level.

Nov. 19: An individual was found to be wanted on a misdemeanor warrant issued by the Lawrence County Police Department during a routine inspection at Gate 9. The individual was detained and released to the Lawrence County Police Department.

Nov. 20: An individual reported that someone scratched her personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended at building 3443. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 21: An individual reported that someone removed a color television and DVD/VCR player from a construction trailer on Neal Road. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 21: An individual reported that someone has been sending harassing e-mails that were offensive to her workstation computer. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

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

Violation notices issued: 1 driving under the influence of alcohol, 1 expired

registration, 1 failure to maintain control of vehicle, 1 no driver's license in possession, 2 no driver's license, 13 speeding, 1 improper backing, 1 criminal trespass, 1 unsafe driving.

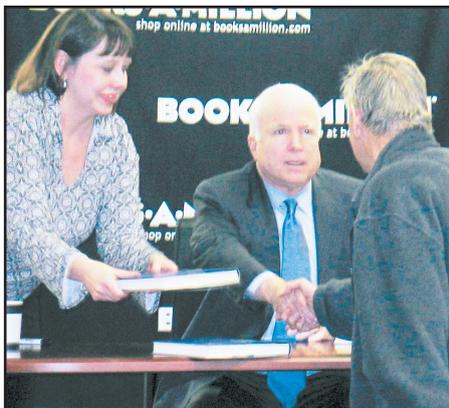
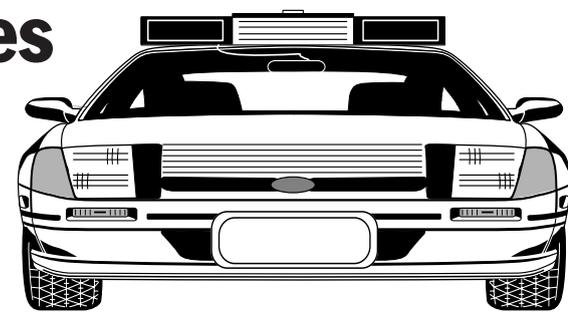


Photo by Kelley Lane

Veteran senator

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a former POW in Vietnam, signs more than 700 copies of his new book "Character is Destiny" Nov. 21 at a Huntsville bookstore. Readers began lining up before the store opened.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Pvt. Ashley Blackham

Job: Ammunition technician, Marine Corps Detachment

Where do you call home?

Easley, S.C.

What do you like about your job?

It's a good challenge. Adventurous, I guess. Get to see a lot of people and travel. Meet a lot of different people. Just see the world.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I play a lot of sports back home – like volleyball, basketball, run track.

What are your goals?

Actually I want to be in the FBI someday.



What's your favorite football team?

USC (South Carolina)

New office brings change of managers

Colonels assume duties
in project management

By KIM HENRY
Staff writer
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After more than two years of service, Col. Lloyd McDaniels bids adieu to the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office. He won't be going too far though, just off post to Wynn Drive to become the manager of the new Interim Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office.

Col. Raymond Nulk assumed the position of CCWS project manager in a change of charter ceremony Nov. 21. Nulk previously served as the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensors Systems product director.

"Today culminates probably one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make since I've been the PEO and that's taking a PM out of his project managership early," said Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space. "We're forming a new project management office to integrate Army air and missile defense and I needed somebody strong with PM experience that knows what the acquisition business is all about. Lloyd (McDaniels) fits that bill."

At the same time, Cannon said the PEO received another colonel. "He (Nulk) already had a complex job. He was running the JLENS program, but I had a hard time justifying a colonel working for a colonel," Cannon said in referencing that JLENS fell under supervision of the Cruise Missile Defense project manager, Col. Ed Mullin. "I wanted to break that mold and this gave me the opportunity to do that and to put an experienced, well-respected officer in as project manager for Close Combat Weapon Systems."

For his work in the CCWS office, Cannon presented McDaniels with the Meritorious Service Medal. "His greatest accomplishment was his support to thousands of U.S. Soldiers and Marines throughout Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, ensuring they had the finest close combat weapons systems to win in combat," read a portion of the citation.

McDaniels extended many thanks to those who helped support the office. "I've told my organization time and again the effort that they've gone to has made the difference. Every Soldier in the United States Army, who's authorized a Javelin, has been fielded Javelin before they've gone into theater. Every Soldier who's authorized ITAS has had ITAS before he's gone into theater. Over 7,000 TOW missiles used in combat by Army and Marine forces, over 1,000 Javelin missiles used by our forces while they've been in combat in both those theaters. What we do does make a difference.

"It makes a difference to our nation, a difference to our Army and more impor-

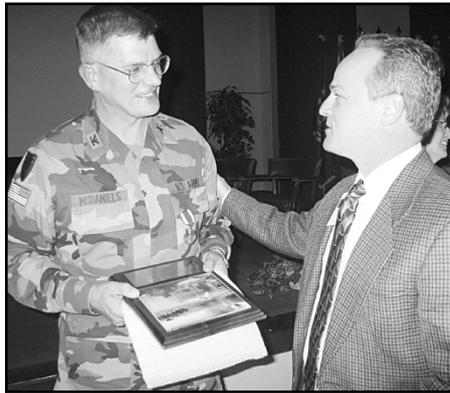


Photo by Kim Henry

CHANGE OF SCENERY— Many people lined up to pay their respect to Col. Lloyd McDaniels as the outgoing CCWS project manager. McDaniels will be the manager of the newly established Interim Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office.

tantly, from my standpoint, it makes a difference to those 18- and 19-year-olds who we ask to go out into combat for us and put their life on the line. I appreciate all the work you've done for me and all the work you've done for them."

Nulk thanked both the JLENS product office and Cruise Missile Defense Systems project office for supporting his sendoff to another project and thanked the CCWS project office for its warm reception. "I'm really excited about being here. I feel as if I'm coming home as I've had a few tours at Redstone for both officer schooling and professional assignments," he said.

"In this tour I initially came back to work for JLENS and it was something different and exciting for me. In the short time I've been associated with the program I've learned a lot and I feel that I've had some useful contribution, but it's been the people that I've worked with that have made the difference. Thank you," Nulk said. "And yet now its time to shift gears and work on behalf of Close Com-



Photo by Kim Henry

PASSING THE TORCH— Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space, presents the Close Combat Weapon Systems charter to the new project manager, Col. Raymond Nulk.

bat Weapon Systems. In the past few days I had the chance to see parts of the project office in action. I'm impressed and appreciative of the talent and dedication that I've witnessed. And so I return to where I started, asking for your help and support."

Officers chapter achieves excellence recognition

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America has received the 5 Star "Level of Excellence" Award streamer.

This streamer signifies that the Huntsville chapter is one of the best chapters in the association. Only 37 of 425 chapters won this award.

Retired Air Force Maj. Steve Crawley, HCMOAA president, said one of the major factors in achieving this award was a continuing recruiting drive that has resulted in a record number of members. The chapter recently accepted its 700th member. (Chapter release)



Courtesy photo

BANNER OCCASION— With the 5 Star award streamer are, from left, Huntsville chapter past president Aniceto Bagley, president Steve Crawley and retired Col. Gordon Dison, past president of the Association of Alabama MOAA Council of Chapters.



Courtesy photo

Center of attention

RDEC Security and Intelligence Division manager Sharon Boclair, left, is presented an award by Dr. Suzy Young, acting deputy director of the Research Development and Engineering Center. The award from Maj. Gen. Roger Nadeau, commander of RDECOM, is in recognition of the center's successful inspection in October by the Army inspector general.

Garrison's Joe Baker knows fuel operations

Northrop Grumman worker receives annual recognition

Joe Baker, an employee of Northrop Grumman, was honored by the American Petroleum Institute on Oct. 18 when he received the Army Facility Operator of the Year Award at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas.

This award is presented annually to Army and Air Force individuals who distinguish themselves as the best in fuel operations at their installations. He was accompanied by his supervisor, Gary LeVan, who nominated him for the award.

Baker is the lead man for the Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants tank farm on Redstone operated by Northrop Grumman, a subcontractor to Chugach, base support contractor. He was commended by the director of U.S. Army Petroleum Center, Fort Belvoir, Va.

"Joe is always involved in every aspect of the POL operations," LeVan said. "He not only interacts with fuel customers, he also plays an integral and active role in the operations and helps in design planning of a new POL tank farm. He continues to display leader-



Photo by Don Olsen

RECEPTION— Joe Baker of Northrop Grumman receives the Army Facility Operator of the Year Award from Darrell Brewer, deputy to the Garrison commander.

ship and consistently produces work of the highest caliber."

Baker was honored again Nov. 9 by Darrell Brewer, deputy to the Garrison commander, and many co-workers at a reception given by Northrop Grumman and the Directorate of Logistics. (*Garrison release*)

Corpus Christi certified for taking care of business

Army depot achieves international standards

By JAMEY GIDDENS
CCAD publicist

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas — Thanksgiving came a little early for CCAD this year, Nov. 4 to be exact. On that date the depot received word from Smithers Quality Assessments Inc. CCAD had been officially certified to ISO 9001:2000 standards.

ISO (which stands for International Organization for Standardization) is, a “global network that identifies what international standards are required by business, government and society,” according to the organization’s official web site, www.iso.org.

Since 1987, the ISO 9000 series of standards has been recognized globally as the framework for a well-managed, customer focused business system. Companies and government facilities achieving certification report reduced waste, more efficient labor utilization and increased customer satisfaction.

“ISO 9001-2000 compliance or certification has become an international condition of doing business,” Craig Rasmussen,

ISO management representative for CCAD, said. “This is especially true in the aerospace industry; leaders such as Boeing, Sikorsky, etc. have long required their suppliers to be ISO certified. ISO certification will not only help us acquire future work but it is also being used at CCAD as a vehicle to improve the quality of our products, reduce production cost and shorten production time.”

Auditors from Smithers conducted the ISO 9001:2000 certification audit, reviewing all of CCAD’s management systems, from Oct. 24-28.

“This turn of events was quite exceptional,” Rasmussen said. “We were informed by Smithers that not only were we going to receive the ISO certification, but no deficiencies of any kind were found at CCAD. Now I’ve been told that only occurs with less than 10 percent of ISO 9001:2000 certification audits.”

Rasmussen attributes CCAD’s excellent ISO report card to the way the Army depot views the role of quality as it relates to how the depot is managed overall.

“Here at the Corpus Christi Army Depot when we think about the development of our ISO program, we don’t just think in terms of quality,” Rasmussen

said. “We also look at other aspects of good business, such as cost and schedule. In fact, CCAD’s Business Process Guide is written so that we are always mindful of meeting all ISO standards. It’s not just a quality improvement program here at

CCAD; it’s a business improvement program.”

Officials from Smithers Quality Assessments Inc. will be on hand Dec. 7 to present CCAD with official certification.

“We have a lot to be proud of; CCAD not only passed its ISO

9001:2000 certification audit but did so with flying colors,” Rasmussen said. “Very few companies of the size and complexity of CCAD can make the claim of passing an ISO Certification audit with no significant deficiencies.”

Student trainees ready to start at Corpus Christi

By JAMEY GIDDENS
CCAD publicist

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas — With January viewed as a time for new beginnings, it seems the month will serve as the perfect starting point for 20 local college students to begin their careers at CCAD.

CCAD in conjunction with Del Mar College has selected 20 new student trainees to gain valuable work experience at the depot and a college education as part of the Student Career Experience Program.

“This program will allow qualified students the opportunity to gain work experience directly related to a specific field of study,” Sharon Flores, CCAD human resources specialist, said. “The selected student trainees will have the chance to obtain their associate’s degrees in either airframe technology or power plant technology.”

The student trainees will also be required to work 32 hours a week at CCAD while attending Del Mar College full time in pursuit of their respective degrees.

The initial list of possible candidates for the student trainee slots was selected by officials at

Del Mar College.

“The college posted the announcement for us, and they made the initial determinations of eligibility,” Flores said.

Once the college sent over its list of eligible candidates, CCAD managers set up interviews and selected the student trainees they felt would best serve the needs of their workloads.

“The students will begin the two-year program at the WG-04 level,” Flores said. “In six months they can be promoted to the WG-06 level which is that of a helper and then upon graduation, successful job performers will be converted to permanent full-time career conditional employees and can be promoted to WG-08 upon completion of an associate degree program.”

Ruben Teran, who will receive his power plant technology certification and associate’s degree via SCEP, praised the program.

“It’s really a win-win situation,” Teran said. “You get to go to work at a great job and go to school. The training is incredible, especially when dealing with the T-700s (turbine engines used in Black Hawks, Hueys, etc.). I didn’t know anything about engines when I started, and now I’ve learned so much.”

Corps of engineers pursues new ways of saving money

Facility reduction program cuts cost of demolition

By DEBRA VALINE
For the Rocket

While removing a facility at Fort Rucker, two boilers were discovered to be in good serviceable condition. The plan had been to haul them away to the local landfill; however, the team knew Redstone Arsenal was looking to purchase new boilers of a similar size. A little coordination between the two installations resulted in having boilers from Fort Rucker transferred to Redstone Arsenal while providing significant savings to both installations.

This is one example of a best practice when conducting facility removal. Another recent example involves having unneeded playground equipment moved from one installation to another where a need for similar playground equipment existed.

The Facility Reduction Program at the Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center, has several methods for making the best decision at the best value. Program manager Harold Merschman and his team are available to help government employees and contractors alike determine the most efficient, least costly way to conduct business.

"There is a paradigm shift under way on taking down unneeded facilities," said David Shockley, a Huntsville Center project manager working for Merschman. "Most people take

down buildings with the same group of contractors they use to build or renovate them. Generally speaking, building contractors charge more to take down a building than contractors who demolish buildings for a living."

It's a matter of finding the right contractor for the job. It's called having a cost effective acquisition strategy.

"It isn't uncommon for contracts to be awarded for less than half of what was expected after we've been involved in their acquisition strategy."

— David Shockley
Huntsville Center

"When you tear down a structure and pull out concrete foundation, it leaves holes in the ground," Shockley said. "If you take the concrete and haul it away to the landfill, you then have to buy something to fill up the hole. We have encountered cases where contractors were paid to haul away concrete foundations and then paid again to bring it back as engineered backfill after it had been ground up — sometimes even from the same contractor. What a deal, they get paid to take our concrete, grind it up and then sell it back to us on the same project. We need contractors who have the machinery to grind our concrete on our site and put it back in our hole."

Another cost-saving method for removing large pieces of concrete involves finding a source

looking for large pieces of concrete and move the concrete to that source rather than to a landfill or grinding it up.

Shockley tells of another scenario involving lead-based paint and asbestos removal.

"There is a prevailing historical norm where a lot of people are trying to be conservative and do the right thing environmentally," Shockley said. "While I applaud their intent, many unnecessarily abate lead-based paint from structures to get them ready to tear down. They do it because they think it is required, but our research clearly indicates that abating lead-based paint for facility demolition is not required by state or federal regulation. If lead-based paint is abated from a structure when it isn't required, the cost is higher, and it's wrong to spend funds on things we don't have to have. When you grind the debris from a building and there's enough lead present, the waste material is classified as hazardous and must be disposed of appropriately. But it all depends on how much lead is there. There's a formula to determine how much lead will be there and tests are conducted to verify those amounts. There can be situations where choosing to abate lead-based paint prior to tearing a building down is more cost effective if the debris classification would change from hazardous to normal depending on disposal cost differences but that would be a rare event."

People also tend to use the same abatement contractors with

similar scopes of work to remove asbestos prior to tearing a building down that they would use prior to a renovation project. When you get ready to tear a building down, you don't necessarily use the same standards you would use to get it ready to make it into a child care center, Shockley said. For example, if a building had asbestos floor tile in it and you were renovating, the tile would probably have to be removed and bagged manually, but if you were tearing the structure down you would probably keep the floor foamed while the big machines destroy the whole structure. The government can save a lot of money by not abating asbestos with the wrong scope.

"We often get packages to review from installations that are looking for the right way to go about doing this business," Shockley said. "We review them and let them know how we would approach it. Because we see a lot of projects at a lot of installations and because we do this for a living we often see opportunities that an installation or even local Corps of Engineer District might not see. It isn't uncommon for contracts to be awarded for less than half of what was expected after we've been involved in their acquisition strategy."

Another way government employees and contractors can find the best way to perform a job is to use the Best Practices Toolbox which is hosted on Engineering Knowledge Online. Anyone with Army Knowledge Online can fully access this web site at:

<https://eko.usace.army.mil/frp-toolbox/index.cfm>.

The Best Practices Toolbox has three basic functions that can be very useful:

- It has an estimating capability that will give you what demolition should cost based on very little provided information. These estimates also identify the minimum landfill diversion quantities that should be attained as building demolition debris is put to cost effective use rather than be blindly hauled away. It makes the probability of getting a good price much better.

- The toolbox provides a list of best practices, such as how to deal with lead-based paint, asbestos and things deep in the ground, such as utilities and foundations. It identifies what the best practices are based on where you are.

- The toolbox also contains a technical library relating to facility removal. In addition to what the Huntsville team posts, electronic shelves exist in this library to allow the Engineering Research and Development Center's Corps of Engineer's Research Laboratory and the Army Environmental Center to be able to post documents directly into this online library at any time.

These are a few examples of how the government can work through facilities reduction issues. The team at the Huntsville Center is available to help.

"We have people here who can help others who are looking for facilities reduction solutions," Shockley said. "All they have to do is call us."



Courtesy photo

Old Glory

Egyptian Capt. Ahmed El-Houty looks at an historic American flag on display at Stone Mountain Park in Atlanta. The International Military Student Office took three international soldiers from Egypt, Korea and Jordan on a trip to Atlanta Nov. 19-20.

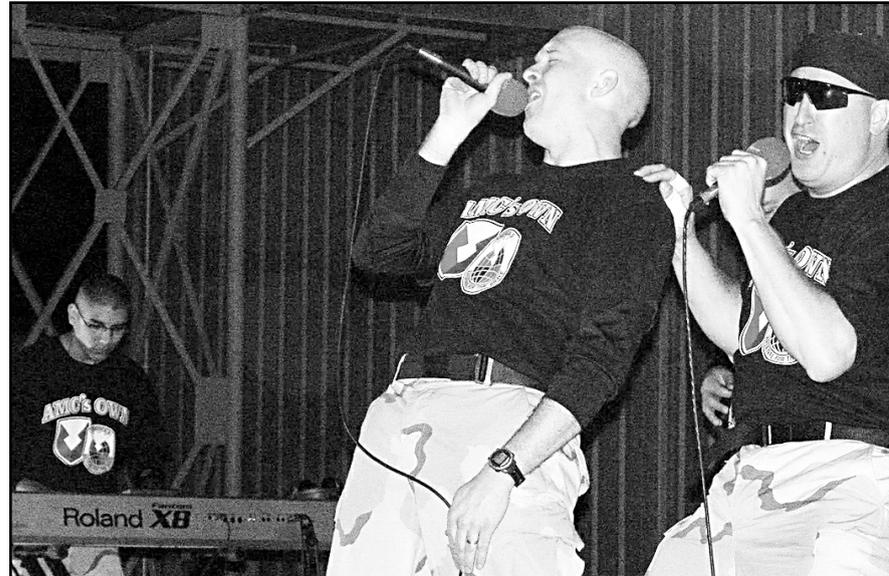


Photo by Chuck Sprague

Rock the house

A rock ensemble of the 389th Army Band, "AMC's Own," billed as "Raw Materiel," began an extended Southwest Asia tour of military sites at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 19. The 10-member group will perform at sites in Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq and Afghanistan through December. From left are Sgt. Gabriel Sanchez, Los Angeles, on keyboard; Staff Sgt. Eric Avant, Thomasville, N.C., and Sgt. Steven Lah, Hibbing, Minn., on vocals.

Hillclimbers go in search of 'H' in Pakistan

Landing zones marked
for earthquake relief

CHAKLALA, Pakistan — In addition to delivering relief supplies to remote Pakistan villages and towns, the mission of the 25th Infantry Division "Hillclimbers" includes evacuating casualties, and transporting displaced persons to camps where they will be better equipped to survive the harsh winter weather as it approaches.

Pilots leave Chaklala flight line at Quasim Airbase with a helicopter full of supplies and an approximate grid coordinate for their delivery destination from the Operations Center. Once in the air, they look for landing zones marked with a large, white letter "H." However, many of the landing zones marked with an "H" are not official and have been made by desperate people in desperate need of supplies.

Capt. Michael Sines, a pilot and the commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment, has flown relief missions almost every day since he



Photo by Spc. Mary Simms

RECOVERY MISSION— Soldiers unload relief supplies from a CH-47 Chinook of Company B, 2-14th Aviation, in Pakistan.

arrived in Pakistan.

"Being a pilot, up front, we don't really get a chance to be a part of everything that goes on when we land," Sines said. "It's the crewmembers who really get to get up close and personal with the people we're helping. It's still a great feeling you get at the end of the day, though, knowing what we're accomplishing over here."

Hillclimbers saving lives

Acting first sergeant for the Hillclimbers, Sgt. 1st Class

Steven Wyllie, wants to make sure all his Soldiers get a chance to experience every aspect of the mission.

"From the mechanics who work at night when the birds land — to make sure they can fly the next day — to the comms (communications) specialists who work all day at base camp, everyone plays a vital role here," he said. "I think people will get worn out if they stay at Quasim and don't get a chance to see the human side of

the mission here."

After being "on the ground" in Pakistan, one Soldier's words mirrored exactly what life was like for the pilots and crewmembers who were delivering relief supplies to victims of Pakistan's deadly Oct. 8 earthquake.

"Everything that you do over there, you're either saving someone's life, feeding children or making someone warm; that's the mindset you have to have," said the Combined Joint Task Force 76, Task Force Griffin, Command Sgt. Maj. Hector Marin as he spoke to a group of Soldiers from Hawaii, Kansas and Texas while they were staging in Bagram, Afghanistan.

5 tons of relief in 10 minutes

The 60-person team of Hillclimbers has become a part of the larger Task Force Quake, which is comprised of Soldiers from U.S. Army units in Hawaii, Kansas and Texas. Joining them are European Chinook counterparts from the British Army and the Royal Air Force hailing from Great Britain.

An amazing flurry of organ-

ized chaos takes place when the Hillclimbers come into view at each landing zone. For the most part, the American helicopters, which are marked by an American flag on either side, only land where there are Pakistani military soldiers already on the ground.

The "Pak Mil," as they are affectionately called by U.S. Soldiers, is playing a huge role in maintaining civil crowd control, so that approaching relief helicopters are not mobbed. As the crews and Pak Mil unload more than 10,000 pounds of relief supplies in less than 10 minutes, crowds of locals slowly emerge to watch with engrossed eyes. Tents, rice, sugar, blankets, and sometimes even baby food are unloaded.

One Pakistani man gave excited praise through his broken English for his family's rescue by the Hillclimbers.

"Thank you, thank you, America, yes, thank you," he said as he shook hands with American Soldiers. (*Army News Service*)

Soldiers have holiday feast at dining facility

Thanksgiving meal serves the homesick

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

It's 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving day; and the workers at the dining facility are putting the finishing touches on the traditional holiday feast for the Soldiers.

Just like home. Well, almost.

The consensus of the young troops lining up for the doors to open at 11 was: There's no place like home, but this helps.

Forty-five people were working two shifts on the holiday, according to Dan Tyree, project manager for K and K Food Services. This is how he spends every Thanksgiving.

"After 30 years, it's natural," he says. "I wouldn't know what to do being off on Thanksgiving."

At 10:30, the pace picks up inside the facility. "Let's get these steamships out and on line," Tyree says. The servings total 720 turkey, 240 steamship round, 240 cornish hen, 200 ham, 600 sweet potato, 600 dressing, 250 shrimp cocktail, and assorted pastry.

The doors open at 11. Military leaders in dress blues serve the troops at the serving line.

Pfc. Bill Bailey, 20, of Phoenix, Ariz., a member of Headquarters & Alpha Company, is among the diners Thursday. "I really can't afford to go home," he says, "so eating a big meal with a bunch of my friends I guess would be the next best thing."

Pvt. Jasen Milano, 24, of Galt, Calif., is accompanied by two fellow members of Charlie Company: Pvt. Joseph Carrero, 22, of Philadelphia, Pa., and Pvt. Jason Nufer, 18, of Albuquerque, N.M. "I'm glad they have it actually," he says of the Thanksgiving feast, "because if they didn't have anything I would be kind of upset. I'm thankful that they have it."

"Just like Milano, I'm thankful they've got it," Carrero says. "I'd rather be home, I guess that's what anybody here (would say). But Christmas vacation's coming soon, so I can't complain."

"I'd like to be with my family," Nufer says. "It is something we're getting fed, I'm thankful. It's not what I want but definitely better than nothing."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BIG ROUND— Holding one of the six steamship rounds are, from left, cooks JoAnn Lewis, Sarah Hardin and Pearline Smith.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SERVING LINE— From left Chaplain (Maj.) Jerzy "Father George" Rzasowski, Capt. Bobby Crocker and Master Sgt. Robert McNeely serve the troops.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CHOW TIME— Pvt. Andrew Howell, left, and Pvt. Bradley Hamilton, both of Bravo Company, eat their Thanksgiving meal.

Iraqi government takes control of base in Tikrit

TIKRIT, Iraq — The Iraqi government took control of Saddam Hussein's palace complex in Tikrit from U.S. coalition forces during a ceremony Nov. 22 which continued despite a dud round fired by terrorists.

Terrorists fired what officials called "unidentified explosive ordnance" that impacted about 300 yards from the ceremony. The projectile failed to explode, and no one was injured in the incident, officials said. The ceremony halted only briefly, they said, and was completed without further disruption.

This was the 25th coalition operating base turned over to the people of Iraq so far, officials said, adding that the Tikrit palace complex is the most significant. The complex is on more than 1,000 acres of land along the Tigris River. There are 136 buildings on the property, with a combined 1.5 million square feet of administrative and living space.

The palace complex has been used by three different U.S. Army units as a forward operating base since 2003.

"Now it is the property of the Iraqi people," said Hamad Hamood Shekti, governor of the Salah Ad Din Province. "Tourists will be allowed to see the palaces."

Col. Mark McKnight, commander of

1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, handed the "key to the palace" to Shekti during the ceremony, signifying the release of U.S. control.

"The passing of this facility is a simple ceremony that vividly demonstrates the continuing progress being made by the Iraqi government and their people," McKnight said. "Two years ago, coalition forces fought to rid this nation of an oppressive regime. Since that time, coalition forces... have resided on FOB Danger, working alongside Iraqis to protect the four provinces of north-central Iraq."

The province was and will stay "a symbol of national unity and brotherhood in Iraq," Shekti said.

"(Today), we celebrate the transfer of the presidential palaces to the patriotic Iraqi hands, signifying the many aspirations and goals of the great citizens of the Salah Ad Din province," Shekti said.

Shekti said he looks forward to Iraq's independence, when all multi-national forces are able to leave Iraq, and wants to prove the people of Iraq can manage their issues independently.

"These palaces are owned by not one person anymore," he said, "and no one will be prevented from entering them in the future, because now it is the property of the Iraqi people."

The palace complex was initially secured by the 4th Infantry Division in 2003 and designated as Camp Iron Horse during Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Saddam Hussein was captured near Camp Iron Horse in December 2003.

The base was redesignated FOB Danger once it came under the control of the 1st Infantry Division out of Wurzburg, Germany.

The 42nd Infantry Division, a National Guard unit based in New York, took over the FOB Feb. 14, and in July, began the process of returning the complex to the Iraqi people.

Many Iraqi officials attended the momentous event, including Lt. Gen. Shahid Aziz, commander of the 4th Iraqi Army; Rasheed Ahmad, chairman of the Salah Ad Din provincial council; and Judge Abd al Hussein Shandal, the minister of justice. U.S. Ambassador Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad and Gen. George Casey, commander of Multi-National Force - Iraq were also in attendance.

Editor's note: Information provided by Task Force Band of Brothers, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Public Affairs and a report by the American Forces Press Service.



Photo by Sgt. Dallas Walker

FLAG RAISING— Abdullah Hussein, deputy governor of Salah Ad Din Province, raises the Iraqi flag as his government took control of Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Nov. 22.

Acquisition executive visits Southwest Asia

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Claude Bolton, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, and his principal deputy, Dean Popps, completed an eight-day tour of Army Materiel Command logistics sites in Qatar, Iraq and Kuwait on Nov. 9, where they were briefed on repair and up-armor operations supporting the Soldier in theater.

They began their tours at the Army Field Support Battalion in Qatar where battle damaged Stryker combat vehicles are refurbished and returned to Iraq; and then flew to Balad Air Base, Iraq, to see vehicle repair operations.

The pair continued to Camp Victory where they met with ambassador David Satterfield, charge d' affaires, Iraq, and Gen. George Casey Jr., commander of the Multi National Forces. The dignitaries' last stop in Iraq was a brief visit to Mosul.

They concluded their Southwest Asia briefs with a visit to Camp Arifjan where Bolton and Popps were shown a forward repair activity, an aviation repair site and operations at a combat equipment repair battalion.

Brig. Gen. Raymond Mason, commander of the Army Materiel Command-Forward, conducted the tours at the Kuwait and Qatar sites, four of several forward repair centers AMC oversees in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Qatar.

Army and Navy civilians, Soldiers and contract civilians in theater have installed more than 24,000 armor kits and continue to repair and upgrade the theater tactical fleet with safety upgrades.

AMC has overall responsibility for all of the Army's pre-positioned equipment inventory and repair. (*Army Field Support Brigade, Southwest Asia release*)

Vietnam veteran gets overdue medal

One of the highlights of the DCMA Commanders' Conference in Nashville was the presentation of a long-overdue medal earned during the Vietnam War to Frank Barrientes, deputy commander of DCMA Huntsville.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott, director of Defense Contract Management Agency, pinned the Purple Heart on Barrientes during the conference awards banquet Oct. 26.

Barrientes received the medal for wounds he received in combat action Nov. 16, 1966 in the Republic of Vietnam. Then Spc. Barrientes was a crew chief and door gunner aboard an Army UH-1B helicopter gunship in the Mekong Delta region of South Vietnam. An administrative oversight precluded him from receiving the award at the time of his wounds. (*DCMA release*)

Munitions effort in Iraq refocuses as original mission wanes

By DEBRA VALINE

For the Rocket

For a little more than two years, Huntsville Center representatives and their contractor partners have diligently sorted tons of captured enemy munitions in Iraq. Their goal was to destroy the mountain of munitions stockpiled by Saddam Hussein that were deemed unusable and identify any remaining serviceable munitions for future transfer to the new Iraqi army.

With most of the demolition work completed, the scope of the Coalition Munitions Clearance program is changing and new missions have been added.

“Since we started the actual demolition work in September 2003, we, Huntsville Center, have destroyed 293,000 tons of munitions,” said Mike Stahl, chief of international programs. “We have another 26,000 tons secured. So altogether, we have destroyed or secured 319,000 tons. Another 92,000 tons have been destroyed or secured by the military. That’s 411,000 tons of munitions that were stockpiled by the previous regime.”

Munitions ranged from 155 artillery shells to air defense missiles. These conventional munitions include everything from small arms ammunition, grenades, mines, missiles, projectiles, mortars, rocket and rifle propelled grenades, bombs and small items such as fuses, flares and others.

Representatives from the Huntsville Center provide program direction, quality assurance and government oversight for

the cleanup and disposal effort in Iraq. The Huntsville Center is the Army’s Center of Expertise for ordnance and explosives cleanup.

Contractor team members included USA Environmental of Tampa, Fla.; Environmental Chemical Corporation; Parsons Corporation; and Explosives Ordnance Technologies Inc. of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

“Through the course of the program, we have done demolition work at seven depots and remote sites,” Stahl said. “Demolition work is complete everywhere except one depot. At this time, two depots will remain open and have been designated as legacy depots in support of the fielding of the new Iraqi army. All the other depots have been closed.”

“We have also picked up the mission to clear unexploded ordnance in numerous locations through the country,” Stahl said. Clearing UXO is an additional mission under the Coalition Munitions Clearance program.

Serviceable munitions are being transferred to the new Iraqi army.

“We have been funded outside the CMC program in support of fielding the new Iraqi army and will perform the transition of munitions from small arms to artillery shells that were determined serviceable and useable by the new Iraqi army,” Stahl said. “We picked up the mission to provide depot operations at the two legacy depots for approximately a year in support of the new Iraqi army, which is currently under way.”

Operation Christmas Bear honors Soldiers, families

Community event spreads cheer

By **JULIE FREDERICK**
For the Rocket

The North Alabama Veterans Coalition, in conjunction with the Association of the U.S. Army and Army Community Service, are bearing up for the second annual Operation Christmas Bear event.

The event is scheduled Dec. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cahaba Shrine Temple on Pulaski Pike and Winchester Road in Huntsville.

Local veteran and fraternal organizations, corporate sponsors and the community are coming together to help ensure that servicemembers, their spouses and children have a happy holiday season. All children who attend will be given a stuffed bear with a "My (Mom/Dad) is My Hero" nametag and a camouflage scarf. Bill Meiers, Veterans Coalition president, believes the bears are special reminders of



Photo by Julie Frederick

BEARING GIFTS— Military children will receive a 17-inch, cuddly reminder of the holiday season.

the community's support of servicemembers and their families.

"This one gift has a great meaning to the children who

receive them," he said, "as it shows the support of the community not only for their loved ones, but also for them as the children

of those who are serving this nation."

Retired Sgt. 1st Class David Carney, Operation Christmas Bear board member, wants to see many servicemembers and their families attend the party and take part in the festivities.

"Operation Christmas Bear is a Christmas party for the families of our deployed Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines," Carney said. "OCB brings Christmas cheer from the desert to North Alabama with Santa and Mrs. Claus, fun games and prizes, arts and crafts, and great munchies. We invite everyone with a deployed family member to be our guest for this special event."

Family members of military, in all branches of service, from the Huntsville area are invited. This year the event is also opening up to family members of DoD civilians who are deployed to combat zones.

Event activities will include a moon bounce, Army rock-climbing wall and Christmas bears for children. Food and drink will be

provided by AUSA. Entertainment will also include a working model steam engine train and English village, clowns, a magician, Mrs. Claus, and a petting zoo with live reindeer. Each child will have the opportunity to make a Christmas card for their special Soldier and have their picture taken with Santa.

Operation Christmas Bear is sponsored by the North Alabama Veterans Coalition, Alabama National Guard, Army Reserve, Army Community Service, Volunteer Center of Madison County, Army Space and Missile Defense Association, National Defense Industry Association, AUSA, Cahaba Shrine Temple, N&L Enterprises and many other organizations.

Admission is free. If you would like to attend, it is requested that you sign up via the Veterans Coalition web site, www.AlabamaVeteran.com/bear.html, or call Sue Paddock of ACS at 876-5397 so that an accurate number of Christmas bears are provided for children attending.

Headquarters & Alpha wins Commander's Cup

Gators apply experience to athletic advantage

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

Experience ruled this year in unit-level sports.

Headquarters & Alpha Company, which combined in June with the former Delta Company, has won the Commander's Cup for fiscal 2005. The unit has mostly instructors and senior NCOs.

"I feel great about it," said Ian Cutting, who plays flag football for the Gators. "It's a good thing for Headquarters & Alpha. We've got a lot of older people in our company so it's a good thing to get the morale up in our company. It's mostly instructors and senior NCOs and stuff so we're not the young, strapping privates anymore. So it's the experience that's helped us out."

Gators golfer Mark Verren had a simi-

lar view. "When it comes to golf, it takes a little bit of experience," he said. "So age prevails over youth."

Headquarters & Alpha won with 357.7 points followed by the Marines with 308.8 and Bravo with 304.3.

The Gators got 75 points for softball, 71.9 for volleyball, 60.7 for basketball, 59.4 for flag football, 46.9 for golf and 43.8 for the 5K run.

The Marines got 65.7 points apiece for softball and basketball, 61 for volleyball, 50 for golf, 40.7 for the 5K run and 25.7 for flag football.

Bravo garnered 71.9 points apiece for volleyball and softball, 68.8 for flag football, 50 for the 5K run, 41.7 for basketball and no points for golf.

Here are the final totals: Headquarters & Alpha (357.7), Marines (308.8), Bravo (304.3), Charlie (259.8), Delta (211.2 until June), 326th Chemical (198.9), MEDDAC (188.3), NCO Academy (140), HHC 59th (138.3) and AMCOM (68.1).

The trophy presentation was Nov. 22 at Pagano Gym.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

EAGLE EYE— Headquarters & Alpha golfer Mark Verren says experience helps in his sport.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

AIRBORNE— Brian Blystone of Headquarters & Alpha makes a jump set during the Gators' win over Bravo in the volleyball final in May at Pagano Gym.

Army favored to beat Navy

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

Skip's Picks were 519-198 for 72 percent 13 weeks into the college football season. Here are my predictions this week:

- Army at Navy — **Army**
- Louisiana Tech at Fresno State — **Fresno**
- UCLA at Southern California — **USC**
- San Diego State at Hawaii — **San Diego**
- Louisville at Connecticut — **Louisville**
- West Virginia at South Florida — **W.Va.**
- LSU vs. Georgia — **LSU**
- Texas vs. Colorado — **Texas**
- Virginia Tech vs. Florida State — **Va. Tech**





Sports & Recreation

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.

Bowling center

Five O'clock Charlie will perform at the Redstone Lanes Lounge on Friday night from 7:30-11:30. There will be no cover charge. This is open to the entire Redstone community. Tim Swearengin will be at the lounge on Dec. 9-10 from 7-11 p.m. For more information, call 876-6634.



Conferences & Meetings

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.

Enlisted spouses

Enlisted Spouses Club meets on the sec-

ond Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center. New members are always welcome. Child care reimbursement is available to members. For more information, call Jean Mulcahy 881-7024.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Brooks Kracke of the Jet Plex Industrial Park is scheduled speaker. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows are invited. For more information, call retired Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center on Airport Road. The Trinity Children will provide entertainment and Santa will make a special appearance. For tickets — \$10 members, \$11 non-members — see your organization representative or call Kim Jean 876-7208 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Computer users

Ron Schmitz of the Huntsville Personal Computer Users Group will speak at 10:45 a.m. Dec. 10 at the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Preceding Ron's presentation, Bill King will present a program

for the Internet/Windows Special Interest Group at 9:15. For more information, call 883-9601.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, 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 have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt. 1st Class Harold Cook 876-8710 or Chief Warrant Officer Robert Smith 955-9722.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-4 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. The shop is accepting winter clothing/items. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. "Join us Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10-2 for great bargains," a prepared release said. For more information and holiday hours, 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.

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

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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.

Quarterly retirement event

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All mili-

tary 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. Today is the deadline for signing up to participate.

Aviation scholarships

Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America is sponsoring 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 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.

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 lightweight 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.

Santa's visit

Santa Claus will arrive Dec. 17 at Redstone Arsenal, hosted by the Sergeants Major Association in association with the Vincent Fire Station and the Military Police. His visit will begin at the fire station that Saturday morning where he will be escorted by members of the Military Police, Fire Department and the association - and of course some of his elves. They depart Vincent Station at about 9:30 a.m. going to Columbia Centre housing area. They will continue to Voyager Village and Apollo Landing, on to Freedom Landing, Pathfinder Pointe, and then on to Endeavor Village, New Endeavor Village and Saturn Pointe. He will make a brief stop by the Redstone Lodging office and his final destination will be Challenger

Heights. For those children who live in those areas that are under construction, Santa will make every effort to reach you. Santa is looking forward to seeing all the children of Redstone Arsenal on his annual visit. Listen closely for the sirens and horns.

Weather closings

If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: radio - WAHR, 99.1 FM; WDRM, 102 FM; WEKR, 1240 AM; WEUP, 1600 AM; WGSV, 1270 AM; WJAB, 90.9 FM; WLRH, 89.3 FM; WRAB, 1380 AM; WRSA, 97 FM; WTKI, 1450 AM; WVNN, 770 AM; WWIC, 1050 AM; WZYP, 104.3 FM; television - WAAY (Channel 31), WAFF (Channel 48) and WHNT (Channel 19). Two additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures: You can call 955-8445 to hear a recorded announcement, or you can click the button for adverse weather alert/information on the Team Redstone Internet site (<http://www.redstone.army.mil>), click on links and then Adverse Weather, the AMCOM Portal Intranet site (<https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/>), click on Adverse Weather under Key Sites; or the AMCOM Internet site (<http://www.amcom.redstone.army.mil>), click on Adverse Weather.

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

New bulb

Don't try this at home. Dathan Morrell of Chugach changes a light bulb Friday outside AMCOM headquarters at the Sparkman Center.

Budgeting class

Army Community Service will sponsor a Financial Budgeting class Dec. 6 from 2-4 p.m. at building 3338, conference room. This class is open to all ID card holders. To reserve a seat, call Kathleen Riester 876-5397.

Redstone holiday party

The Team Redstone Holiday Party is Dec. 9 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The event will begin with a 6 p.m. social. Reservations can be made for \$28 per person. Ted Cannon's Music Machine will be on hand to DJ the event. For reservations or more information, call Sarah Brazzel 313-0546.

Newcomers' orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation on Dec 6 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

Nativity scene

First Church of the Nazarene, at the corner of Meridian Street and North Memorial Parkway, offers a drive-through live nativity Dec. 17-18 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This features nine scenes with live characters in costume and live camels, donkeys, sheep and goats.

Angel tree

Youth Services has an Angel Tree in the Post Exchange for dependent children of military and National Guard personnel. The stars on the tree will list the child's age, clothing size, shoe size and the name of a favorite toy. All gifts should be wrapped and the star attached to the outside of the gifts for correct distribution. Turn in the presents to the PX or the Youth Center, building 3148, by noon Dec. 16. For more information, call 955-8401.

Association party

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its annual Christmas Party on Thursday at the Officers and Civilians Club. Cocktails will be served at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. There will be a live swing band for after dinner dancing. Reservations are required. For more information, call Carrie Hightower 882-3992.

Toys for tots

The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program needs volunteers. Groups and organizations are especially welcome. All volunteers are expected to attend and complete orientation Dec. 5 or 6 from noon to 1 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. at the Intergraph Warehouse, 300 Dunlop Road, Huntsville. After crossing highway 565 on Wal-Triana in Madison, exit left on Dunlop Road. Seating is limited, so to reserve your seat, call Deborah Barros 837-3486, Karen Martin 468-6527 or the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center 213-9683.

Volunteer opportunities

There are many benefits to volunteering. One is to make a difference, and at Army Community Service you can do that by giving your time to help Soldiers, family members and retirees. But you can also help yourself by gaining skills, getting teamwork experience, boosting your self-confidence in the workplace, and having job experience to put in that otherwise blank spot on your resume. The hours and days are flexible and child care is free while you are volunteering. ACS has different programs that need assistants. No experience necessary. Call Phyllis 876-5397.

CFC contributions

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is still accepting pledges. "We know that our nation has been dealing with unprecedented natural disasters and we have been giving, giving and giving," a prepared release said. "Our contributions are still needed. Now more than ever our community, our nation, and our world still need our support. We have more than 52 CFC agencies that have provided direct support to our hurricane victims. These same agencies now need our help to replenish their resources. We don't want to wait until a disaster happens to react —

we want to ensure that resources are there when disasters do happen. As little as \$5 a pay period can mean meals for hungry children, relief for families in need of counseling, further work for cures for diseases, comfort for the dying, aid in time of disasters, and better lives and renewed hope for people in their time of need. If you have not filled out a pledge card yet, you still have time to do so. We can process payroll contributions through Dec. 15 and we can process cash/check contributions through the end of December. Contact your organization's financial chairperson and complete your pledge card and help make a difference today. CFC is not about making goals — CFC is about helping people. Together we can make a difference. 'CFC — Compassion in Action'; let's make our slogan a reality here in the Tennessee Valley." For more information, call the CFC Office 842-1037.

Tax assistance volunteers

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees, and their dependents prepare and file federal, state and local tax returns each year. Last year's center was a major success, with more than 3,000 returns prepared, resulting in over \$2 million in refunds. The center is accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2006 tax season. Scheduling will be flexible and volunteers are needed in both the tax preparation and front desk operations areas. No prior experience is necessary, because comprehensive training will be provided. This is an opportunity for the community to give back to servicemembers and their families. To volunteer or for more information, call Capt. Daniel Papajcik 876-9008 or Randy Duff 420-3223.

Circus tickets

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center/ITR Office has discount reserved-seating tickets available for the Redstone community to the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus, Dec. 7-11 at the Von Braun Center. Reserved box and lower mezzanine seating is \$16 per person and upper mezzanine reserved seating is \$10 per person. For more information or to purchase discount tickets, call the ITR Office 876-4531 or visit building 3711 on Patton Road.

Center party

The Integrated Materiel Management Center will have its annual Christmas Party on Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. at the old Huntsville Hilton, now Holiday Inn Select, in downtown Huntsville. All current employees, retirees, family and friends are invited. Entertainment, door prizes, and a traditional holiday buffet are planned. Tickets are \$15, \$16 after Nov.

28. For tickets call Jan Pickard 876-2569 or Lisa Thomas 876-4845.

Divisions' party

Supply Operations Division and Transportation Division will have a combined Christmas Party on Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. All current employees, retirees, family and friends are invited. Tickets are \$9, \$4.50 for children 11 and under; or \$10 and \$5 after Friday.

Fleet luncheon

Attention all military retirees (including National Guard retirees with enlisted sea service time in Coast Guard, Marine Corps or Navy), all current active duty enlisted, Reserve enlisted and honorable-discharge enlisted veterans of the Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy and their immediate family members. Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold a Christmas luncheon in Decatur at "Fire Mountain on the Beltline" at noon Saturday. For information and to RSVP today, call Gene Aittala (256) 773-6283 or Jim Sutton at 650-5748.

Holiday tour of homes

Plan to attend the Officer and Civilian Women's Club Holiday Tour of Homes on Thursday from 5-9 p.m. The tour will begin at Bicentennial Chapel on Goss Road, progress to the three new General Officer quarters on Cribbins Court and end at the festively decorated Officers and Civilians Club. Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased from the Officers and Civilians Club. You may also call Christa Devanney 881-0033 for tickets.

Appreciation days

Military Appreciation Days at Dillard's stores are today and Thursday.

Fall cleanup

Dec. 2-3 are fall cleanup days in family housing, according to the Garrison. A truck and crew will begin circulating through the housing areas at noon Friday to pick up trash, leaves and branches, etc. Residents are reminded that these items should be piled neatly along the curb. The Self-Help Center is to open at 8:30 a.m. and remain open until 5 p.m. for occupants to obtain supplies, equipment and tools.

New Year's Eve parties

The Officers and Civilians Club will have a New Year's Eve Party on Dec. 31, starting with a buffet dinner from 7-9 p.m. Ticket price is \$40 per person which includes dinner, entertainment, continental breakfast from 12-1 a.m., party favors, and champagne for toasting. An all inclusive on-post lodging package is also available.

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Rocket Announcements

This package includes your party ticket and lodging on Redstone Arsenal in cottages or deluxe hotel rooms, transportation to and from the New Year's Eve Gala, dinner, entertainment, continental breakfast from 12-1 a.m., party favors, and champagne for toasting. Cost is \$143.50 per couple. For tickets, call 830-CLUB. This event is open to the entire Redstone community.

Young apprentices

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are U.S. citizens and 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 5, 2006. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. Both programs are fast-paced and require disciplined professional work habits. Junior and senior scientists and engineers gain additional experience by serving as mentors for first time students, and providing guidance through interactive

research processes. The points of contact for applications are senior counselors at all public, private, and parochial high school and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at the Garrison include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for postmarking applications is Jan. 31. If the student is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the high school senior counselor or college placement service, call the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Julie Lumpkins 313-4834.

Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives include the following: Dec. 1 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Ground-based Midcourse Defense (5000 Bradford Drive) at building 5400; Dec. 2 from 7-12:30 at building 5400 and from 9-2:30 at the Post Exchange; Dec. 8 from 7-12:30 at the Sparkman Center; Dec. 9 from 8-12:30 at Army offices on Wynn Drive; Dec. 15 from 7-noon at building 6263; Dec. 16 from 7-noon at building 5681 and Corps of Engineers and from 8-1:30 at NASA building 4316; and Dec. 22 from 7-12:30 at SMDC building 5220.

Gift wrapping booth

The Enlisted Spouses Club hosts its annual fund-raiser Dec. 10-24 at the Post Exchange. Volunteers from several organizations will be on hand to wrap your gifts

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