

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 54 No. 49

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December 7, 2005

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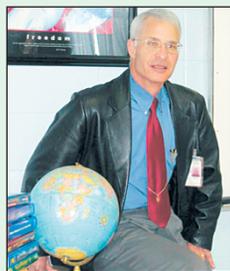
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Unit flag football playoffs wide open
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Small Business has big year

Redstone awards \$1.5B in contracts

By JULIE FREDERICK
For the Rocket

Fiscal 2005 was a stellar year for the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office. Through its efforts, the command and Acquisition Center awarded \$1.5 billion in contracts to small businesses for the largest amount ever given in a single year.

For the first time since 2001, the small business office has exceeded its goal for contract dollars given to small businesses in a fiscal year. Mit Merritt, chief of the small business office, credits the work by his staff.

“Our command and Redstone did well in fiscal ‘05,” he said. “We surpassed our target goal of 9.2 percent of all government contracts going to small businesses and hit 14 percent. The national goal was 23 percent, so we did well but we still have room to grow in 2006.”

The small business office, whose annual goals are set by Army Materiel Command, also exceeded four of its six metric goals for fiscal ‘05. The metric goals are broken down by the type of small businesses that the small business office is likely to target. The six metric zones include Small Business, Small Disadvantaged Business, Women Owned Small Business, Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business, Historically Underutilized Business Zones, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions.

The greatest advancement was made by the Small Business zone which exceeded its goal of 9.2 percent with 14.5 percent. The Small Disadvantaged Business zone exceeded its 2.7 percent goal with 3.84. The Women Owned zone surpassed its 0.7 percent goal with 1.54; and the Historically Black and Minority Institutions surpassed its 5 percent goal with 5.55.

“Our overarching goal is to undergird the economic industrial base,” Merritt said. “And



Photo by Julie Frederick

CHECKING NUMBERS— From left are Mit Merritt, chief of the Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office, management assistant Gerri Wherry and deputy chief Dave Seitz.

our numbers show that we are doing a good job at working toward that goal. In fiscal ‘05, statistics showed that in the previous two years we had contracted about 1,900 small businesses representing about 47 states. We have the full support of Maj. Gen. (Jim) Pillsbury and Dr. (Richard) Amos in contracting activities. It’s because

of these good working relationships that our numbers continue to grow.”

There are four Army groups represented by the \$1.5 billion in awarded contracts: Aviation and Missile Command, Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas, and Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa.

The small business office sponsors an outreach program for small businesses to have a networking opportunity. The goal of the outreach program is to inform small businesses of what AMCOM and the Army are looking to buy. Activities in the past year have included a small business conference every two weeks, industry fairs and card swaps. Networking events are planned for fiscal ‘06.

“We support, or advocate, large businesses with government contracts subcontracting small businesses,” Merritt said. “We view that as a way to help get them in the door. If they get a subcontracting job with an established larger contract company and provide quality work, then we believe they should be a stronger competitor for a contract of their own later.”

The office can be reached at 876-5441. Information about contracting with the government is available on its web site at <http://www.redstone.army.mil/sabdu/index.html>.

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Cost reduction programs top goals ... again

The Value Engineering program and Operations and Support Cost Reduction program have once again had an outstanding year in cost cutting initiatives, according to Dr. Richard Amos, deputy to the AMCOM commanding general.

Fiscal ‘05 VE efforts saved \$141 million, attaining 195 percent of the savings goal of \$72.5 million.

“These achievements are the results of personnel dedicated to improving our savings of current funding and the containment of future operations and support costs,” Amos said. This is the 20th year in a row that Team Redstone has surpassed its VE goal.

The following Team Redstone organizations received VE award plaques for achieving their savings goals: Research Development and Engineering Center, Apache Attack Helicopter Program Manager’s Office, Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office, Corpus Christi Army Depot (Texas), Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office, Integrated Materiel Management Center, Letterkenny Army Depot (Pa.), Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile

Systems Project Office, Robotic Systems Joint Project Office, Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Project Office, THAAD Project Office, and the Utility Helicopters Project Office. Value Engineering certificates were also presented to VE coordinators for their fiscal ‘05 accomplishments.

Fiscal ‘05 was another good year for the AMCOM SMA-OSCR program. Five projects were funded with a total initial investment of \$5.3 million. Field savings for these projects are estimated to exceed \$58.9 million over the next 10 years. Some 96 projects have been funded in the SMA-OSCR program since fiscal 1996. This includes \$46 million invested in redesign funds with 10-year projected field savings of \$1.1 billion.

The following Team Redstone organizations received OSCR award plaques for their fiscal ‘05 accomplishments: Research Development and Engineering Center, Apache Attack Helicopter Program Manager’s Office, Scout Attack Product Office, and the Utility Helicopters Project Office. Operating and Support Cost Reduction certificates were also presented to key OSCR personnel for their accomplishments.

An open lane random survey

What is the solution to school violence?

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

Bill Dye
retiree

"It should start at home. Parents need to teach their kids moral values. They need to know them when they start school. The teachers have too many kids to try and do it for them. Teachers have 20 or 30 students while parents only have one or two at home."



Juan Rosa
visitor

"They need more cops and more law around."



Debbie Ward
retiree spouse

"It goes back to the parents and how they raise their kids. It also has a lot to do with what parents are willing to accept out of their kids. A lot of parents accept or make excuses for their kids' behavior. Some expect the teachers to raise their children."



Richard Parsons
retiree

"They need metal detectors at school so they can't bring in knives and guns. It just makes sense."



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.

Greyhound's new best friend

I wanted to say "Thank you!" (to staff writer Kari Hawkins) for writing the article about greyhounds in the Nov. 16 *Redstone Rocket*. Because of that article, my husband and I are the proud parents of an incredibly sweet 2-year-old greyhound named Deuce, adopted from

Greyhound Retired Racers. Just wanted to let you know that your article made a huge difference in at least one dog's life.

Megan Burton
computer scientist

Security assistance mentor remembered

On Nov. 26, a veteran member of Army security assistance departed this earth. Henry Joseph "Nick" Valadez belonged to the core of the Security Assistance Management Directorate; he played an early role in its birth, guiding it into maturity. Nick was a piper who piloted MICOM foreign military sales into the Middle East with Hawk and Patriot; planting seeds of international business that continue to blossom in our community to this day. My association with Nick lasted but a few years; but I knew him as a man with a zest for life and a love of adventure. I am honored to have known him at all. There are others with a longer and deeper association than mine, but none more appreciative.

Nick had those dual qualities so sel-

dom seen in today's civilian leaders; dynamism and excitement, but at the same time understanding how to inspire performance. Nick seemed too humble and easy going to believe that he made a difference; but many still on Redstone today owe their careers to this man, the undersigned included. Nick was a mentor to me and countless other struggling civil servants.

To his family, my deepest sympathy and regret; I just hope the Creator has a place for Nick to sit and enjoy a good glass of red wine. Where he can laugh with his son and smile that big round boyish smile, 'cause God knows, no one's perfect. And God knows there was something special about Nick.

Christopher Chavez

Fill 'er up with explanation

I have a question concerning the gas sold in the Post Exchange gas station: Does the gas meet Top Tier Gasoline program standards?

The EPA set minimum standards for gasoline additives which prevent the buildup of deposits in automobile engines. In the mid 1990s the EPA reduced the standards required and as a result the major automobile companies began to see an increase in the number of fuel related problems. GM, Toyota, Honda and several other auto manufacturers joined several of the oil companies (Shell, Conoco, Chevron, Phillips and others) to establish the Top Tier Gasoline program. This program requires that all grades of gas sold under that brand meet a higher level of deposit control that the EPA-mandated levels.

I have seen the non-descript tanker trucks delivering gas to the post station, so you can't tell what company is selling the gas to AAFES. I've asked the drivers

about the additives and they didn't really know. It is true that all gas in Northern Alabama comes out of the same tank farm in Birmingham, but the difference is in the additives that are put into the tanker truck as it is filled and prior to delivery at the gas station. Are we getting the generic, EPA-minimum gas when we fill up at the AAFES station? Or does AAFES require that the gas meet a higher standard and does it meet the standards set by the Top Tier Gasoline program? If not, AAFES should consider using its nationwide buying power to require a higher level of deposit fighting detergent be added to the fuel sold to its customers.

While on the topic of the gas station, it seems that most of the time when I fill up, the printer on the pump does not work for one reason or another. That really slows down the refueling of the

See **Gas** on page 7

Veterans need employment, too

I am deeply concerned about the federal government jobs at Redstone Arsenal. It is appalling how hard it is for a veteran with 10 point preference to get a federal government job at Redstone. The majority of the job announcements that are announced at ww.cpol.army.mil are for internal candidate (Army employees), leaving out the rest of us who don't work for the Department of Defense.

I don't understand how a veteran with over 20-something years of Army experience, a four-year college degree and a 10 point preference cannot get a federal government job. Every job that I have applied for continues to come back with "You were not referred for this position" — even for GS-7 jobs that allow the applicant to substitute the experience with education.

I have even sent an e-mail to Answer-Inquiry on the www.cpol.army.mil web site and sometimes do not get a response.

What happened to intern jobs and opportunities to help a veteran enter into the civilian job sector? I have not seen any intern jobs that veterans can apply for.

I understand that there is a hiring system in place that is supposed to be there to guard the fairness of the hiring; however, it only works up to certain degree. It works to the point where CPOL selects the most qualified candidates and sends the list of names to the department that has the opening to make the selection. From that point the department makes the selection for the job, hopefully based on the best qualified and not on "who you know."

With Redstone Arsenal gaining the new command, I can only hope for an opportunity to continue serving my country.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "Team Redstone commands and activities have always been very strong supporters of providing jobs to disabled veterans and other veterans/prior military

See **Veterans** on page 7

Redstone Rocket

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Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

Nov. 25: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 25: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 26: An individual was found to be in possession of cocaine and a weapon during an inspection at Gate 10. He was issued a DD Form 1805 and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 26: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a DD Form 1805 and placed in the detention cell until his blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.

Nov. 26: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 26: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under

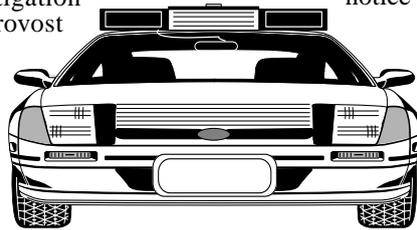
the influence of alcohol during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a DD Form 1805 and placed in the detention cell until his blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.

Nov. 28: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 8. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 29: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

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

Violation notices issued: 9 speeding, 3 driving with a suspended/revoked license, 2 expired tags, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 no proof of insurance, 1 expired driver's license, 2 driving under the influence of alcohol.



Quote of the week

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Name: Demetria Cruz

Job: Equal employment opportunity specialist, AMCOM

Where do you call home?
Huntsville

What do you like about your job?

I like learning about the different cultures.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Just relaxing and being with friends and family.

What are your goals?

My ultimate goal is to own my own business.

What's your favorite football team?

I don't even watch football. Let's see, let's say Grambling.



Office serves as one stop shop for vacationers

Leisure travel coordinator welcomes more business

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

Huntsville native Grace Bennett was amazed when she started working at Redstone last year. She didn't realize there were so many services here for people.

"It's like its own little city," she said.

Now, as the leisure travel coordinator for Morale Welfare and Recreation, she wants more people to take advantage of their opportunities at Redstone.

She works in the Information, Tickets and Tours/Information, Tickets and Recreation office at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711 on Patton Road. She arrived at the center in April 2004. That October she succeeded Joe Ruffner, who retired, as leisure travel coordinator.

"I think it provides a great service," she said of the leisure travel service. "We can work one-on-one with people to specially tailor their vacations."

Bennett can also get discounts for people. Besides doing reservations, she can

make arrangements such as concierge service, transfers to and from airports and for special occasions like anniversaries or honeymoons. She tries to get the best value for her customers.

"So it's like one stop to get everything you need for your vacation," Bennett said. "One stop shopping for all your vacation needs."

But if airline tickets are all you want, you'll have to go elsewhere.

"A lot of times people will come in and just want airline tickets. I don't book individuals directly with airlines," Bennett said. "I can book them in conjunction with the cruises or vacation packages."

The entire Redstone community is invited to use the leisure travel service. There's no charge involved; the office's commission comes from the cruise line.

"I work in conjunction with the (center's) ticket office. So a lot of times when I book a hotel, we can offer discount tickets to attractions. And that's open to all of Redstone as well," Bennett said.

She books Disney resort vacations, works in conjunction with all the major cruise lines and makes hotel reservations. These include the Hale Koa military resort in Hawaii and the Army's Shades of Green resort on Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Australian vacation packages can be viewed at an MWR web site which started in August 2004 at www.ittaustralia.com.

"I just did one (an Australian vacation package) for a couple in October. They went for about 15 days. I e-mailed her to see how it went," Bennett said. "And they loved it. And now they're ready to start looking at New Zealand."

Before arriving at Redstone, she worked at Michaels Arts and Crafts for nine years as department manager for framing. She still does framing at the arts and crafts shop on post. Bennett, 33, is to finish her bachelor's degree in studio arts, with an art history minor, in mid-December at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Her two sons are Noah, 7, and Benjamin, 12.

"Disney World is offering discounts on their value resorts for select dates through Feb. 15th," she said. "That's for military and DoD civilians, starting at \$62 per night - depending on where they want to stay."

Her office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and by appointment Wednesday and Saturday. She can be reached at 313-0090 or at grace.bennett@us.army.mil.

"I would love for it to expand," Bennett



Photo by Skip Vaughn

VACATION PLANNER— Grace Bennett, leisure travel coordinator, describes vacation options for a customer in her office at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

said. "I'd love to maybe expand our hours and have more people come onboard. I'd love to see where we're booking three or four cruises every day, three or four vacation packages every day."

Enlisted spouses wrap up holiday shopping

Annual fund-raiser benefits community

By KELLEY LANE
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

Turning a Christmas list into a pile of perfect presents can be one of the most enjoyable, and most stressful, parts of the holiday season. While they won't do your shopping for you, the members of the Enlisted Spouses Club are happy to help cross one item off your list.

They will be happy to do the wrapping for you during their annual fundraiser at the Commissary and Post Exchange.

Beginning this Saturday, club members and volunteers will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the proposed Express Pharmacy location within the Commissary and Post Exchange complex to

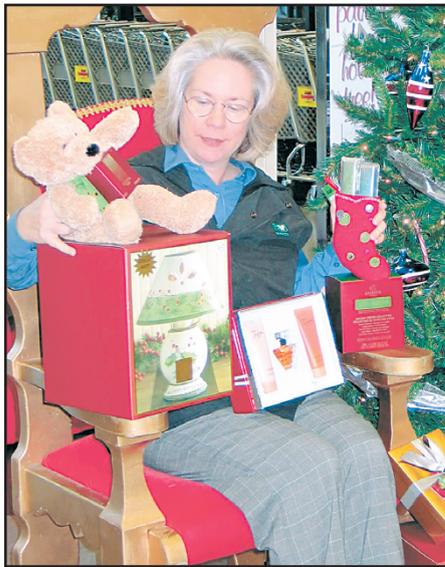


Photo by Kelley Lane

THAT'S A WRAP— Enlisted Spouses Club member Jean Mulcahy gets in the Christmas spirit at the Post Exchange before the wrapping fund-raiser begins.

turn packages into presents. The charge ranges from \$1.50 for jewelry size boxes to \$6 for large items. Extra large or oversize

items will also be wrapped, but the fee will be determined at that time.

"Those big screen TVs can get a little tricky," Jean Mulcahy, gift wrap committee chairperson, said laughing.

Although they are located adjacent to the Commissary and PX, Mulcahy said prospective gift-wrap patrons should feel free to bring in gifts from outside retailers as well. She added that anyone who can access the installation is welcome, not just those with PX privileges.

To add to the convenience, patrons will have the option of leaving packages there to continue their shopping or grab a bite to eat while they are being wrapped. They can return later in the day to a feat of seasonal magic for the holiday shopper. Their gifts will be wrapped and ready for them. It's a way for shoppers to save some time and hassle while helping the community.

"It's a lot of fun," Mulcahy said. "It serves two purposes. We help people save some time and donate to a good cause."

The event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Enlisted Spouses Club, which averages about \$4,000 from the gift-wrapping project. With an all-volunteer crew and supplies being donated by the Post Exchange, the proceeds go to its charity budget. Money from Christmas gift-wrapping makes up half of the group's \$8,000 in donations every year to community projects such as Army Emergency Relief, the Rescue Mission and Christmas Charities.

"It's our major annual fundraiser. We take all of our proceeds and put them right back into the community in the form of cash donations and Space Camp scholarships," Mulcahy said. "We're a small group, so we're very fortunate that several other organizations are combining efforts with us. We're getting a coordinated effort this year with the Officer and Civilian Women's Club, Army Community Service, the Thrift Shop and the Volunteer Center."

Kim Sumpter, acting store manager, said the Post Exchange is

happy to be a part of the event, which will last until 4 p.m. Dec. 24.

"It's always a joy to work with the Enlisted Spouses Club," she said. "We love having them with us for the holidays. It's a great partnership for the community."

In addition to giving back to the community, the PX's involvement relieves a strain on its holiday staff.

"It's kind of helping the PX as well," Mulcahy said. "They supply the gift wrap and the boxes. We supply the labor, bows, tape and accessories. They don't have to pay for a gift-wrap booth and we can raise money to help good causes. It's a good combination."

Besides patronizing the wrapping station, those who wish to lend a hand can volunteer to do a little wrapping themselves.

"Volunteers can work as little as one or two hours on any shift," Mulcahy said. "We especially need people in the daytime."

For more information on volunteering at the gift wrap fundraiser, call Mulcahy at 881-7034.

■ Record-breaking year for small business contracting

Business

continued from page 1

Government contracting offices for small businesses were formed as a direct

result of the Small Business Act of 1958. The goal of the act was to, among other things, preserve “free competitive enterprise” in government contracting and strengthen the overall national economy through small business ventures into government contracting.

■ PX fuel up to standard

Gas

continued from page 2

vehicles when the customer must wait in line at the window to get the credit card receipt for their gas. What is AAFES doing to improve the reliability or the paper replacement on the printers?

John Wigington

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "This is the information concerning the gas that the AAFES One Stop has delivered from Motiva in Birmingham. We receive Shell unbranded gas. Additives are injected into the tanker at the delivery point which meets all federal regulations. In order to get the Top Tier Gasoline that

you are referencing, the fuel must be purchased at a Branded Station (e.g.: Shell, Conoco, Chevron, Phillips and others) that are included in the Top Tier Gasoline program.

"At the present, we have one printer that is down. A part has been ordered and should be in this week. Printers are checked three times daily. The most common reason printers malfunction is that the previous customer pulls the receipt paper out of the machine, before allowing the auto cutting mechanism to complete. The next customer will encounter a paper jam each time this occurs. This causes a jam in the printer. When a customer informs us that they did not receive a receipt, an associate immediately goes out and checks the printer for a paper jam. It is then fixed for the next customer."

■ Competition high for Redstone jobs

Veterans

continued from page 2

members. Team Redstone employs more than 2,000 veterans/prior military and nearly 700 disabled veterans which is about three times their percentage rate in the civilian labor force. Jobs being announced through www.cpol.army.mil are merit promotion announcements open primarily to current Army civilian employees (includes Army civilian employees who are veterans), although some are also open to other veterans and other applicants. Team Redstone jobs being announced through www.usajobs.opm.gov are Delegated Examining Unit announcements which are open to all U.S. citizens. Disabled veterans and other eligible veterans are afforded veterans preference under these DEU announcements. A list of Team Redstone announcements with their areas of consideration can be found in the weekly Redstone Rocket newspaper and also at <https://cpac.redstone.army.mil/>.

"Team Redstone is a preferred employer in the North Alabama area. We

receive large numbers of applications to include many veterans for nearly every job that is announced. For merit promotion announcements only the top 25 (plus ties) best qualified applicants are referred, and for DEU announcement the number referred is often much smaller. Therefore, applicants are competing with a large number of others for referral and selection. Once a Team Redstone supervisor receives a list, a selection matrix is used to document the merit based reasons for making the selection. The movement of new commands to Team Redstone over the next 2-6 years may increase the number of employment opportunities, but competition for these positions will likely remain at a very high level. Army Community Service and the Redstone CPAC offer bimonthly training sessions for military members, family members and prior military. Session topics include types of announcements, hiring programs, application procedures and Resumix tips. Interested persons can call Debra Jefferson, ACS employment readiness program manager, 876-5397, to request a reservation."

Recreation staffers reap rewards for work

Division earns awards regionally, Armywide

By KIM HENRY
Staff writer
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Employees of several branches within Morale Welfare and Recreation received a pat on the back for their hard work through the year. The branches, part of the recreation division of MWR, were recognized at the Army Leadership Training in San Antonio on Oct. 17.

The library won best program for a medium sized installation at both the regional level and at the Department of Army level. It received a trophy and a check for \$500.

Along with the library, the Overall Recreation Program, Outdoor Recreation Program, the Diane Campbell Recreation Center and the Sports and Fitness Program all won best in their category for a medium sized installation within the Southeast Region of the Installation Management Agency. All these activities received trophies.

Mike Chemsak, chief of the recreation division, accepted the awards at the ceremony in San Antonio on behalf of his staff.

"I was very proud," he said. "People work hard; all my activity managers and the employees are



Photo by Kim Henry

DUE DATE— Retired Col. Anthony Stermer checks out a book from the post library. From left Martha Piskulic, library technician, and Gail Alden, library director, are happy to assist.

hard workers. They are dedicated to their job and to the people of Redstone Arsenal and to the military. I think they justly deserve the awards for the time and hard work they put in."

Each branch within the recreation division completed an application for the competition. Chemsak said this was the division's second year to enter. The branches were judged on several categories

including significant improvements, programming, community project, specialized staff training, recognition and the publicity program.

Chemsak said it is important to apply for recognition for two reasons. "First, your staff works hard and when they get this award not only does it recognize the program,

See **Awards** on page 17

Toy drive gets tune-up

Racing champ, stores support Marine effort

UPS Store locations across the country, including the Post Exchange store, have teamed with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and NASCAR champion Dale Jarrett to bring smiles to the faces of children nationwide.

From now through Dec. 23, the stores are offering customers the opportunity to purchase Toys for Tots donation cards for \$1 each, with all proceeds supporting the local Toys for Tots efforts. The stores are also selling a limited-edition replica of the Dale Jarrett No. 88, UPS Store/Toys for Tots race car for \$9.95, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Toys for Tots.

The UPS Store is raising money for Toys for Tots because, with many Marines deployed around the world, it's logistically easier for Toys for Tots to reach more children by purchasing toys at deep discounts through partner companies.

In addition to racing a

specially designed No. 88, UPS Store/Toys for Tots car, Jarrett is serving as honorary spokesman for the campaign.

"A dollar doesn't seem like much these days," he said. "But when you think of all the love and joy it could help deliver, it suddenly feels like a million."

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit public charity, is the authorized fund-raising and support organization for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The foundation provides the funding and support needed for successful annual toy collection and distribution campaigns. The foundation is located at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. Local Marine Corps Reserve units and volunteer organizations collect and distribute toys in nearly 500 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

The UPS Store network expects to raise more than \$1 million for Toys for Tots. (UPS Store release)

Quality of Life issues collected by survey

Members of the Redstone community are invited to share their concerns about quality of life.

Army Community Service has provided a Quality of Life survey for the Redstone Arsenal Army Family Action Plan Conference, Feb. 28 to March 1.

“This is your opportunity to make suggestions or express concerns about programs, services or benefits affecting you and your family,” a prepared release said. “Suggestions will be discussed at the Redstone Army Family Action Plan Conference.”

Consider what could be improved in the following areas: Medical and Dental Services, Army and Air Force Exchange

Service, Commissary, Military or Civilian Pay, Allowances, Entitlements, Relocation, Housing, Traffic, Travel, Transportation, Education, Child Care, and Morale Welfare and Recreation.

Please type or write legibly when answering the following:

How would you improve the Army's programs, services or benefits? Be specific and recommend solutions. Give brief examples. Issues can be anything affecting the Quality of Life at Redstone or impacting the total Army family. Issues must have attainable solutions. Personal complaints will not be addressed. Comments may be contained on a separate sheet; one issue per page.

Please include the following in the event ACS needs clarification: (Optional)

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Send your completed survey to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation, Army Community Service, IMSE-RED-MWA, building 3338, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000 or fax to 955-9171. Surveys for the AFAP Conference will be accepted until Jan. 25.

If you would like to participate as a conference delegate, please contact your organization's AFAP point of contact or Larry Leggett at 842-8375, fax 955-9171 or larry.leggett@redstone.army.mil or visit www.redstonemwr.com to register online and complete this Quality of Life survey.

Conference registration form

Redstone Arsenal's Army Family Action Plan Conference is Feb. 28 to March 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club.
Here's the registration form:

DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974; AUTHORITY: 5 USC 301, 10 USC 3013, PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Identification of participants in the Army Family Action Plan Conference. **ROUTINE USES:** Used to record the names and addresses of attendees at the Army Family Action Plan Conference. Used to contact participants. **DISCLOSURE:** Disclosure is voluntary. If the requested information is not provided, registration for the conference may not be possible.

1. FIRST NAME: _____ MI: _____

LAST NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: (Line 1) _____

or OFFICE SYMBOL (Line 2) _____

CITY _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Do you require Daycare: _____

If So, Ages of Children: _____

You must register at the Child Development Center to use their facility.

COMPLETE ALL THAT APPLY:

2. YOUR MILITARY AFFILIATION?
(If not applicable, go to item 3.)

a. Are you a:
Soldier or Retiree
Spouse of Soldier or Retiree

b. Are you or is your sponsor:
Active-duty
Reserve
National Guard
Retired

c. Rank: _____
d. Job Title: _____

4. YOUR MARITAL STATUS?
Single Married Widow/Widower
Other

6. YOUR CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION?

Delegate Admin support
Facilitator Issue Support
Recorder Youth Delegate
Subject Matter Expert

3. YOUR DA CIVILIAN AFFILIATION?
(If Active Duty Military go to item 4.)

a. Are you a:
DA Civilian Employee
Spouse of DA Civilian

b. Are you or is your sponsor:
APF (GS, WG)
NAF (NF)

c. Series/Grade: _____
d. Job Title: _____

5. YOUR FAMILY TYPE?
Dual-Military Sole-parent Traditional

7. HAVE YOU EVER PARTICIPATED IN AN AFAP CONFERENCE?

WHERE / WHEN?
Installation level; what year(s)? _____
MACOM level; what year(s)? _____
DA Level; what year(s)? _____
Never participated at any level

8. YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST (pick 3 and indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice):

____ Medical/Dental _____ Commissary/AAFES _____ Youth

____ Family Housing/Facilities Maintenance _____ Employment (Civilian)

____ Traffic/Transportation/Personnel/Finance _____ Morale, Welfare and Recreation Activities

Please return this form to your organization's AFAP point of contact or send to: Larry Leggett, IMSE-RED-MWA, Bldg 3338, Redeye Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35758-5000 or fax to 955-9171 or e-mail: larry.leggett@redstone.army.mil or visit www.redstonemwr.com to register and submit a Quality of Life survey.

Commissary displays creativity

Grand prize winner again in Procter & Gamble contest

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Three straight winning years for the Commissary, and counting.

The Commissary has again won a grand prize in Procter & Gamble's annual display contest for Special Olympics. This includes stores worldwide in the Defense Commissary Agency.

"This is our third year that we've won grand prize so that's a very good thing. It really is," Katrina Coleman, a local retail sales merchandiser for Procter & Gamble, said.

Judging was based on the display's creativity, participation from the Special Olympic chapter and the store's sales index.

The Commissary ranked third in sales during the promotional period with a 126.7 index "which for this size store is unheard of," Coleman said. "Our goal is to index at 130 this year."

Dec. 29 is the kickoff for the Commissary's fourth year in the competition; and coupons are handed out in the store during the promotional period.

Procter & Gamble donates \$85,000 yearly to Special Olympics. For each purchase of a Procter & Gamble product, 25 cents is donated to the local Special Olympic chapter.

The theme this year is to recognize Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics.

"Thanks to the wonderful support here in our Redstone community, I know we'll have our fourth grand prize celebration," Coleman said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CEREMONIAL CAKE— Celebrating the Commissary's third consecutive win in Procter & Gamble's annual display contest for Special Olympics are, from left, P&G retail sales merchandiser Katrina Coleman, store manager James Strobe, store director Sandra Edinger and Special Olympic parent coordinator Sandra Patrick.

Team Redstone celebrates Native American heritage

Participant urges state to protect burial sites

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

The Native American flute music filling the auditorium at the Richard C. Shelby Missile and Space Intelligence Center was a gift of appreciation for a special group – the Soldiers who are today’s heroes on the battlefield.

In a Team Redstone celebration Nov. 30 recognizing the contributions of Native Americans, the performers and speakers – who were either of Cherokee or Kiowa descent – not only shared their culture with those in attendance, but also expressed their appreciation to the U.S. military through their music, dance and words of gratitude.

“Today, I dance for the military, those who are with us today and those who have gone on before us. They are our warriors in life. They are our protectors,” said Arturo “Spirit Warrior” Adrian, an Oklahoma-born Kiowa Indian who now lives in Hanceville and is president of the Native American Brotherhood.

“The Men’s Traditional Dance tells two stories, and it is up to you to decide the story. This is a dance we did before the

hunt or battle ... I dedicate this dance to the military.”

As the chants and drums began, Adrian took on the stance of a warrior, his feathers and beaded necklaces making him look fierce. He slowly moved in a series of intricate footwork around the auditorium’s stage, sometimes crouching as though in search of game or the enemy, other times raising his dancing staff in victory over killing his prey.

“We wouldn’t raise our staff in killing a warrior because we really didn’t do that,” Adrian explained as he told the audience about the customs of the Kiowa. “We never fought our enemy unless it was necessary or provoked. If we could run up to our enemy, touch them with our staff and run away alive, that showed our bravery.”

Adrian was joined by Cherokee flutist Jimmy “Yellow Horse” Webster and Cherokee native dancers Lee “Wind Dancer” Lawrence, his wife Charlotte and his son Mason in expressing gratitude to the military during the Native American Heritage Month Celebration. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Strengthening the Spirit of Our Nation.” The Team Redstone American Indian Program Council sponsored the celebration.

Adrian has spoken to many community and legislative



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SONGS OF SADNESS AND HOPE— Flutist Jimmy “Yellow Horse” Webster, who is of Cherokee descent and who is a song keeper in the Cherokee Nation, shared his flute music with those who attended the Native American Heritage Month Celebration. Among the selections he performed were pieces called “Journey” and “The Tears of My Heart.” Webster wore his long hair loose and unbraided, a sign of mourning in the Cherokee Nation. Webster is in mourning for his wife, who died two years ago.

groups throughout Alabama and the Southeast about his concerns over the desecration of Indian burial grounds and sacred sites. The Native American Brotherhood was established by Adrian in 2002 to bring people together in efforts to preserve burial grounds and sacred sites. Today, the group has more than 2,000 members.

He told his audience that Alabama state law is not strong enough to stop the destruction of these sites.

“The state needs to give state tribes the opportunity to step in and save ancestral burial grounds and sacred sites,” he said. “It is no easy task. More and more are destroyed each day in the name of progress. When they are gone forever, our children will never know they existed.”

NAB is working for a new Alabama law giving state tribes the power to appoint a committee to oversee any digging on federal, state or private land where remains have been found. The law would require this committee to be contacted when remains are discovered and then give the committee oversight in the process of removal, collection and reburial of the remains.

“Our goal is not to stop



Photo by Kari Hawkins

DANCING THE HUNT— Arturo “Spirit Warrior” Adrian expresses his feelings about Native American culture through a Men’s Traditional Dance, also known as the Warrior’s Dance. The dance was often performed in a ritual prior to a hunt for game or battle with an enemy.

progress of any type of building,” Adrian said. “We just want to work together to save the sites. We need to be given the chance to move the remains of our ancestors to protected burial sites.”

Currently, federal law does protect against the destruction of remains found on federal lands. But there is no law protecting remains found on private property, allowing landowners to do as they wish with remains or other ancestral items found on their property.

Adrian believes if the new law is passed, the process of removing remains would be quicker. Now, the federal government involves archeologists and historians in a procedure of removal that can be quite lengthy due to the paperwork involved. Under the new law, the committee would have complete control over the remains.

See **Heritage** on page 13



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SHOWING OFF BEADWORK— Jeff Hughes, the director of education at Burritt on the Mountain, demonstrates loom weaving with beads. There are three types of Indian bead weaving – loom weaving, hand beading and applique beading, which has been done on the moccasins. Loom weaving is used to make square and rectangular shapes. Hughes is a Native American, descending from the Menomonee tribe.

Contest winners announced

As part of Team Redstone’s annual observance of Native American Heritage Month, both an essay writing contest and a static display contest were conducted.

The winners of the essay writing contest were: first place, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Terrell of Utility Heli-

copters Project Office; and second, Brandi Wheeler of Tyronek Fabrication Corporation.

The winners of the static display contest were: first place, Bravo Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion; second, Missile Systems Training Department; and third, NCO Academy.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

We are family

From left Mabel McGhee, Yolanda Jung, Lula Rochelle and Pamela Holmes sing Sister Sledge's hit "We Are Family" during the combined Christmas party Thursday for the Supply Operations Division and Distribution & Transportation Division, Integrated Materiel Management Center, at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

■ Native Americans honor heritage, today's military

Heritage

continued from page 12

If Native Americans come together to fight for the law, Adrian believes they will be unstoppable.

In everything we do as a people, he said, "we draw our strength from not only our hearts but from the hearts of our brothers and sisters who share our heart. Each culture has its own beliefs. But we have all been given hearts, minds and convictions so we can have compassion for each other. That brings us together."

People from different cultures can accomplish anything if they stand together as one, he said. To become one voice, means first accepting one another despite differences. Instead of "planting the seed of hatred, bigotry and mistrust," people should grow in their compassion,

understanding and desire to do the right thing.

"We can learn from each other, but we also need to learn from ourselves," Adrian said. "If we look at who we are as individuals, then we get a clearer picture of what we can become as a group."

Instead of allowing atrocities such as the destruction of burial grounds to occur, people should come together to do what is right.

"A warrior is never afraid to die for what he believes in," Adrian said.

Adrian is often asked how much Indian ancestry is needed for someone to claim they are Native American.

"What you have in your heart tells me how much Native American you have in you," he said. "If you believe in your heart that you are full-blooded Native American, then you are full-blooded Native American. If you feel it in your heart, then you are."

Commanding presence in middle school classroom

Retired sergeant teaches by example

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

In the midst of helping a toy Soldier with a costume adjustment, donning the garb of a Revolutionary War Soldier or coordinating the schedule for a performing group, retired Army Sgt. Gary Leopold is, first and foremost, a teacher.

And when working as a social studies teacher at an arts magnet school like the Academy for Academics and Arts, the job can evolve into a unique combination of teaching history and making history. Whether assisting with one of the school's many theatrical productions, keeping order in the halls with his booming voice or bringing history alive for middle school students, Leopold exemplifies one of the best the Army has to offer in the classroom.

"Being in the Army was all about learning how to teach," Leopold says. "The Army gave

me all kinds of teaching opportunities. The Army sent me to West Point for six weeks to take a military history course. I taught ROTC classes at the college level and, as an intelligence officer, if a class on counterintelligence needed to be taught, I taught it."

After 20 years in the Army's Military Intelligence Corps, a military stint that was almost obligatory in a multi-generation military family with a proud heritage of serving the country, Leopold took on a job he dreamed about since he was a little boy – teaching history.

"I've always loved history, since I was a little boy of 5 or 6," the 54-year-old says.

"I remember my dad and uncle taking me to a veteran's tombstone. The grave marker was that of my four times great-grandfather who fought in the Revolutionary War. When I teach the Declaration of Independence, I dress up as my grandfather and teach the class as if I was my grandfather."

When Leopold, a native of Ohio, was dreaming of being a teacher, he never dreamed teaching would find him in Huntsville

or that he would be teaching students in those mixed up and challenging middle school years. But his search for a teaching job started at his last tour of duty – at Redstone Arsenal where he commanded a unit that provided intelligence and security support to defense contractors throughout the Southeast – and ended 11 years ago at the academy.

"At first the only interviews I got were because I had prior military experience, and they would be at some juvenile detention center in South Alabama or somewhere. That was not for me," recalls Leopold, who graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Cincinnati with a bachelor's degree with highest honors and a master's degree in American history. He received his teaching certificate from the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

An opening at the academy led him to the possibility of teaching history at the middle school level, and it became a perfect fit for a man who knows how to command respect and order in the classroom.

"Middle school kids are neat," Leopold says. "One minute they want to be trusted as adults and the next minute they are a lot like a little kid. Middle school is the last chance – the best chance – to teach them how to study, how to do research and other learning techniques that will carry them through high school and college."

Leopold, a Vietnam era veteran, wears his uniform to school on military holidays and for special events, such as the academy's recent Veterans Day concert.

"The kids need to see a uniform every once in a while as a reminder," he says.

Although students often don't know how to react to the stern-faced (but softhearted) Leopold when they first enter his classroom, he admits it is easy for him to get their attention and respect.

"When I teach geography, I can speak from my own experiences living in Europe for eight years," he says. "I have a lot of life experiences and the kids respect the fact that I've been around. You've got to love kids to be a teacher and you've got to really like teaching. In a lot of ways, it is very similar to the Army. As a teacher, you lead by example, and you have to be careful of the kind of example you give your students."

Since 9/11 and the subsequent Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom,

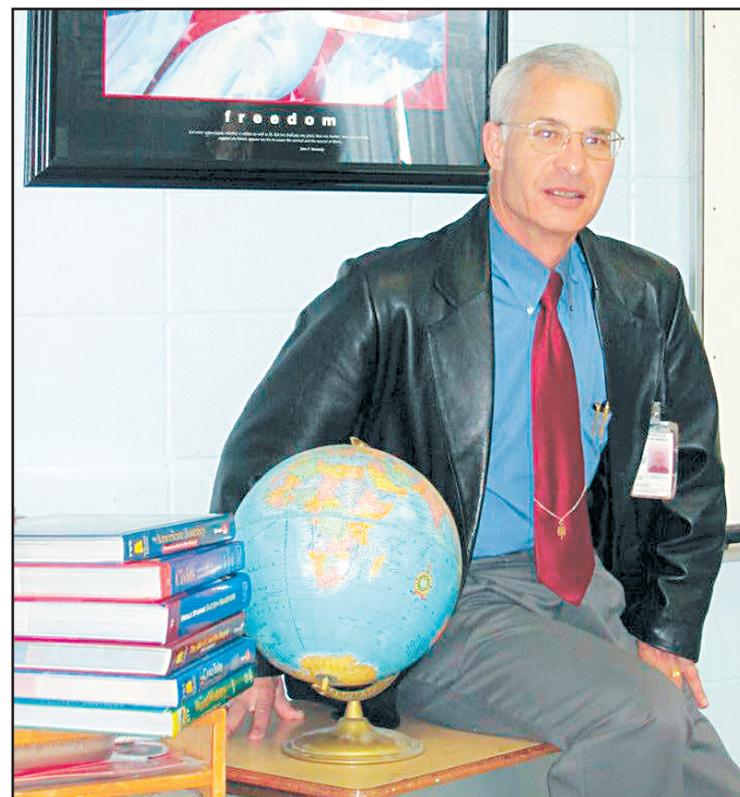


Photo by Kari Hawkins

WORLD OF HISTORY— Retired Sgt. Gary Leopold leans heavily on his tools of the trade – a world globe, history books and history videos – as well as his life experiences to teach history and geography to middle school students at the Academy for Academics and Arts.

Leopold says he has seen more patriotism among the middle school students he teaches.

"They have a lot of questions and they don't understand a lot of things," he says. "As a teacher, I can use those questions to teach them. As a history teacher, I can teach them where we've come from – good or bad."

At times, students will ask him about his military experience. Some will ask him because they, too, are interested in pursuing a career in the military.

"They need to understand the commitment involved with being a Soldier," he says. "The unit and mission come first and that can sometimes be hard to do when you have a family. The Army – as well as being a teacher – is not a job, it's a calling. There are a lot of rewards, but there are a lot of sacrifices, too."

Leopold is often considered the "heavy" in a teaching team of four middle school teachers at the academy. The school is unique in that the foursome teach about 50 students at each grade level, which gives them a chance to get to know the students and to work closely with each other to create a winning educational environment.

"It expands me a lot as a

teacher. This environment helps me a lot. All of us, in one way or another, are involved in the arts," says Leopold, who sings and plays the organ as well as coordinates the school's Stars and Clowns performing group and its Academic Team.

"At an arts school, you can see all aspects of your students. If academics aren't their thing, they will find themselves in the arts. God even outs the talent pool one way or another. We get to see aspects in our students that teachers at other schools may not get to see."

In his classroom, Leopold has lined the shelves with history books and videos. He uses maps to explain different parts of the world to his students. On his walls, hang the U.S. flag as well as military flags that are dear to him. Under his classroom clock, he has strategically posted a sign that reads "Freedom Isn't Free."

"I figure if they don't see anything else in this classroom, they will see that sign as they stare at the clock," Leopold says with a smile. "Hopefully, they will leave my class knowing they need to contribute" to make their society a better place to live.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Points of light

Children participate in the holiday tree lighting service Nov. 30 in front of Bicentennial Chapel.

Multifunction fire control radar under development

The Medium Extended Air Defense System U.S. National Product Office, as a part of the tri-national (U.S., Germany, and Italy) MEADS program, has initiated the Design and Development effort for the MEADS Multifunction Fire Control Radar.

The U.S. MEADS NPO is the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, Lower Tier Project Office's organization charged with monitoring U.S. involvement with the NATO MEADS Management Agency and the MEADS program.

Steve Pearce, NPO technical lead for fire control radar development, recently participated in the successful completion of the risk reduction program that produced a prototype radar unit, which led to the signing of the full-scale design and development contract in May. Besides representing the overall U.S. interests in the

Special agents recruit applicants

The Army Criminal Investigation Command, responsible for investigating felony-level crime of Army interest, is headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va. The Redstone Arsenal Criminal Investigation Division is screening and recruiting prospective applicants.

CID applicants must meet strict qualification standards. The minimum qualifications for a Soldier to become a special agent are to be 21 years old; have at least two years of military service and not more than 10; have a general technical score of at least 110; meet the Army physical fitness standards; and be on active duty with a rank of specialist or higher.

Applicants should also have two years or equivalent of college; six months military police or one year of civilian police experience or no police experience, but able to successfully complete a six-month internship with a CID unit.

After a demanding 15-week training course at the Army Military Police School, special agents spend their first year as apprentice agents and must agree to a service obligation upon completion of the CID Special Agent Course. Applicants are not accredited until successfully completing the apprenticeship.

Those interested should call special agent Patrick Jones 876-9682, special agent Felix Santiago at 876-2037 or visit building 3623.



Courtesy photo

Specialist of year

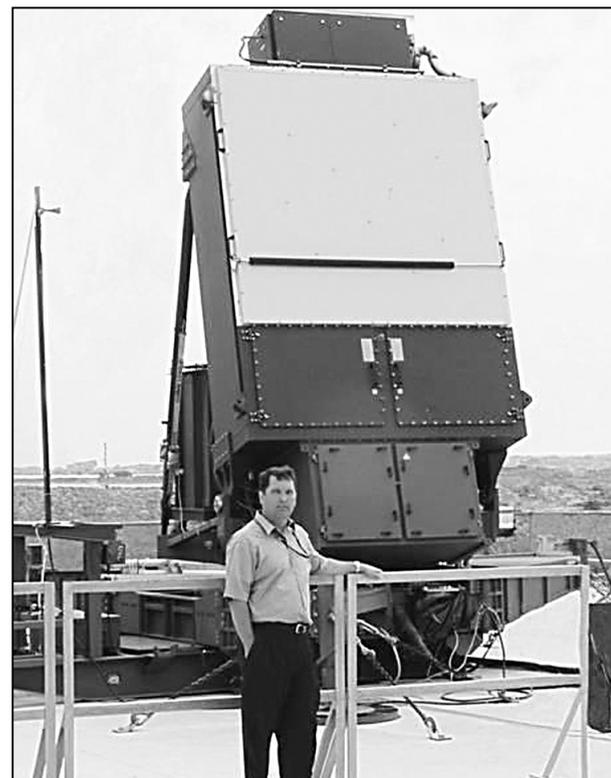
Mary Birdsong, a small business specialist from the Aviation and Missile Command, receives the fiscal 2004 Department of Army Small Business Specialist of the Year award from Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Benjamin Griffin. Looking on are AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury and his deputy Dr. Richard Amos.

radar development program, Pearce and his NPO team are developing the exciter for integration into the radar beginning in 2008. Product manager for the MEADS U.S. NPO is Lt. Col. Michael Steves.

MEADS is a highly mobile theater missile defense system developed to provide forward-deployed forces with protection against cruise missiles, short-range ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles.

The typical MEADS battery uses three radars: a UHF surveillance radar and two X-band multifunction fire control radars. The fire control radar is C-130 transportable, and provides 360-degree coverage against all targets in the MEADS threat set. It performs target acquisition, track, and classification, discrimination and identification functions, and also provides a tactical, in-flight data link to the PAC-3 missile, which has been chosen as the interceptor for the MEADS system. The fire control radars can operate in a rotating 360-degree mode or a staring (sectored) mode, and the two in a battery can operate in tandem in a coordinated, complementary rotating mode for added battlefield flexibility. The radar uses an active antenna array, with more than 10,000 solid-state transmitting elements.

The NATO MEADS Management Agency in Huntsville provides overall management for the development of the tri-national MEADS program. The prime contractor for the MEADS system is MEADS International of Orlando, Fla., and is an international joint venture between Lockheed Martin and euroMEADS which is in turn a joint venture between European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company/ Lenkflugkorpersysteme GmbH (EADS/LFK) (Munich, Germany) and MBDA-Italia (Rome, Italy). The primary integration site for the multifunction fire control radar will be Rome. (Lower Tier Project Office release)



Courtesy photo

PROTOTYPE— Steve Pearce, technical lead for fire control radar development, stands with the prototype radar at the risk reduction effort final demonstration in May 2004 at the Italian Air Force base outside Rome.

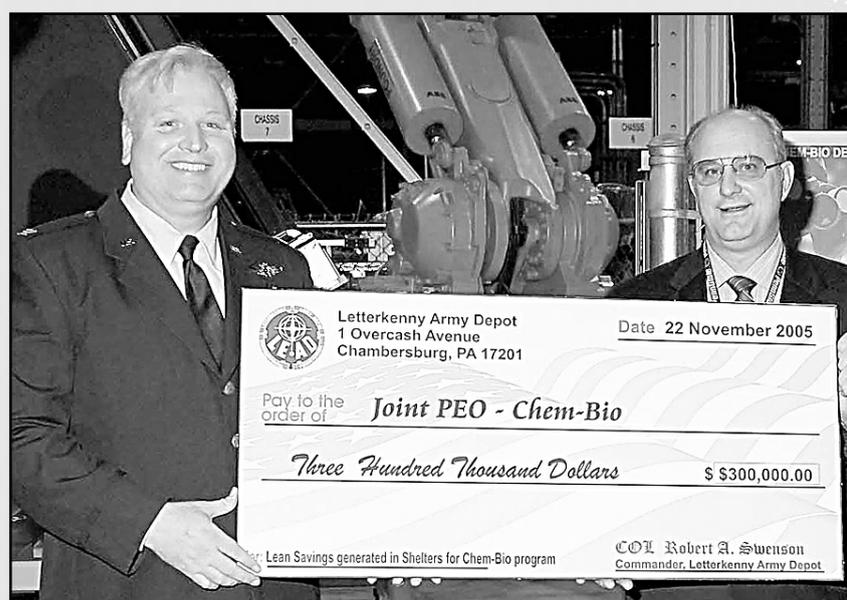
Letterkenny depot generates \$300K in savings

Savings returned to project manager

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — Savings realized by Letterkenny Army Depot through the application of Lean principles on the Biological Detection Shelter program were returned during a ceremony Nov. 22 at Letterkenny Army Depot.

Letterkenny deputy commander Dr. John Gray presented a ceremonial check for \$300,000 to Air Force Col. Daniel Berry, joint project manager for biological defense. The joint project manager, located at the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is a component of the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense.

Letterkenny Army Depot and the Joint Project Manager of Biological Defense have been working together to support homeland defense through the Biological Detection Shelter program. Letterkenny has employed Lean concepts throughout the shelter assembly process and has also installed a robotic arm to precision drill holes in these shelters. Initially, nine employees produced seven and a half shelters monthly, now five are producing eight and a half. These improvements generated the \$300,000 returned to the project manager. These shelters are integrated and mounted on Humvees at Edgewood.



Courtesy photo

MONEY BACK— Air Force Col. Daniel Berry, joint project manager for biological defense, accepts a ceremonial check from Dr. John Gray, Letterkenny deputy commander.

"I applaud the outstanding work by Team Letterkenny," Berry said. "I just returned from Korea and the Soldiers in the field who use our equipment want me to pass along their sincere thanks. Edgewood is pleased and impressed with the shelters returning from LEAD. They are returned ahead of schedule and under cost. Dollars saved in this program will be turned right back to you in additional work."

Lean manufacturing is a strategy geared toward identifying and eliminating waste in a process. Lean manufacturing techniques produce lower costs, higher quality and shorter lead times, thereby saving money. (Letterkenny Army Depot release)

Awards

continued from page 8

but it recognizes the effort of the employees. So I think it is important. This is a way to reward the employees even though it's not an individual award, but by an activity getting an award it says something about the quality, the determination and the type of program that the staff provides," he said. "The second thing, it is like tooting your own horn so to speak. It's a little bit like marketing your own program to let other people know that they have a good program here at Redstone and people should be proud of it and participate in it."

Those who already use the various recreation facilities know that they are deserving. Mary Compton of Program Executive Office for Aviation uses the library often. "It has one of the best selections of books. Everyone in here is great. When you need a book, they will find it for you," she said.

The library goes beyond books. It has computers with Internet access available for use; many military students and post youth find it useful for studying. There is a new Children's section complete with bin shelving so that kids can see the covers of the books instead of the spines.

Library director Gail Alden said the DVD and audio books are popular. "One of the hottest items is the Sopranos," she said. They also have other television series such as Sex and the City, Lost and Six Feet Under.

"I want to emphasize that this library is for the whole Redstone community – military, civilian, contractors," Alden said. "We invite folks to stop in for an audio book to help with their commute, a best-seller for fun and relaxation, a DVD movie for the kids or an evening's entertainment, books and databases to help with school assignments. If we don't have it we'll try to get it."

Many programs, activities and facilities are under the other branches that received



Photo by Kim Henry

READY TO READ— Karla Judy, a library volunteer and customer, searches for a children's book to check out. The new book bins are an improvement that the library noted in its award application.

awards at the regional level. Outdoor Recreation consists of the hunting and fishing program, equipment rental program, vehicle storage and will soon operate a mini storage. They also manage the post swimming pools, the saddle activity and three recreation areas on post: Col. Carroll Hudson, Easter Posey and Vincent Drive.

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center is mainly for Soldiers and military families. The facility has pool tables, ping pong tables, televisions, computer games and musical instruments. The facility also has the Information Travel Reservation program open to both military and civilians. It offers discount tickets for travel and attractions including cruises, amusement parks and museums.

The Sports and Fitness Branch operates four fitness facilities on post: Sparkman Fitness Center, Wellness Center, Pagano Gym and Redstone Fitness Center. It is in charge of the health promotion program and oversees four tennis courts and six athletic fields. It also organizes the unit-level sports competition for the Commander's Cup.

Chemsak credits the hard work of all the recreation division staff members for earning the awards. "You did a job well done and you deserve it."

Engineering center furnishes homes for Katrina victims

Soldiers in Louisiana receive help at home

By KIM GILLESPIE
Huntsville Center Public Affairs
Office

"This is a great example of the Army family rising to the challenge and taking care of its own," said Ken Pierson, chief of staff, Southwest Region, Installation Management Agency. The challenge was to provide furnished housing to Soldiers from the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Combat Brigade Team returning after more than a year in Iraq.

The Soldiers returned shortly after Hurricane Katrina's devastating destruction in early September to find their homes, and in many cases the businesses that had employed them, gone. Soldiers were given the opportunity to continue on active duty for another year, with housing available at Fort Polk.

"These families showed up with the clothes on their backs and ... we were able to provide them shelter, furniture and everything needed to get them back on their feet," said Fort Polk Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky L. Jones. The Fort Polk team also provided linens, kitchen



Photo courtesy of Fort Polk

LIVING ROOM— Capt. Jarvis Darensburg, with the 4010th USAH of the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Combat Brigade Team, his wife Earline and daughter Lauren Jimerson, were displaced by Hurricane Katrina and are now staying in Fort Polk Family Housing in Army-furnished homes. The furniture contract was awarded by Huntsville Center's Barracks Furniture team in less than two weeks prior to the fiscal year-end. The 256th Soldiers and their families were enjoying their newly furnished homes by the end of October.

wares and other everyday items.

"The devastation they suffered as a result of the hurricanes served as an opportunity for us to show how much we appreciate the courage and resolve they have shown during the challenges of long deployments, family separations and frequent relocations," Jones said.

Pierson arrived as an advocate and adviser for the installation. The garrison's priority was supporting the Soldiers of the

256th and finding them suitable housing if they needed it. Pierson said a number of options were considered, such as purchasing mobile homes, but it was ultimately decided to use the family housing at Fort Polk. The problem with this solution was that Army family housing does not come furnished, and many of these families had lost everything.

"It was at that point that a very nice woman named Debbie Reynolds stepped in," Pierson said. Reynolds is chief of the Family Housing Branch, Headquarters Department of the Army, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. Reynolds said she realized they were struggling with the situation because they initially requested furniture for 256 families, and a furniture contract would be awarded before the end of the fiscal year, which was only two weeks away. "I knew if anyone could do it, Huntsville Center was the place," Reynolds said.

Reynolds contacted Alicia Allen of Huntsville Center's Barracks Furniture program in mid-September and asked if Huntsville Center could take on the challenge.

"The original furniture request was for 256 families, so we had to do market research for this large quantity," Allen said. "We were limited to GSA (General Services Administration) furniture because of the compressed time schedule. We started with UPH (Unaccompanied Personnel Housing) approved vendors, and were lucky enough to have multiple vendors who indicated they could at least provide a partial solution, and potentially the entire solution."

Shortly before the contract was awarded at the end of September, the number of houses requiring furniture was modified

from 256 to 100, reflecting commitments received from Soldiers following a 30-day leave where they assessed their personal situations.

Another challenge faced the contract vendor, Rodco Brandt, as they prepared to install the furniture. The houses were scattered throughout the installation, so it would take more time for delivery. "But Rodco Brandt never complained once," Allen said.

Instead, every house was fully furnished by Oct. 27. A contract was also awarded for furnishings for the unit's single soldiers who chose to stay at Fort Polk.

"Every family that moved into the housing had expressions of gratitude for the Army," Pierson said.

"I've heard that many of the families had tears in their eyes when they walked into their new homes," Reynolds said.

Both Pierson and Reynolds were effusive in their praise of Rodco Brandt and Huntsville Center.

Reynolds gave special credit to J.C. Menig, deputy assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, and to William Campbell, deputy assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management. "Without their support, nothing would have been possible," Reynolds said.

While it's hard to make a happy ending even happier, significant cost savings resulted from the use of Huntsville Center's furniture program.

"We fully furnished five rooms, and in some homes, six rooms, for a little more than \$5,000 each," Allen said.

"We literally saved hundreds of thousands of dollars below the GSA published prices," Reynolds added.

And the value to the Soldiers and their families – priceless.

Portable shelter gives room for tactical operations

Prototype Integration helps in design effort

Medium Extended Air Defense System National Product Office has teamed with the Research Development and Engineering Center's Prototype Integration Facility to design and integrate nine prototype Height Reducible Electronics Enclosure to be mounted on 10-ton tactical vehicles.

The HREE shelter will serve as the Tactical Operations Center at both the battery and battalion level.

This effort is to introduce MEADS capabilities into existing Patriot units earlier than would occur under the baseline MEADS program. The HREE shelter will house three to four workstations and will be mounted on the same prime mover as the other MEADS major end items.

"The MEADS HREE will be transportable by rail, air, marine and highway when mounted or dismounted from its vehicle," Tommy Cobb, chief of the logistics development division for the Lower Tier Project Office, said. "The HREE will be transported by C-130 aircraft without the need to dismount the unit from its prime mover. This capability is made possible by lowering the enclosure top and halving the height of the shelter. This is the first time a shelter of this size will be C-130 transportable without

removing it from its prime mover. We are very excited about this capability."

Prototype Integration Facility and its prime contractor JVYS awarded a subcontract Aug. 24 to General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products division. These parties will perform a collaborative design effort with fabrication slated for General Dynamics' Marion, Va., facility. General Dynamics is a leading producer of light-weight shelter systems for military applications. The first prototype is scheduled to be completed in October 2006.

"We are very excited to be part of the MEADS HREE project," Carl Hottel, project lead at the Prototype Integration Facility, said. "Not only will the shelter be height reducible, but we have very stringent environmental, operational and reliability requirements."

MEADS is a highly mobile theater missile defense system developed to provide forward-deployed forces with protection against cruise missiles, short-range ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles.

The Prototype Integration Facility provides rapid product solutions through the use of rapid acquisition, engineering, development, prototyping, fabrication, integration and fielding of war fighting and other federal and homeland defense capabilities. (Research Development and Engineering Center release)

Book recounts early space program

Ed Buckbee, a NASA Public Affairs alumnus and founder of U.S. Space Camp, has teamed with former astronaut Wally Schirra in telling the story of the early space flyers, the Mercury Seven.

Their book, released in May by Apogee Space books, is titled "The REAL Space Cowboys."

In 1959, seven U.S. military fighter pilots were selected to train as America's first astronauts. Alan Shepard, Gordon Cooper, Gus Grissom, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Schirra and Deke Slayton accepted the country's call to service and would become known as the Mercury Seven. These men, who had jockeyed for the best flying jobs in the military, began competing for rides on rockets. Most would eventually vie for the ultimate ride to the moon. This was the dream — a chance to ascend to the top of the pyramid — a lion-hearted pilot's deepest desire.

Buckbee, who has enjoyed a 40-plus-year association with the U.S. manned space flight program, follows these brave men who pio-



neered the U.S. space program. Through time and personal friendships, he captures their dreams of flying higher, faster and farther than anyone in the known universe. They are "The REAL Space Cowboys."

Buckbee will appear 1-3 p.m. Saturday at Books-A-Million on Airport Road and 1-4 p.m. Dec. 17 at Books-A-Million in Madison.

Jordanian military student has memorable stay

Jordanian air force Capt. Shadi Khashashneh did more than study about radar the past few months.

Thanks to the International Military Student Office, he visited tourist attractions in the Tennessee Valley area.

"It was a great opportunity for me to see all the beautiful interests and interact with the people," said Khashashneh, who attended the Radar Repairer

Course from Sept. 12 through Dec. 9.

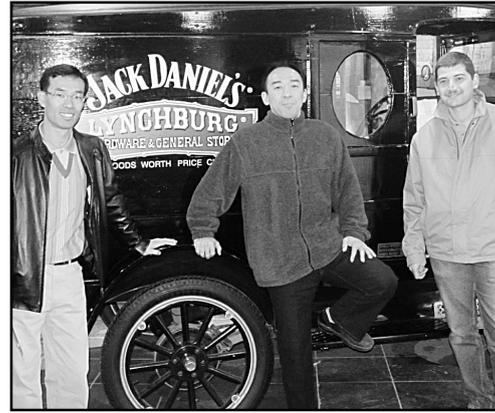
Cathedral Caverns was the most memorable place he visited. "I liked the beautiful formations created by nature," he said.

The 31-year-old married officer was assigned to Headquarters & Alpha Company.

"I spent a very pleasant time at Redstone," he said. "The people were very nice and the community is friendly."



Courtesy photo
Capt. Shadi Khashashneh



Courtesy photo

LYNCHBURG LIMO— The International Military Student Office took three international students to Lynchburg, Tenn., on Nov. 25. From left Korean Maj. Young Jong Lee, Japan's Taijiro Nakai and Jordanian Capt. Shadi Khashashneh pose in front of an old delivery truck on display at Jack Daniel's Distillery.



Courtesy photo

FIELD TRIP— Huntsville resident Stan Johns, center, gives a personal tour of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center to Egyptian Capt. Ahmed El-Houty, left, and Jordanian Capt. Shadi Khashashneh.

Unit-level flag football playoffs under way

Eight teams hope for title

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

Any given Monday or Tuesday or Thursday could bring a different winner in unit-level flag football.

That's how competitive it was in the regular season. And the postseason tournament could bring some surprises, too.

The playoffs were scheduled to open Dec. 5 and continue to the final Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at the field off Patton Road.

Here are the final standings for the season: Eastern Conference — MEDDAC (8-2), Charlie Company (6-4), HHC 59th (4-6), Marines (2-8); Western Conference — Headquarters & Alpha (8-2), NCO Academy (8-2), 326th Chemical (2-8) and Bravo (2-8).

On Nov. 29, the last night of the season, Headquarters & Alpha won by forfeit over NCO Academy, 326th Chemical won by forfeit over Bravo and MEDDAC beat HHC 59th 22-0.

The players were looking forward to the double-elimination test.

"Our defense has got to pull together a little better and we've got to take care of

all the necessary things like taking care of the quarterback on passes," HHC 59th center/middle linebacker Michael McGilton said near season's end. "But we've got as good a chance as anybody going into the playoffs."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CENTER FOCUS— MEDDAC offensive/defensive lineman Rick Clark prepares for the postseason tournament.

"We'll be good," said Chelsie Stokes, Charlie Company middle linebacker and defensive coach. "We'll be pretty good. We've got a good chance of winning it."

"This is my fourth year now and this is the best team we've had so far," MEDDAC coach/linebacker Johnny Davis said. "We've got a lot of guys playing with a lot of heart, putting everything they've got into this. We want this championship."

The former Delta Company, which combined in June with Headquarters & Alpha, beat 326th Chemical in last year's final.

Grambling favored over Alabama A&M

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

Skip's Picks finished the college football season at 72 percent. My pick for Saturday's Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game is ... Grambling over Alabama A&M.

Look for my bowl predictions next week.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

One and only

Rob Youngren of Simulation Technologies rides his unicycle on the trail from building 5400 during lunchtime Nov. 30. The avid runner has been riding it a little over a month for cross training. "It's safer than a bicycle," he says. "If I can do it, anybody can."



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

Tim Swearingin will perform at the Redstone Lanes Lounge on Dec. 9 and 16 from 7-11 p.m. For more information, call 876-6634.

Youth racquetball

Youth Sports is offering basic racquetball instruction and recreational competition for Redstone youth ages 8-17 from Dec. 14 through Feb. 22. Instruction will include basic skills, rules and strategy. Competition will be fun and age appropriate. All participants will be required to provide his or her own racquet and eye protection. Register at CYS Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road or call 876-3704. There is no cost for the class, but the CYS registration fee of \$18 per year must be paid if not already registered. Volunteer coaches needed. For more information, call 313-2177.



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.

Town hall meetings

Redstone Arsenal town hall meetings on the National Security Personnel System are scheduled this week in Bob Jones Auditorium. All Redstone Arsenal DoD employees are invited. Proposed NSPS pay bands and the proposed performance management system will be discussed. Employee attendance is voluntary; however, supervisors are requested to encourage employees to attend and find out more about how NSPS will affect them. Redstone Arsenal senior executives will provide opening remarks for each of the meetings. AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury will kick off the final session on Thursday afternoon. It is recommended that attendees be in their seats at least 10 minutes before the scheduled time. Seating is limited and is on a first come, first seated basis. Employees may attend any of the following sessions: today from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m., and Thursday from 9-10:30 and 1-2:30.

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.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers will hold its monthly meeting Thursday 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. Saturday 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.

Alcorn State alumni

The Tennessee Valley Alumni Chapter of Alcorn State University will hold its monthly meeting and holiday social Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at 1205 Shadow Ridge Drive, southeast Huntsville. For more information, call Sam King 722-1074 or Melvin Mayo 721-9336.

Management institute

The Project Management Institute will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Dec. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at UAH Beville Conference Center, 550 Sparkman Drive in northwest Huntsville. Phil Brezovic, facilitator for continuous risk management for the Marshall Space Flight Center Safety and Mission Assurance Program, is to speak on "Integrated Risk Management." Cost is \$20. RSVP by Dec. 16 to www.NorthAlabamaPMI.org.

Airborne association

The Vulcan Chapter will hold its annual Christmas party and monthly meeting Saturday. Membership in the association is open to all Airborne and glider qualified individuals. For more information, call Barry Simpson 533-3000 or Dennis Camp 883-7488.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Dec. 15 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Officers and Civilians Club, Twickenham Room. The association is open to membership for all E-9s from all services, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guards and Reserves. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight 876-8036.



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. The shop will be open for sales only Dec. 20-22, closed Dec. 27-29 and will reopen with regular business hours Jan. 3. 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

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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 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. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Kimball 876-2819.

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 chap-

ter 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.

Redstone holiday party

The Team Redstone Holiday Party is Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club, beginning 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.

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.

Parade for heroes

The Liberty Lights Christmas Parade is Friday at 7 p.m. at Church and Williams streets downtown. This event honors hometown heroes – police, fire, military, emergency medical services, anyone who answers the call in time of need. For more information, call Kiley Henry 503-0780.

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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.

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 train-

ing 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.

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 \$16. For tickets call Jan Pickard 876-2569 or Lisa Thomas 876-4845.

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.

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. 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.

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 for a modest donation. Prices range from \$1.50 for the jewelry box size to \$6 for extra-large boxes. Oversized boxes are priced according to each situation. The location is in the PX foyer area between the Commissary and the UPS Store and across from the florist. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day except Christmas Eve. On Dec. 24, they close down at 4 p.m. Consider dropping off your gifts while you shop at the Commissary. "Save time and effort and go home happy knowing you've helped a great cause," a prepared release said.

Aeronautical university

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is now registering for the spring term, Jan. 7 to March 10. Classes offered include aviation/aerospace industrial safety management; manage-

ment of quality assurance; basic algebra; principles of management; aviation maintenance management; and aircraft accident investigation. The Embry-Riddle Huntsville Center offers fully accredited instruction at both graduate and undergraduate levels in aviation/aerospace and management fields; as well as certificate programs in logistics, supply chain management, occupational safety and health, aviation safety, and space studies. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. Deadline to register is Jan. 6. Call 876-9763, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Education Center, building 3222; contact the web site at <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>; or e-mail huntsville.center@erau.edu for more information. Appointments may also be made to receive a free unofficial evaluation of transfer credit/credit for prior military service.

Master's in management

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is now offering a master of science in management program on Redstone Arsenal. Students applying for admission to the master of science in management may choose from specializations in management of integrated logistics; aviation/aerospace industrial management; air transportation management; aviation and aerospace security; aviation enterprises in a global environment; and a general management option. Courses are offered in nine-week terms beginning

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