

Redstone Rocket

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December 14, 2005

Helping hands



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Shadow knows reconnaissance

Unmanned aircraft earns kudos in Iraq

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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A real-time “bird’s eye” view of the battlefield in Iraq – though valuable when planning military tactics and strategies – can often put Soldiers in harm’s way.

But since early 2003, the Army has greatly lessened that threat with the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle that has proven its effectiveness during more than 54,000 flight hours in support of combat and anti-terrorism operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Shadow 200, an unmanned aerial system involving an operating vehicle with an onboard optical system and a ground-control station, gives “warfighters eyes above the battlefield,” said Col. Donald Hazelwood, the project manager for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems, Program Executive Office for Aviation.

“The Shadow is remotely piloted by a Soldier on the ground. It transmits real-time video to the Ground Control Station where Soldiers analyze and identify threats. It provides Army brigade commanders with tactical level reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition and battle damage



Photo by Kari Hawkins

GLIMPSE OF SHADOW— On ground, it is easy to inspect Shadow’s onboard optical system and propulsion system. But with the capability of flying as high as 14,000 feet, Shadow can survey enemy forces and relay reconnaissance information back to Soldiers at its ground station without ever being suspected by the enemy. Checking out the Shadow system are, from left, Col. Donald Hazelwood, project manager for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems, PEO for Aviation; Ron Smith, chief of the Systems Support Division for the UAVS Project Office; and John Haynes, a computer engineer with Joint Technology System Integration.

assessment,” he said.

Its performance during Operation Iraqi Freedom – which has included an increase in use from 50 hours to 600 hours per month per system – has gained the Shadow and its

technology accolades from both the Soldier in the field and the Department of Defense. Recently, the Army’s Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System Program Office along with its contractor, AAI Corp. of Hunt Valley, Md., received the first-ever award for excellence in Performance-Based Logistics in the Global War on Terrorism.

The award, which recognized Shadow’s readiness and mission success in Operation Iraqi Freedom, was the first given by a new program established by DoD; Aerospace Industries Association, a trade group representing defense contractors; and the Defense Acquisition University to recognize government contracting agencies and defense companies participating in Performance-Based Logistics contracting programs. PBL involves a performance-based contractor-managed supply and maintenance task that imposes performance metrics to support the system’s operational

requirements.

“Early on, the team resolved to change the way of doing business and pursue PBL to its intent,” Hazelwood said. “They vowed to ‘buy performance’ and not buy spares, repairs and services as was done in the past ... There were four metrics that defined the performance-based logistics agreement. We met all four.”

Those metrics were: the contractor will maintain a system status readiness of 85 percent; the contractor will fill 90 percent of unit requisitions; the contractor will achieve a minimum satisfactory or higher rating with Soldiers using the system in the field; and the contractor will maintain at least a satisfactory logistics maintenance ratio. Shadow systems met all operational readiness/availability, weapon system availability and mission success requirements.

See Shadow on page 7



Photo by Larry Ashton

Proud symbol

Larry Ashton of Computer Sciences Corporation snapped this photo of a bald eagle Nov. 27 next to Toftoy Road. “Not pictured is a female or a young offspring feeding close by,” he says.

An open lane random survey

What is the biggest challenge facing military families?

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

Bob Davenport retiree

"I think separation is the biggest challenge. It was for my family."



Doug Lawson retiree

"Lack of knowledge about their benefits, especially for the reservists."

J.C. Herring retiree

"The war in Iraq – being separated and worried about what's going to happen to the Soldier."



Staff Sgt. Felix Knight Headquarters & Alpha

"Being away from your family is hard, especially this time of the year. It's stressful to

be the mom or dad left behind. You have to play both roles in the household. Kids look for both parents to be there during the holidays but somebody has to go out and stand on the front lines."

Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 21 and Dec. 28. Today's publication is our last until Jan. 4.

We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

Letter to the Editor

Christmas season within reason

I am very concerned with how "politically correct" our society has become. Christmas is the holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. To feel that we should refer to this holiday in any way other than Christmas is ludicrous.

Any birthday that is celebrated is referred to by that specific name. To not be able to say it is "Martin Luther King's" birthday would void the reason

for taking that day as a holiday. We are expected to recognize Martin Luther King by his name — the same holds true with Christmas. To be expected to refer to Christmas as a non-identifiable holiday is lacking in common sense. Jesus is the reason for the season — we must never forget that.

Sarah Bryan
Education Center

January brings new prices to troop dining facility

Holiday meal announced

The holiday season means two things at the dining facility: a feast on Christmas Day and a price change beginning New Year's.

On Dec. 25, breakfast will be served 7-8 a.m., the Christmas meal from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner from 3-5:30 p.m. The dining facility will be open to all active duty, family members, retirees and guests. Cost of the meal is \$5.80, and \$4.90 for dependents of Soldiers E-4 and below.

The Christmas meal menu includes glazed ham, roast turkey, Cornish hen, shrimp cocktail, steamship round, cornbread dressing, candied yams, gravy, assorted vegeta-

bles, assorted breads, assorted desserts, assorted drinks, and candies. Menu items are subject to change due to availability.

Jan. 1 brings an annual change in the standard rate for active duty and retired military. The prices go up a nickel apiece to \$1.95 for breakfast, \$3.55 for lunch and \$3.55 for dinner.

"These are the new meal rates," Dan Tyree, project manager for K and K Food Service, said. "It's Army-wide."

The dining facility is among seven finalists in the large dining facility category for the 38th annual Philip A. Connelly awards competition. The Army will announce the winner by the end of December. The award will be presented at the International Food Service Executives Association conference April 5-9 in Miami, Fla.

Social Security site under construction

BIRMINGHAM — Community and government leaders gathered Thursday near the historic Civil Rights District of Birmingham to break ground on a 587,000-square-foot office complex that will be the new home of the U.S. Social Security Administration Southeast Payment Processing Center.

The Atlanta office of Opus South Corporation, working with HOK as the lead design and interior architect,

will design, construct and own the building and lease it to the U.S. General Services Administration for 20 years.

The project, located between 8th and 9th Avenues North and 12th and 14th Streets North on the edge of the Civil Rights District, is slated for completion in late 2007 and is considered to be a key step to spurring further development in and revitalizing the historic neighborhood.

Units exceed retention goal for fiscal 2005

Initial re-enlistment hits 188 percent

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Redstone did nearly twice as well as hoped for re-enlistment in fiscal 2005.

There were 32 initial re-enlistments during the year for 188 percent of the 17 goal. These included 16 for AMCOM, seven for the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, one for the Garrison and eight for MEDDAC.

"I appreciate all the support that I've gotten from the people on this installation," Master Sgt. Timothy Carlile, the installation career counselor, said.

Retention awards for the various units were presented Thursday at Aviation and Missile Command headquarters.

"Two hundred percent across the board is fabulous," Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, said. "And I'm honored to be a part of it."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

RE-ENLISTMENT AWARDS— From left are past Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, Sgt. Tamera Price, Sgt. Carmen Herron and HHC 59th commander Capt. Jonathan McDougal. Price and Herron, both of HHC 59th, receive recognition for their re-enlistment work at Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

Quote of the week

'Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.'

— Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993)

Redstone Rocket

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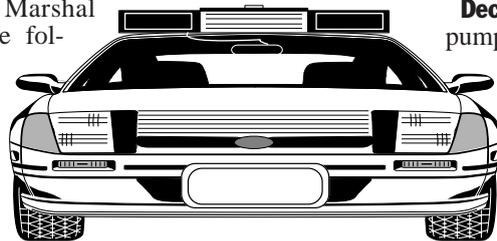
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Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Dec. 2: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol during an inspection at Gate 8. Further investigation revealed that he was driving with no driver's license and had no proof of insurance. He was issued three violation notices and detained in the detention cell until his blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.

Dec. 6: 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.



Dec. 6: An individual pumped \$15 in gas and drove off without rendering proper payment. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Dec. 7: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during a vehicle inspection at Gate 1. He was issued a violation notice and released to Huntsville police.

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

Violation notices issued: 17 speeding, 1 driving with a suspended/revoked license, 4 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 larceny, 1 failure to yield right of way, 1 driving with no driver's license, 1 failure to maintain insurance.

Aircraft firm opens local office

Global Military Aircraft Systems, a joint venture of L-3 Integrated Systems, a subsidiary of L-3 Communications, and Finmeccanica's Alenia North America hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony and luncheon Friday to officially open its C-27J Spartan aircraft program office in Huntsville.

GMAS is offering the C-27J Spartan as a fully compliant solution for the Army's Future Cargo Aircraft program. The GMAS office, located near Redstone Arsenal, serves as the organization's focal point for all Army Aviation programs. The close proximity ensures customer responsiveness and immediate access to deliver superior service and meet the needs of Army aviation.

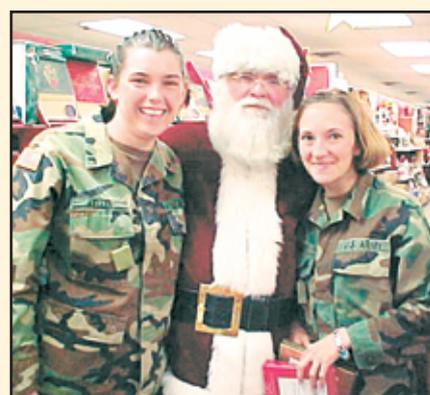
"GMAS is pleased to be a member of the Huntsville community, and I look forward to continuing this area's winning combination of using technology and experience to deliver outstanding

results," said retired Brig. Gen. Howard Yellen, general manager of GMAS. "We know the C-27J is the right aircraft for FCA, and its unmatched capabilities and military design elevates it as the clear leader in its class. It's an aircraft that is ready now and prepared for the future." (*Global Military Aircraft Systems release*)

Boeing recognized

Boeing has received the 2005 Alabama Quality Award, the state's top honor for quality and performance excellence.

The award was presented at a formal ceremony Nov. 30 in Tuscaloosa at the conclusion of a day-long Alabama Quality Award conference attended by several hundred people representing industry and business across the state.



Courtesy photo

PX Santa

Santa visits with Alysia Keller and Cassandra Yeager during sales events Dec. 3 at the Post Exchange. Get your free e-mail picture taken with Santa or bring your own camera next time he visits the PX on Dec. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Sgt. Maj. Robert Johnson

Job: S-3 sergeant major for 59th Ordnance Brigade

Where do you call home?
Orangeburg, S.C.

What do you like about your job?

It's a job that keeps you busy, fast-paced. I like being involved in coordinating and planning major organizational events that the brigade may be involved in in the community. One of those would be the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition for 2006; we're in the planning processes for that. And one of the recent events the brigade was involved in in the community was the Veterans Day parade. Another aspect of the job I like is it gives me the opportunity to work closely with the brigade sergeant major, battalion sergeant major, DOI (Directorate of Instruction) sergeant major and the other sergeants major within the brigade.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

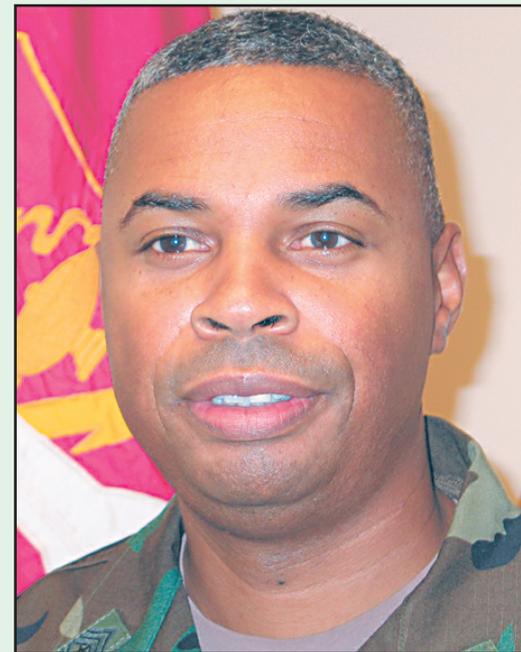
I like to read, I like to go fishing and I like to work on old cars.

What are your goals?

To retire – that's one of my goals; to possibly start working on and completing my doctorate degree; and to try to maintain good health.

What's your favorite football team?

South Carolina State University. That's (in) my hometown of Orangeburg.



Certification culminates journey for Corpus Christi

Depot attains milestone for industry standards

By JULIE FREDERICK
For the Rocket

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Corpus Christi Army Depot received its ISO 9001:2000 certification in a ceremony Dec. 7. This certifies that the entire depot is industry standard compliant. Until recently, the Bearing Shop was its only ISO certified entity.

The audit was done by a team from Smithers Quality Assessments Inc. which reviewed all of the depot's management systems from Oct. 24-28. At the close of the audit, the team announced that Corpus Christi had not only passed the audit and received certification, but also was deficiency free. Dr. Richard Amos, deputy to the AMCOM commander, said he was impressed by the effort that the depot staff had put forth.

"I can't tell you how proud we are of what you are doing here," he said. "Not just the milestone that you have achieved with this piece of paper but with all the hard work that has taken you to this point and is going to carry us beyond this point. This certification is the validation that you are doing a good job, putting out a good product."

Corpus Christi commander Col. Tim Sassenrath and Amos acknowledged the depot accomplishment. They presented



Photo by Julie Frederick

HIGH ACHIEVEMENT— Depot commander Col. Tim Sassenrath holds aloft the ISO 9001:2000 certificate for the Corpus Christi workers to see.

AMCOM command coins to all management personnel who oversaw this mission and Corpus Christi coins to the entire work force to acknowledge the effort that

everyone put forth in earning this certification.

The depot had been considering certification for a long time and started pushing this process about a year and a half ago. The difference came when Sassenrath and his deputy Pat Oler looked at this certification as a business management system concern instead of just a quality management concern. They positioned the need for the certification in a way that got the workers' attention. Their aim was to develop a consistency in meeting customer quality requirements and turning out the best product they could for the war fighter. Eagleforce Consulting helped Corpus Christi prepare for the audit.

"When we got serious about the ISO 9000 certification, we started looking at what the customer would be looking for in a quality business," Bill Houser, president of Eagleforce Consulting, said. "That brought us to the realization that we had to achieve a quality product the quickest and most cost effectively as we could. Our success hinged on the realization that the ISO

certification was more of a business concern rather than just a quality concern."

Considering the complexity and size of the organization, this was a challenging undertaking. Houser and senior leaders worked together with the employees to prepare for the five-day audit and were deficiency free by the time the audit team from Smithers's arrived.

"ISO certification now puts CCAD at a higher level that the commercial sector will notice," Amos said. "It will help open doors to private/public partnerships with some of the larger commercial corporations. That means more workload for this depot and work force. It means more support for our troops and other servicemembers."

William Pearson, director of quality assurance at Corpus Christi, believes that this certification is a base that will be able to carry the depot into the future.

"It increases our status in the community," Pearson said, "and puts us in a more competitive position with commercial businesses and other service branch groups. It postures us for continuous improvement, and puts us on a more competitive level, which is a primary ingredient of ISO certification. It also will allow us to maintain our work force during non-war times by contracting with commercial companies who require that their contractors be ISO certified. We have not always been able to offer that stability to our work force."

"We are in our infancy in this," Houser said. "The system is not where we want to be a year or two from now, it's going to get better because we have got that foundation in place and we have got everyone's attention. What better insurance for these jobs than being on top of our game and that's what getting our ISO certification says we are, on top of our game."

Since 1987, the ISO 9000 series of standards has been recognized globally. The government facilities achieving certification report reduced waste, more efficient labor utilization and increased customer satisfaction.

The next step for Corpus Christi is the Aerospace Standard 9100 certification. It has ISO 9000, the current certification level, at its core and then expands by about 50 percent for aerospace-oriented standardizations. It will also be for the entire depot. The target certification date is in 2006.

Charity drive exceeds \$1.8 million goal

*Workers thanked
for contributions*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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Giving to charity has become an annual tradition for Team Redstone. This year was no different. On Thursday in a ceremony at Sparkman Cafeteria, post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury thanked the Redstone work force for contributing \$1.85 million so far to the Combined Federal Campaign. This surpassed the \$1.8 million goal.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of what you've done," Pillsbury said. Campaign coordinator Donna Johnson added her appreciation and noted that the drive continues through year's end.

"We will still take cash and check contributions through Dec. 31st," she said.

Pillsbury presented certificates of appreciation to organizations that have participated in the campaign.

The 2005 campaign started Oct. 3 with the slogan "CFC – Compassion in Action."

The Tennessee Valley CFC includes 36 federal organizations with more than 15,000 employees – including federal, postal and military. It covers six north Alabama counties (Marshall, Madison, Limestone, Cullman, Morgan and Lawrence) and Lincoln County, Tenn.

Contributions can go to 158 local and 1,718 national and international charitable organizations. Last year's campaign raised \$1,918,000.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WINNING TEAM— Post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury joins key workers in the Combined Federal Campaign.

Program empowers people to learn from each other

Mentoring effort slated to grow

By SKIP VAUGHN
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AMCOM is staying in the mentoring business – and expanding its program, too.

An award ceremony Thursday honored the nine mentors and nine protégés who participated in the second six-month cycle of People Empowering People from May 27 through Nov. 30.

“Thank you for taking the time to do this,” Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, said.

The protégés learned from their mentors; and the mentors learned from their protégés, according to Pillsbury. “You can’t help but grow together in a mentor-protégé relationship,” he said. He added that the program will be expanded.

Larry Bowlin of Resource Management Directorate said he learned as a protégé who was a newcomer at the Aviation and Missile Command.

“The benefit was for somebody new to

the command being able to meet the key leaders within the command and to learn more about the mission within a short period of time,” he said.

Another protégé, Rene Gregory of Light Utility Helicopter Project Office, said, “I felt I got a lot of support.”

The protégés included Bowlin, Gregory, Cheryl Baker, Deborah Edwards, Diane Helser, Bobbie Moore, Bobbie Bass, Robbin Riley and Nicole McAdams.

Mentors included Dr. Richard Amos, Col. Bob English, Johnnie Bradt, Samuel Collier, Tim Grey, Melitta Rankin, Linda Readus, Marsha Thornton and Brian Wood.

Human Resources, G-1, is accepting additional applications for Cycle III of the People Empowering People Mentoring Program. Cycle III will run from Jan. 23 through July 21; and applications will be accepted through Dec. 29. If you applied during the initial application period, you do not need to reapply. For more information about the PEP Mentoring Program and application forms, visit the G-1 web site https://ams8.REDSTONE.army.mil:4443/HRD/HRD_home or call program administrator Jackie Timme at 876-6061.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MENTORING ADMINISTRATOR— Jackie Timme, right, a human resource specialist, serves as administrator for the AMCOM mentoring program.

■ Unmanned aircraft wins accolades from Soldiers, DoD

Shadow

continued from page 1

“The team has achieved great success with a running quarterly system status readiness in excess of 90 percent ... The real success of this team is the fact this has been achieved while supporting the Global War on Terrorism with a higher demand that is magnitudes greater than projected peacetime rates,” Hazelwood said.

Shadow, described as a “tactical commander’s asset,” can fly as high as 14,000 feet, making it impossible for anyone on the ground to hear or see. It is one of four unmanned aerial vehicles in the Army’s arsenal. The others are Raven, a hand-launched system; Hunter, a missile-equipped UAV that flies up to 15,000 feet and Extended Range Multipurpose, a Hellfire-equipped UAV that can fly up to 30,000 feet and that has recently been put under contract.

“This is the wave of the future,” said Ron Smith, chief of the Systems Support Division for UAVS Project Office. “Fifty percent of aviation used in combat will be unmanned in the future.”

Today, 34 Shadow systems have been fielded, with 13 currently in Iraq. That number is expected to increase to 18 by the end of 2005. A total of 55 Shadow systems, with the majority of those in Iraq, will be fielded by the end of 2006. Sol-

diers using the Shadow and Raven are trained at Redstone Arsenal.

“It is unique to find something like the Shadow at the brigade combat level,” Hazelwood said. “The Shadow brings to the warfighter the capability to see the battlefield so they can better perform their mission. We’re the only service that operates unmanned aerial vehicles at all echelons, from the platoon level all the way to companies, battalions, brigades and theater levels.”

UAVS have been used since the ‘50s and ‘60s when they were first developed as field artillery battery operated systems. “They were used as target drones and for battle damage assessment,” Hazelwood said. “Then they transitioned to military intelligence until Aviation picked them up and recognized their importance for reconnaissance.”

The Army and Navy developed the Hunter, which was deployed by the Army in the war in Bosnia.

“The Hunter proved the need for this type of support,” Smith said. “The Hunter kept UAVS alive in the Army based on its performance.”

In Iraq, Shadow has been instrumental not only in helping Soldiers find and combat the enemy but also in minimizing U.S. and civilian losses.

“The system helps prevent American casualties by showing Soldiers where the pockets of enemy forces are,” Hazelwood said. “It also limits collateral damage – the

destruction of property and civilian casualties — by allowing the Soldier to better define where the target is. Shadow is having a significant impact on providing security in the Global War on Terrorism.”

Improvements in the Shadow are ongoing in the Army’s quest to make it even more effective in combat conditions. Newer systems include a more robust vehicle that can support more extensive payloads and a better propulsion system to allow more flight time.

“The demand for UAV support at all echelons continues to grow and we anticipate increased missions for the Shadow in the near future,” Hazelwood said.

“As more systems are deployed into theater there will be an increase in the number of missions performed as well as an increase in mission as Shadow becomes more capable in teaming with manned aviation in the direct targeting of identified threats.”

Hazelwood also envisions Shadow expanding in domestic roles, such as reconnaissance during natural disasters and for border patrol, fire prevention and forest fire fighting coordination, highway speed monitoring, environmental monitoring, homeland security and police enforcement. In all these areas, the use of Shadow would reduce manpower costs.

“Our challenge is: What do we grow this to in the future?” Hazelwood said. “Soldiers who come back from the battlefield want to keep their edge. Many are National Guard and their guard units will

get these systems. They want realistic training that supports our national security, and they can get that training while supporting our nation in other ways.”

Hazelwood did try to convince the FAA to let Shadow fly in support of Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts. But the new technology was a challenge for FAA because of concerns about segregating the use of unmanned aerial vehicles from manned aircraft.

“When manned aircraft go into disasters, unmanned aircraft should go, too,” Hazelwood said.

“I argue there were enough rotary wing aircraft that responded to Hurricane Katrina rescue efforts, but they weren’t coordinated properly and resources weren’t maximized. FAA doesn’t understand how to properly coordinate airspace between unmanned and manned aircraft in a natural disaster or other emergency. With Hurricane Katrina, they could have used unmanned aircraft at night to identify clusters of people and then develop a rescue plan to be followed the next day.”

With unmanned aircraft flying side-by-side at the world’s busiest airport in Balad, Iraq, Hazelwood said the success of airspace integration of manned and unmanned aircraft is being documented for future use.

“The combat environment is similar to a disaster relief operation,” he said. “The mission of UAVs will continue to grow. We are just in the first stage of this great technology.”

Alabama A&M ROTC cadets protect their house

Team finishes second in ranger competition

By KARI HAWKINS
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karihawk@knology.net

Running up and down the hills of the Alabama A&M University campus with 50 or more pounds on your back in the heat of an early fall day can discourage even the most physically fit Soldier.

But discouragement was easy to overcome for members of A&M's elite ROTC Ranger Challenge Team when they remembered their motto: "We must protect this house!"

And protect it they did in the

Regional ROTC Ranger Challenge competition held recently on the A&M campus. In all physical skills, the 10-member A&M Team scored high among its competitors — cadets from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Jacksonville State University and the University of North Alabama — in the 8th Brigade, Western ROTC Region event. Yet, minor mistakes placed them second overall to the UAB team.

"Some teams came in with the attitude of 'Too bad you had to get up today because you are going to get whipped in your own house.' We couldn't let that happen," said cadet Maj. Elizabeth Thomas,

See **Competition** on page 9



Photo by Kari Hawkins

GIVE A LITTLE MORE— Ranger Challenge coach Master Sgt. Floyd Gaines knows how to push his ranger cadets to their maximum potential when it comes to doing their push ups. The exercise was part of the Army Physical Fitness Test the cadet rangers had to excel at during the Ranger Challenge.

A&M ROTC commissions seven cadets to serve U.S.

New second lieutenants prepare to branch out

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Thanking God, their families and their instructors, seven Alabama A&M ROTC Bulldog Battalion cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Army during a ceremony Friday at the university.

And in doing so, each gave a personal testimony of how the ROTC program has helped them excel in their academics, personal goals and professional aspirations.

"ROTC is all about leadership development and training," said graduating cadet Jonathan Easter as he cited scripture from Matthew, Chapter 20.

"We are public servants serving our country. I am fortunate to be a part of a volunteer Army with recruiting goals that are met by those who want to give to their country. I am very proud to be part of that tradition."

Retired Lt. Col. Richard Ruffin, the executive officer of the A&M ROTC program, introduced each of the graduating cadets, whose family and friends pinned new bars to the shoulders of their uniforms.

"These outstanding cadets have completed their academic requirements for graduation, and, through their hard work, discipline and dedication, they have also proven their leadership skills and completed all training requirements to serve as officers in the United States Army," Ruffin announced.

Each of the graduating cadets came from different walks of life and will continue their military careers in varied ways. Easter, a native of Decatur, is graduating



Photo by Kari Hawkins

OFFICER LINEUP— The graduating cadets are, from right, Roderick Mack of Birmingham, Jonathan Easter of Decatur, Nemiah Moore of Huntsville, Harold Tate of Fayetteville, Betina Chatman Willie of Woodbridge, Va., Nina Johnson of Montgomery, and Elizabeth Thomas of Detroit. At the end of the line is the master of ceremonies, retired Lt. Col. Richard Ruffin.

with a French literature degree from the University of Alabama-Huntsville and will serve in the Army's Infantry while Betina Chatman Willie of Woodbridge, Va., graduates from A&M with a biology degree and will serve in the Medical Service Corps.

Nina Johnson of Montgomery graduates from A&M with a social work degree and will serve in the Ordnance Corps.

Harold Tate of Fayetteville and Roderick Mack of Birmingham both graduate from A&M with telecommunications degrees and will branch to the Signal Corps. Nemiah Moore of Huntsville graduates from UAH with an industrial and systems engineering degree and will branch to the Air Defense Artillery, and Elizabeth Thomas of Detroit graduates from A&M with a psychology degree and will serve

in the Military Police Corps. All the cadets will attend their branch's officer basic course.

"So many have made an impression on my life," said Thomas, who thanked several people along with her parents who "have shown me that what I have chosen for myself is what God has chosen for me."

For cadets following in the graduate's footsteps, Thomas urged them to maintain their physical fitness, train hard and long, and be a good leader and follower.

Johnson specifically named Lt. Col. Elliott Cunningham, professor of military science at A&M, in her remarks, saying "through it all, he saw my potential and I am here." Willie and Tate expressed their appreciation of support from both their own families as well as their ROTC family who, Tate said, gave him the "pushing" he needed to achieve his officer's rank.

Moore thanked his wife Amber for "supporting my choice to defend our country." Mack recalled his years as a high school cadet, saying, "I wanted one of those uniforms so I could look hot" and wishing all his fellow graduates "much success in life."

ROTC cadets are often among the top students in the academic setting because, said guest speaker Dr. Jerry Shipman, a professor at Alabama A&M, they are "always about learning and achieving new heights. They are always in the process of training ..."

"I applaud everything you've achieved in your studies at the university. I hope you have gained friends and that you are going away to represent the university and yourself in a very, very prominent way."

See **Graduates** on page 9

■ Ranger Challenge pushes ROTC cadets to limit

Competition

continued from page 8

a graduating senior who was a member of last year's team and who served as the team's alternate member this year.

The competition brought to an end nearly three months of strenuous five-day-a-week workouts that included the Army Physical Fitness Test (push ups, sit ups and two-mile run) and practices with the one-rope bridge, grenade assault course, assembly/disassembly M16 rifle and 5K road march. Each weekday morning, the cadets would meet at 5:30 to train with Master Sgt. Floyd Gaines, their coach and senior military instructor, before a day filled with college classes, activities, homework and other ROTC duties.

"We had to get up earlier than everybody else just to get started on what we needed to do each day," said cadet Maj. Jessie Mooney, the battalion's executive officer.

"We had to run longer than anyone else. We ran four or five miles while everyone else ran two or three miles. We worked out five days a week instead of three days a week like everyone else. It was a challenge."

But it's not difficult to recruit volunteers for the Ranger Challenge at A&M and the University of Alabama-Huntsville, whose top cadets were on the

A&M team, said Lt. Col. Elliott Cunningham, professor of military science at A&M. The program is attractive to cadets who want to be the next generation of leaders in the Army.

"These are the cadets who always step forward. They are highly physically fit. They are doing well academically as well as they have high standards to succeed," Cunningham said. "These are an elite group of cadets that will be the future generals in the Army."

The challenge to their leadership capabilities – both physically and mentally – are experiences these cadets have often sought out during their ROTC careers. The Ranger Challenge is the most ambitious of those experiences.

"How good are leadership skills if you don't take the initiative to be among the best? We had to push ourselves," Thomas said. "Maintaining a good PT test goes on your record. The Army looks at that and they look at what you did in school. They look at your leadership skills. We are prepared for the toughest challenge."

"This separated us from the rest," Mooney added.

Thomas and Mooney along with cadets Lt. Col. Darien Butler (the battalion commander, UAH), Capt. Kelandis Evans, Lt. Dane Schoonover (UAH), Lt. Bianca Philson, Cpl. Theodore Allen, Capt. Renardo Williams, Lt. Gerdona Wade, Lt. Joshua Burton (UAH) and Cpl. Aaron Beattie represented the Alabama A&M

ROTC program in the Ranger Challenge. They are in the top 10 percent of the 65 cadets in the ROTC program.

The Ranger Challenge program challenges cadets in tough mental and physical competition, enhances their leadership development, develops team cohesion and encourages healthy competition among ROTC battalions. The preparations for the challenge are as difficult, or more so, than the actual competition.

"The team went on six-mile road marches with flak jackets on. It involved intense physical training with running, push ups, sit ups, pull ups, running up the hills on campus, running the steps at the stadium," Cunningham said. "They compete in their physical abilities and their mental endurance. They had to task out in these capacities. They had to endure pain and stress."

The challenge brought team members together into a motivated unit, Gaines said.

"Most of the team members were already self motivated," he said. "They already possessed teamwork and commitment. We built on what they already had to set them apart from the regular population."

Each year, 22 teams representing university ROTC programs from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and North Florida in the 8th Brigade compete in the Ranger Challenge at Camp Shelby, Miss. But this year, because of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina at Camp Shelby, the event was reorganized into regional events at various college campuses. The event at A&M included a PT test, patrol exam (written exam covering tactics), a 10K

road march, grenade assault course, M16 assembly/disassembly and one-rope bridge.

The competition was close and A&M came in second only because of minor penalty reductions, including a reduction for a cadet who didn't have their gloves. "It's part of the leadership development process," Cunningham said. "Paying attention to details and the process of inventorying your equipment are important to success."

Besides the physical and mental conditioning, the Ranger Challenge also motivates its team members to excel in the classroom.

"If they can do the things we are asking them to do physically and mentally, then they can focus on a book," Gaines said.

The challenge helped the rangers fine tune their strengths and work on their weaknesses. While Philson has the fastest time on the team for assembling and disassembling an M16, she isn't at the top of the class in the running skills. Yet, the challenge helped her become a competitive Soldier in all areas.

"It was worth it," she said.

Though the competition is over, the A&M cadets have an experience that will continue to motivate and encourage them as the sophomores and juniors plan for next year's Ranger Challenge, and the seniors go on to graduate and follow their career path as a Soldier.

"What we walked away with after the competition was the same thing we already had – the bond that keeps us together," Mooney said.

■ ROTC graduates ready to embark on careers

Graduates

continued from page 8

ROTC and the college experience, Shipman said, are about "taking the raw student and making that raw student into a great leader."

He encouraged the graduates to continue to look for new things to learn, to never forget where they came from and to always do their best.

"We are rooting for you," he said. "May God continue to bless you and keep you in your path of leadership."

The graduates, Cunningham said, are leaders who must be prepared to support many different challenges as they continue with their military careers.

"They are serving at a time when our nation is at war," he said. "They are fully aware of the risks. Their dedication is a constant inspiration to us all."

In closing remarks, A&M interim president Dr. Virginia Caples thanked those who had supported the graduates through their lives.

"I'm well aware of what support systems can do for you as you travel through life and work for what you achieve," she said.

She recommended the graduates add a book called "The Journey for Success to Significance" by John Maxwell to their arsenal of inspirational readings.

"Success is what you do for yourself as you go through life," she said. "Significance is where we add value to the lives of others."

Wishing Soldiers the very best for holidays

Community giving to military families

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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The holidays are not usually a busy time for receiving donations at the Army Emergency Relief office. Although donations do come in haphazardly throughout the year, most are received in the spring during the agency's fund-raising activity.

So, Kristi Foster, the local Army Relief Emergency officer, was pleasantly surprised recently when she opened an envelope from a local small technology company that included a \$500 donation.

With the donation came a note that read "This donation is to help with your wonderful work. We are grateful for the sacrifices our military personnel and their families make to defend our great nation and keep us free."

Contacted by phone, the president of the technology company, who did not want recognition for the donation, said the contribution is "miniscule" when compared to the sacrifices of servicemembers and their families.

Employees at the company, which performs work for the Space and Missile Defense Command, have personal connections to the military. One of its employees served in the military while others are the children of retired military.

"I felt very strongly that we need to support our troops," the company's president said. "Families back home don't get the support and recognition they need. This was a good time for us to make a donation."

That donation, Foster said, will go toward helping Soldiers, retirees and their families with any type of emergency, from a car breakdown to emergency travel due to illness or death in

their family.

"Emergency expenses do come up, and when you don't make a lot of money it can be hard to plan for those kinds of things," Foster said.

During the holiday season, there are several ways people can make a difference in the lives of military and their families, said Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager with Army Community Service.

"You can make donations for calling cards, you can put together care packages or you can send a holiday message to a servicemember," Breeden said.

"One of the things Soldiers really like to get are the messages and letters of support."

While many Redstone Arsenal efforts — such as the Angel Tree and the Holiday Food Sharing Program — are holiday programs that have finished most of

their efforts for the season, donations are still being accepted, particularly for programs continuing throughout the year.

"We will be delivering Angel Tree gifts to the units on Friday," said Missy Richards, youth center director for MWR who coordinated this year's Angel Tree program.

"All 105 of the children of military or National Guard reserves that we had on our Angel Tree

were taken. But we will still accept donations to help us fill in where we may still have needs."

Some organizations adopted more than one angel from the tree, such as Integrated Materiel Management Center, which took more than 30 angels for the holidays. Other organizations — such as the Sergeants

See Giving on page 11

Worldwide web offers route for contributions

Army Community Service provided the following list of Internet organizations that offer ways to support servicemembers during the holidays and throughout the year:

- AAFES Gift Certificates (<http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm>) — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is where most servicemembers do their shopping. You can purchase gift certificates for someone you know or for Soldiers serving in Iraq or in other parts of the world, or Soldiers who are hospitalized.
- Adopt-a-Platoon (<http://www.adoptaplatoon.org/>) — Adopt-a-Platoon has several ongoing projects to ensure that every Soldier overseas does not walk away from mail call empty-handed.
- American Supports You (<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil>) — Thank any servicemember stationed throughout the U.S. and the world with an e-mail. This site also lists information about more than 150 groups dedicated to helping the troops and their families.
- Any Soldier (<http://www.anysoldier.com>) — Any Soldier is a non-profit organization that helps people send care packages to members of the armed services in Iraq.
- Appreciate Our Troops (<http://www.appreciateourtroops.org>) — Purchase a "Support Our Troops" mug and a free personalized mug will be given to a current or former servicemember.
- Books For Soldiers (<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/>) — Help the troops escape boredom by donating new or used books. You can also donate DVDs and CDs requested by Soldiers.
- Camp Doha (<http://www.campdoha.org/>) — Camp Doha provides valuable information for those about to deploy, their friends and families and anyone who wants to support the troops.
- Cell Phones for Soldiers (<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/>) — Donated cell phones are recycled and turned into cash. The cash is used to purchase calling cards for Soldiers in Iraq.
- Fisher House (<http://www.fisherhouse.org/>) — The Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes" built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one during hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease or injury.
- Freedom Calls (<http://www.freedomcalls.org/>) — The Freedom Calls Foundation is helping families videoconference with their loved ones in Iraq. You can donate money to help keep this project going.

- Homes for Our Troops (<http://www.homesforourtroops.org/>) — Homes for Our Troops assists injured veterans and their immediate families by building new or adapting existing homes with handicapped accessibility.
- Operation Air Conditioner (<http://www.operationac.com/>) — Operation Air Conditioner provided more than 9,400 air conditioners and more than 14,500 space heaters (the desert is cold in the winter) for Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. They now are providing coalition care packages.
- Operation Call Home (<http://www.platoonphone.com/>) — Operation Call Home's mission is to provide each platoon with their own satellite phone.
- Operation Dear Abby (<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/>) — The Navy and Dear Abby have teamed up. Their site allows you to send e-mail messages of support to servicemembers.
- Operation Hero Miles (<http://www.heromiles.org/>) — You can donate your unused frequent flier miles to help Soldiers travel on emergency leave. They are also used to help families fly to hospitalized Soldiers.
- Operation Military Pride (<http://operationmilitarypride.org>) — Operation Military Pride is a volunteer organization that sends cards, letters and care packages to troops.
- Operation Uplink (<http://www.operationuplink.org/>) — Donate money to Operation Uplink. The money is used to purchase phone cards so servicemembers can call home.
- Soldiers' Angels (<http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/index.php>) — Become some Soldier's angel by adopting a servicemember.
- Treats for Troops (<http://www.treatsfortroops.com/>) — Treats for Troops helps you provide packages to your loved ones overseas. If you don't know anyone, the Foster-A-Soldier Program matches you with a registered Soldier by branch of service, home state, gender or birthday - or you can choose to sponsor a group of Soldiers.
- USO Cares (<http://www.usocares.org/>) — You can sponsor care packages provided by the USO with a \$25 donation.
- Voices from Home (<http://voicesfromhome.org/home.html>) — Voices From Home allows military members and their families and friends to send and receive immediate voice e-mail messages in remote locations around the world.

Giving

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Major Association – make donations to help buy gifts for angels added to the list in these last few days of the program.

Richards said the young families of Soldiers are always grateful for the gifts received from the Angel Tree.

“When you’ve got a family of three or four kids, it can be tough to buy them all gifts for Christmas,” Richards said. “This helps supplement a Soldier’s holiday gifts for their children. We do have families on post who need extra help during the holidays.”

In the seven years she has been involved with the Angel Tree, Richards said there has never been any trouble finding individuals or organizations to adopt the angels.

“This is a great community,” she said. “We are very fortunate. Everyone jumps in and supports our military families.”

Chaplain (Maj.) Joey Byrd has been involved with this year’s Holiday Food Sharing Program.

“We’ve had an excellent response,” he said. “Organizations from Redstone and the community have donated over \$14,000. That will help about 100 Soldiers and their families.”

The chaplain has also helped coordinate the Operation Shoe Box and a Tut Fann State Veteran’s Home Angel Tree during this holiday season.

But beyond the Christmas rush, Byrd suggested people can help with the Oper-

ation Helping Hand program.

“We essentially issue a check to the commissary for a Soldier and their family who are in need of food,” he said.

Funds for various Soldier support programs are collected during services at the chapel.

“We have designated offerings,” he said. “In November, we had an offering to provide assistance to Soldiers wounded in action. In December, we had the Holiday Food Sharing Program. And in January, we will have an offering for Fisher Houses, which provide a place for families to stay when they are visiting wounded Soldiers at a military installation.”

During the season of giving, most people want to find worthy causes to support.

“Christmas means a spirit of giving,” Byrd said. “It’s the giving of ourselves in whatever way we can to those in need. God gave us the birth of Jesus, who gives love to all. We give what we have as a symbol of love to others.”

One way of giving to Soldiers and their families is by corresponding with Soldiers who are serving in Iraq or other places in the world, Breeden said. There are many organizations on the Internet that provide access to these Soldiers, but people can also look locally for Soldiers who would like to receive holiday cheer in the mail.

“Sometimes you can find Soldiers to send messages to through your church,” Breeden said. “It would mean a lot to a Soldier to get words of encouragement from people in their family’s church because those are people they usually know.”

Plastic cups of fun runneth over

*Sport stacking
available here*

By **KELLEY LANE**

*Staff writer
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Winter has settled in and kids are stuck indoors for the season. Many indoor sports and activities require multiple players or are frustrating for smaller children. When you've played the last board game you can stand this winter, give School Age Services a call. There's a new game in town, cup stacking, and it's available through their after school, home-school and youth programs.

Cup stacking, also known as sport stacking, is pretty much what it sounds like. It is a timed activity where the player stacks and unstacks special plastic cups in set sequences using both hands. It's a simple activity that anyone of practically any age can do, said Charles Suddler, education technician and cup stacking instructor.

The patterns and rules are easy enough for a small child to understand. It gets a little trickier when you throw in the time factor. Once you learn the basics, the object is to do it faster and faster. With enough practice, the activity becomes a blur of hands and colored plastic. The current world record, held by a young Colorado girl, is 7.43 seconds for a complete cycle.

"Kids here (at Redstone) have been doing it in 10 to 20 seconds," Suddler said. "My average time is about 14 seconds. Some of these kids are faster than me."

Are there enough kids doing this to warrant a world record? Yes. The sport was actually invented by a Colorado physical education teacher almost 20 years ago, though it remained relatively obscure until recently. It's popularity has surged in the last two years to the point where many public schools are including it as part of their P.E. programs, as are some Huntsville and Madison County schools. Suddler and SAS are happy to be able to offer it to Redstone's kids as well.

"We have our Cheetah Club, which is our little team here," Suddler said. "The kids love it. We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 o'clock to 4 o'clock here at School Age Services."

Suddler also teaches cup stacking for home-school kids on every other Thursday.

Although cup stacking is mainly about competing with yourself to better your own time, it is also a team sport. Teams of individual stackers compete in both head to head and relay style events against each other. Suddler hopes to arrange a few tournaments not only among the kids at Redstone, but also with some local schools that also have cup stacking.

In addition to being a fun and easy to learn activity that can be done anywhere a flat surface can be found, cup stacking also teaches hand-eye coordination and promotes ambidexterity, Suddler said. He added that is also a lot of fun, even for adults.

"I've been working on doing it with my eyes closed," Suddler said. "I'm not as fast that way, but it's fun to do it without messing up."

For more information on participating, call School Age Services at 876-6595.



Photo by Kelley Lane

ADDING UP— Charles Suddler teaches kids the pattern and process of cup stacking.

Have coffee, will travel

Lieutenant colonel
leaves for Iraq

By KELLEY LANE
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Lots of people are packing, getting ready to head home for the holidays. Lt. Col. Dorothy Taneyhill, product manager for Fixed Wing Aircraft, is packing, too. She, however, is not headed home.

Taneyhill will spend her Christmas as many other Soldiers are this year, doing her part for the war on terror in Iraq. She packed up her office in the Sparkman Center's building 5308 before heading off on Dec. 10th for training in Texas and deployment to Balad, Iraq. Her work there will be an extension of what she has been doing for two and a half years at Redstone.

"I will be the deputy theater aviation single manager," she said. "It's a little complex. It's a cell that was established by Maj. Gen. (Jim) Pillsbury to help out with aviation issues and aviation readiness. We're kind of the go-between or reach-back support for Army aviation

units within the coalition forces."

It isn't her first trip to Iraq, but it will be her longest.

"I was there for a few weeks back in the spring," Taneyhill said. "This is my first long-term visit. I should be there for about six months."

Having been a Soldier for 24 years, Taneyhill is no stranger to going where duty calls. She entered the military through the ROTC program in 1981.

"I was active component then switched to National Guard and spent some time as a traditional guardsman. I then came back under the active guard reserve program in 1997 and wound up in acquisition," she said.

Although she has extensive training and experience in acquisition, Taneyhill is not an aviator. Thankfully, she laughs, she doesn't have to know how to fly the planes — just where to get parts for them.

"In acquisition corps, we're trained to manage systems," Taneyhill said. "You're managing the system. It shouldn't matter what it's for. Particularly with fixed wing since it's commercially based and so logistically oriented. I think it is a good fit."

While she is happy for the opportunity to put her expertise to work in the field,

Taneyhill said she will miss her co-workers at Redstone.

"We're professionals, but we're friends," she said. "They've supported me and they've been great. They're continuing to support me even as I'm leaving."

As an unusual coincidence, the office in question's primary staff is comprised of all women. While many stereotypes would predict otherwise, they have become very close during Taneyhill's time here.

"It's very unusual to have an entire female primary staff in a project office like this, particularly dealing with aviation — or anywhere in the Army. It's not something you see," she said. "It's kind of groundbreaking. We get along extremely well. We're all strong-minded women."

In packing for her khaki Christmas, Taneyhill made sure that her new collapsible golf club made it into her belongings along with a net. An avid, but self-described so-so golfer, she hopes to get a little time to hit a few shots while deployed. Her actual clubs will be sitting in storage waiting on her to pick them up for a vacation along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, which she promised them when she gets back.



Photo by Kelley Lane

READY TO GO— Lt. Col. Dorothy Taneyhill packs up before shipping out.

Taneyhill also made sure she had her supply of must-have items lined up for the trip.

"I've asked people to send me Starbucks coffee," she said, laughing. "Also some girly things like nice lotion and a good set of towels."

She said she's not really worried about what she sees on the news here about Iraq.

"I'm not concerned about that. I'll be very busy helping with readiness," she said. "I'm looking forward to contributing and making a difference."

Seventeen Soldiers join Redstone units

Seventeen Soldiers arrived at Redstone units during November. The Garrison provided the following in-processing list:

- Col. James Marsh Hesson, Ground-based Missile Defense; Col. William Marrero, Aviation and Missile Command; Chief Warrant Officer Robert Leland Lobeck, Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas; Chief Warrant Officer Donald Louis Fox, Aviation Support; Lt. Col. Phala Lea Patton, Logistics Support Activity; Lt. Col. Ty S. Weaver, AMCOM; Maj. William Patrick Heyland, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Maj. Howard

Richard Jaynes Jr., THAAD Project Office

- Maj. Dariel Debries Mayfield, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; Master Sgt. Patrick Stanley Reese, PEO Aviation; Sgt. Maj. Conrado Narciso Angelino, Garrison; Sgt. Nanette Renee Clarkson, Garrison; Sgt. Eric Matthew Ironsmith, MEDDAC; Spc. Jonathon Edward Boman, Garrison; Staff Sgt. Christopher Erich Coffey, MP; Staff Sgt. Joseph Henry Logue II, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School; and Staff Sgt. Ranada Shanta Lowe, MSIC.

Christmas comes early for longtime bowler

Weaver rolls his first 300

A perfect game was one of the two goals that Redstone bowler Lee Weaver had yet to accomplish over the past 30 years.

Until now. Weaver rolled a perfect game Nov. 30 at Redstone Lanes and barely missed his other remaining goal – an 800 series. The retired sergeant major bowled a 225, 300 and 257 for a personal best 782 series.

In the past, he had bowled the first 10 strikes in a row but had never reached the 11th strike. So, he said he had all kinds of negative thoughts going through his mind before the final frame.

“Lets make good shots and let the pins

fall as they may,” Weaver reminded himself.

He watched the 12th ball roll down the lane as it hit the 1-3 pocket and he saw all 10 pins fall. The 7 pin (left corner) was the last to go down. Everyone cheered and fellow bowlers and friends congratulated him.

“I thank God, my wife (Tammy) and family; Mr. (John) Howard, the RSA bowling center manager; Santa Claus (laughing); and those who kept telling me I would someday bowl a 300 game and 800 series,” Weaver said.

He made the All-Army bowling team in 1982, when the team won the interservice championship and gold medals were awarded to all five members of the team. The New York native, who retired in 1998 after 30 years in the Army, is a contract specialist at the Acquisition Center.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

STRIKING GOAL— After a 782 series, contract specialist Lee Weaver hopes for an 800.

Computer gamers invited to tournament

By ANDREA MATTOX
MWR Sales and Marketing

Start practicing now because Morale Welfare and Recreation is hosting the first quarterly Local Area Network party Jan. 21 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

MWR will be featuring tournament play in WarCraft III: Frozen Throne, Half Life 2: Deathmatch, and Unreal Tournament 2004 as well as other non-tournament games. The event is open to the entire Redstone Community. Due to space limitations, each player is allowed to bring one non-Arsenal guest to the Event. Please note: children under 18 are allowed to play only with parental consent. Each player is required to bring their entire computer system (monitor, keyboard, mouse, headphones and software, etc). Headphones are required to participate in this event.

There is a \$10 entry fee for the tournament which includes lunch, dinner and snacks throughout. Bill Heard Chevrolet is sponsoring over \$1,000 in prizes for the tournament. Sponsors include Bill Heard Chevrolet, Knology Cable, and BAWLS energy drink.

Here's the tournament schedule: registration/setup from 8:45-9:30 a.m., practice rounds from 9:15-9:45, rules 10-10:15, tournament play 10:30 to 6 p.m. and awards ceremony 6:15.

To pre-register, call Andrea Mattox at 955-7250 or e-mail andrea.mattox@redstone.army.mil. The deadline for pre-reg-

istration is Jan. 9. For more information, visit www.redstonemwr.com.



Harold Garner/Photo Lab

Early run

Post Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn and Sgt. Maj. Joe Duncan of Robotics Systems keep pace in the Arsenal's recent postwide enlisted run. Lunn will soon be reporting to a new assignment at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

Drill instructor picks up legacy after Marine's death

Staff sergeant turns triathlete

By Lance Cpl. MIKEL SAVIDES
MCRD San Diego

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, Calif. — When Staff Sgt. Ira Wilkie reported to Instructional Training Company, his executive officer wanted to talk athletics.

Speaking solemnly about the initial conversation, Wilkie credited Capt. Patrick M. Klokow with making him the athlete Wilkie wished his former leader could see today.

Wilkie said Klokow talked about physical conditioning and wanted to know Wilkie's interests. Klokow, known to be an exceptional athlete, set to make Wilkie a triathlete.

Workouts would go during lunchtime, early mornings and weekends.

"It was all new to me," Wilkie said of the training. "I was always a strong runner, but my swimming skills lacked. And although I had previously done a little mountain biking, riding on the road is completely different."

Wilkie said the cycling began when Klokow started working out with him during lunch and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn

RIDE ON— Instructional Training Company drill instructor Staff Sgt. Ira Wilkie, left, leads depot triathlon team members Gunnery Sgt. John Wilson and Staff Sgt. Scott Brown on a 14-mile ride.

riding whenever they had time.

Soon training with Klokow became Wilkie's main focus.

"I stopped going out at night and doing anything that would interfere with my training to become a triathlete," Wilkie said. "To be good requires a lot of dedication."

Meanwhile, Wilkie furthered his education, which he said Klokow constantly strived to do. Amidst the training, Wilkie attended the University of Phoenix with a full course load. All the while, he served as a drill instructor and an academic instructor.

When speaking about Klokow's influence, Wilkie said, "He was always looking to improve himself, and I strived to be like him."

After a while, other Marines said the two athletes developed similar characteristics.

"The biggest thing they had in common was their work ethic, and they both always focused on teamwork, taking care of Marines and physical fitness," said Staff Sgt. Bill J. Shaw Jr., an IT Co. drill instructor.

A few days after an intense Saturday workout — an Olympic distance ride in late August — Wilkie was blindsided by what he called "the last thing any of us expected to hear."

Klokow had been killed.

The two had planned to cycle separately to work on the morning of Aug. 23. At lunchtime, they would do one of their favorite workouts: a bike-to-run transition. However, only one of them made it to work that day. A

hit-and-run driver struck and killed Klokow.

"Tuesday was one of our best workouts," said Wilkie, his face turning somber. "That morning we were told to report to the company office. I had not seen (Klokow) yet that morning, so I figured I would talk to him there about our workout. Then I saw the chaplain and the look on our first sergeant's face. Something wasn't right."

That day, Wilkie left his office and realized he had only one way home: his bicycle.

"I made it all the way down to the gate when I got off my bike and called my girlfriend for a ride. I just thought to myself, 'Maybe this isn't the smartest thing to do.'"

Moments before, Wilkie's friend Shaw had warned him to "be careful" riding home.

His mentor's death was hard, but it didn't keep him off his bike for long.

Two weeks later, Wilkie competed in the Los Angeles Triathlon and placed fourth in the public service category. He also began heading the depot's triathlon club, which Klokow originally organized. In honor of Klokow, Wilkie had club jerseys printed with Klokow's initials.

In the past year, Wilkie has

competed in about nine triathlons and various other events such as marathons and Half-Ironman competitions, and he thanks Klokow for sparking the interest.

Wilkie has kept Klokow in his memory in many different ways, but he said he thinks about him most when competing in big events. Wilkie has trained for, competed in and completed the Tour de Julian 2005, the Open Air MRI Centers Silver Strand Half Marathon and 5K, the Las Vegas Marathon, the San Diego Rock n' Roll Marathon and many other events.

Recently, he has been training for Ironman Florida, an event with around 2,500 entrants registering within three hours, according to Wilkie.

Wilkie said, "I owe him a lot. I wouldn't have gotten into this if it weren't for him."

A sticker on Wilkie's bike reads, "In memory of Captain Patrick M. Klokow, I will never forget you."

Wilkie has ridden that bike in nearly every competition since Klokow's passing.

Editor's note: Lance Cpl. Mikel Savides is a combat correspondent with the 12th Marine Corps District recruiting headquarters in San Diego.

Headquarters & Alpha works overtime against Bravo

Gators survive playoff opener

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

The postseason tournament for flag football got off to a rousing start as Headquarters & Alpha went overtime with Bravo Company.

The Gators prevailed 15-14 in OT on Dec. 5 at the field off Patton Road. Headquarters & Alpha advanced to the second round while the Bulldogs fell to the losers' bracket.

After a scoreless first half, Bravo (2-9) broke on top with a 20-yard touchdown pass. The Bulldogs passed for the extra point and a 7-0 lead early in the second half.

On its ensuing possession, Headquarters & Alpha (9-2) scored on a 30-yard touchdown pass. But the extra point run failed, leaving Bravo up 7-6 with 12 minutes left.

The Gators struck again on a 15-yard run and added a two-point conversion run for a 14-7 lead with 1:24 left.

But the Bulldogs weren't done. They got good yardage on the ensuing kickoff and moved down the field, aided by a couple of defensive penalties. The Bulldogs scored with 13 seconds left and added the extra point for a 14-all tie.

In overtime, the ball starts at midfield on the 40. Each team gets four plays; and the winner is determined by where the ball ends up – who has advanced further. Headquarters & Alpha won because the ball was on the Bravo 20.

"Rocky start but we did what we had to in the end," Gators linebacker/coach Ian Cutting said of the win. "We did what we



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GETTING READY— Headquarters & Alpha linebacker/coach Ian Cutting stretches before the first game of the postseason tournament.

were supposed to."

MEDDAC cheerleaders Sara Johnson and Jessica Martin got their wish Dec. 6 when MEDDAC beat the Marines 14-8. Martin originated their banner for the game: "Mouthpiece — 87 cents. Football — \$18. Beating the Marines — priceless."

In other games, 326th Chemical surprised NCO Academy 12-7 on Dec. 5 and Charlie Company won by forfeit over HHC 59th. On Dec. 6, Headquarters & Alpha stopped 326th Chemical 27-8 and NCO Academy eliminated Bravo 33-18. On Dec. 7, MEDDAC beat Charlie 22-6, Marines won by forfeit over HHC 59th and NCO Academy eliminated Charlie 14-0.

The final of the eight-team tournament is scheduled tonight at 6.

Southern California picked to win national title

Rose tilt with Texas tops bowl schedule

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



Here are Skip's Picks for the college football bowl games:

- **New Orleans Bowl**, Dec. 20 in Lafayette, La. – Southern Miss over Arkansas State
- **GMAC Bowl**, Dec. 21 in Mobile – UTEP over Toledo
- **Poinsettia Bowl**, Dec. 22 in San Diego – Navy over Colorado State
- **Las Vegas Bowl**, Dec. 22 – BYU over California
- **Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl**, Dec. 23 – Kansas over Houston
- **Hawaii Bowl**, Dec. 24 in Honolulu – Central Florida over Nevada
- **Motor City Bowl**, Dec. 26 in Detroit – Memphis over Akron
- **Champs Sports Bowl**, Dec. 27 in Orlando, Fla. – Clemson over Colorado
- **Insight Bowl**, Dec. 27 in Phoenix – Arizona State over Rutgers
- **MPC Computers Bowl**, Dec. 28 in Boise, Idaho – Boston College over Boise State
- **Alamo Bowl**, Dec. 28 in San Antonio – Michigan over Nebraska
- **Emerald Bowl**, Dec. 29 in San Francisco – Georgia Tech over Utah
- **Holiday Bowl**, Dec. 29 in San Diego – Oklahoma over Oregon
- **Music City Bowl**, Dec. 30 in Nashville – Minnesota over Virginia
- **Sun Bowl**, Dec. 30 in El Paso – UCLA over Northwestern
- **Independence Bowl**, Dec. 30 in Shreveport, La. – South Carolina over Missouri
- **Peach Bowl**, Dec. 30 in Atlanta – Miami (Fla.) over LSU
- **Houston Bowl**, Dec. 31 – Iowa State over Texas Christian
- **Liberty Bowl**, Dec. 31 in Memphis – Tulsa over Fresno State
- **Meineke Car Care**, Dec. 31 in Charlotte, N.C. – N.C. State over South Florida
- **Cotton Bowl**, Jan. 2 in Dallas – Texas Tech over Alabama
- **Outback Bowl**, Jan. 2 in Tampa – Florida over Iowa
- **Gator Bowl**, Jan. 2 in Jacksonville, Fla. – Virginia Tech over Louisville
- **Capital One Bowl**, Jan. 2 in Orlando – Auburn over Wisconsin
- **Fiesta Bowl**, Jan. 2 in Tempe, Ariz. – Notre Dame over Ohio State
- **Sugar Bowl**, Jan. 2 in Atlanta – Georgia over West Virginia
- **Orange Bowl**, Jan. 3 in Miami – Penn State over Florida State
- **Rose Bowl**, Jan. 4 in Pasadena – USC over Texas

Wrestling Soldier ranked No. 1 in world

By TIM HIPPS
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Army wrestler Sgt. Iris Smith received a No. 1 world ranking in the women's 158.5-pound freestyle division, according to TheMat.com, the official web site for USA Wrestling.

Selected by five international journalists, TheMat.com's rankings list the top 15 wrestlers in the world in each weight class and discipline — men's Greco-Roman and freestyle and women's freestyle. The rankings, which will be updated bi-monthly through August, are the first published by a panel of independent journalists, said Gary Abbott, director of communications for USA Wrestling.

Smith, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, won a gold medal Sept. 30 in the women's 158.5-pound freestyle division of the 2005 World Wrestling Championships at Budapest, Hungary. She defeated five-time world champion Kyoko Hamaguchi of Japan, 3-1, 1-1, 1-0, to become the new world champion in her weight class. To reach the championship match, Smith grappled to victories against Stanka Zlateva of Bulgaria, Angnieszka Wieczczek of Poland, and Germany's Anita Schaetzle.

The lone American to win a gold medal, Smith became the fourth U.S. female wrestler to win a world crown, joining Tricia Saunders, Kristie Marano



Photo by Tim Hipps

ON TOP OF WORLD— Army World Class Athlete Program wrestler Sgt. Iris Smith (top), seen here controlling a women's 158.5-pound freestyle championship match against Ali Bernard in the 2005 U.S. Wrestling World Team Trials at Ames, Iowa, is ranked No. 1 in the world in her weight class by TheMat.com. Smith is stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

and Sandra Bacher.

A four-time national champion, Smith has competed twice in the world championships, finishing seventh in 2000. She also made Team USA's roster for the world championships in 2001 but missed the event to attend Army basic training.

WCAP wrestlers Staff Sgt. Dremiel Byers, a 2002 world champion, and Sgt. Tina George are ranked No. 8 in the world in the men's 264.5-pound Greco-Roman and women's 121-pound freestyle divisions respectively.

Editor's note: Tim Hipps serves with Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs.

Schumacher gets 'Champion of Champions' award

Driver takes home annual recognition

By CHRIS DIRATO
Army News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. — U.S. Army Top Fuel driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher pocketed the prestigious Economaki Champion of Champions award Dec. 1 at the Performance Racing Industry trade show in the Orange County Convention Center.

Presented by Rockett Brand Racing Fuel and National Speed Sport News, the Economaki Champion of Champions (named after NSSN's long-time editor, Chris Economaki) must have earned a title while racing in North America during the 2005 season and excelled on and off the track.

In 2005, Schumacher captured his second straight NHRA POWERade Top Fuel world championship and the third of his career.

"This is quite an honor," said Schumacher after receiving his trophy. "I wish my U.S. Army team could have been here with me today because without all of their hard work throughout the year, this would not have happened. This is as much their award as it is mine."

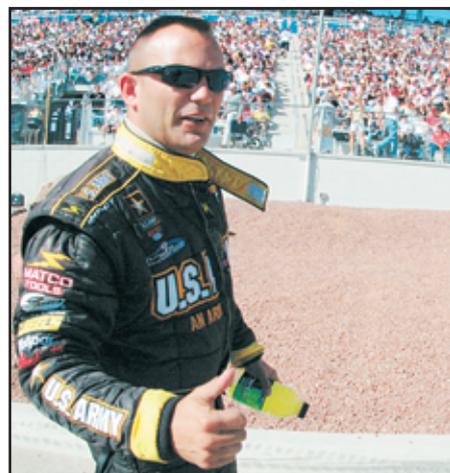


Photo by Lt. Col. William Thurmond

DEFENDED TITLE— Army drag racer Tony Schumacher gives a thumbs-up in Las Vegas in October immediately after he clinched the 2005 NHRA Top Fuel title for the second consecutive year. He was presented the "Champion of Champions" award Dec. 1.

Schumacher, who hails from Chicago, became the first NHRA driver to take home an Economaki Champion of Champions award. Previous winners include J.J. Yeley (USAC — 2003) and Steve Kinser (World of Outlaws Sprint Series — 2004).

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.

Youth racquetball

Youth Sports is offering basic racquetball instruction and recreational competition for Redstone youth ages 8-17 today 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.

Enlisted spouses

Enlisted Spouses Club meets on the second 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.

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 Friday to www.NorthAlabamaPML.org.

Alcorn State alumni

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

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30 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. The shop is closed Saturday, Jan. 7. For more information and holiday hours, call 881-6992.

Bible study

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

Computer classes

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

Chapel services

Weekly services at Bicentennial Chapel, on Goss Road, include: Weekdays (except

Friday) – noon Catholic Mass. Saturday – 5 p.m. Catholic Mass. Sunday – 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, 10:45 a.m. CCD, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, 11 a.m. Protestant Worship Service. Many Bible studies are throughout the week. For information call 876-2409.

Merit awards

The rising cost of higher education is a growing concern; and the Officer and Civilian Women's Club can aid their 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 Thursday 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 chapter Christmas social as well as on the TVC web site at www.tennvalleyquad-a.org/scholarships.html. Applications are

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

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

Weather closings

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

Nativity scene

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

Angel tree

Youth Services has an Angel Tree in the Post Exchange for dependent children of military and National Guard personnel. The stars on the tree will list the child's

age, clothing size, shoe size and the name of a favorite toy. All gifts should be wrapped and the star attached to the outside of the gifts for correct distribution. Turn in the presents to the PX or the Youth Center, building 3148, by noon Friday. 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

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Sparkman tree

Badge checker Amy Balch adjusts an ornament on the Christmas tree in the building 5300 lobby at the Sparkman Center.

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

CFC contributions

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is still accepting pledges. "We know that our nation has been dealing with unprecedented natural disasters and we have been giving, giving and giving," a prepared release said. "Our contributions are still needed. Now more than ever our community, our nation, and our world still need our support. We have more than 52 CFC agencies that have provided direct support to our hurricane victims. These same agencies now need our help to replenish their resources. We don't want to wait until a disaster happens to react — we want to ensure that resources are there when disasters do happen. As little as \$5 a pay period can mean meals for hungry children, relief for families in need of counseling, further work for cures for diseases, comfort for the dying, aid in time of disasters, and better lives and renewed hope for people in their time of need. If you have not filled out a pledge card yet, you still have time to do so. We can process payroll contributions through Dec. 15 and we can process

cash/check contributions through the end of December. Contact your organization's financial chairperson and complete your pledge card and help make a difference today. CFC is not about making goals — CFC is about helping people. Together we can make a difference. 'CFC — Compassion in Action'; let's make our slogan a reality here in the Tennessee Valley." For more information, call the CFC Office 842-1037.

Tax assistance volunteers

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

Center party

The Integrated Materiel Management Center will have its annual Christmas Party on Thursday 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.

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 through Dec. 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; management 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.

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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 again Jan. 7, and are available online as well. For more information, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Education Center, building 3222.

Holiday entertainment

Valley Conservatory presents the second annual "Christmas in the Valley" Dec. 16-18 at Parkway Place Mall in Huntsville. The free weekend activities include solo and chamber ensemble performances of holiday, classical and jazz favorites as well as demonstrations of piano, guitar, African drums and art.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. This scholarship is open to high school seniors, undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found at <http://www.asmcconline.org/national/nationalawards.shtml> or you may call Judy Smith 876-6163 or Debie O'Neal 876-2671. Application deadline is Feb. 28. Packages may be mailed to AMCOM, Attn: AMSAM-RM-FD, Judy Smith, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898 or taken to Smith in building 5300, third floor, work station 53B062.

Army family team building

Army Family Team Building will celebrate its 11th birthday Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Post Exchange lobby (next to Cinnabon). For more information, call 842-8375.

Auto skills open house

Auto Skills Center's second annual open house is today from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This event is open to the entire Redstone community. The Auto Skills Center, building 3617 on Entac Circle, will offer a free Safety Class and a facility tour. Safety cards will be issued at class completion. Discover how easy it is to perform your own vehicle repairs at a fraction of the cost of downtown. Refreshments will be provided. Don't forget to register for door prizes. Only one registration per customer is allowed. For more information, call 955-7728.

Design workshop

STC Huntsville/North Alabama Chapter will hold an instructional design workshop Jan. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at University of Alabama-Huntsville, Morton Hall, room 204. Cost is \$75 for students, \$129 for STC chapter members and \$159 for all others. To register call Mary Holder 722-0091 by Thursday. The instructor is Jane Smith of JEM Communications, LLC.

Christmas trees

All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees, are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area north-east of the Ammunition Supply Point area which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees shall not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use. This area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. Travel will be limited to the single pasture trail along the east side of the open pastureland. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside of the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees should be cut from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 24. The trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For more information and a location map, call Outdoor Recreation, building 5132, 876-4868.

Drill sergeant of year

The Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, 59th Ordnance Brigade, will host its 2006 Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition from Jan. 30 through Feb. 3. The winner will be selected to represent Redstone Arsenal and OMEMS at the Training and Doctrine Command 2006 Drill Sergeant of the Year competition. The TRADOC competition will take place at Fort Monroe, Va., from June 20-24. There will be a DSOY luncheon to announce the OMEMS winner at the Officers and Civilians Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 3. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Warnie Stokes 842-9794.

Veterinary clinic

The Veterinary Treatment Facility will conduct evening clinics Thursday from 4-7 p.m. Authorized patrons will be seen on a walk-in basis for routine vaccinations. Heartworm, feline leukemia tests and microchip identification will also be available for pets. For more information, call 876-2441.

Performing arts

DanzArtz will perform "The Nutcracker: The Next Generation," Saturday at 1:30 and 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Cost is \$13, \$5 for students and seniors. For information call 881-9189.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is accepting scholarship applications for dependent children of active duty and retired Soldiers for the 2006-07 school year. Scholarship applications can be found at the AER web site www.aerhq.org. Applications will be accepted through March 1. For more information, call Kristi Foster of Army Community Service 876-5397.

Army health center

Fox Army Health Center will close at noon Friday for mandatory annual training. All clinics and the pharmacy will be closed for the remainder of the day. The Primary Care Clinic will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon for scheduled appointments. Advice Nurses are avail-

able 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments.

Dr. King luncheon

Martin Luther King Day will be celebrated with a luncheon Jan. 12 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Dr. Virginia Caples, interim president of Alabama A&M University. The A&M University Jazz Ensemble will perform. Jan. 5 is the last day to purchase tickets (\$10 per person). Call Sarah Brazzel 313-0546, Demetria Cruz 876-9718 or Eugene Edwards 842-2142.

Night of jazz

Tickets are available now for A Mid-Winter's Night of Jazz at The Ledges, Feb. 18 from 6-10 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Huntsville High Band program. "A superb lineup of jazz musicians and elegant dining in the beautiful ballroom of The Ledges will provide an exciting and memorable evening for all," a prepared release said. "A silent auction will also be held featuring jewelry, artwork, a catered barbecue party, and other unique items." Tickets include hors d'oeuvres, dinner and door prize entry; cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$75 per person and will be limited to the first 150. For tickets call Kathy Wachs 955-8722 or Janice Lowther 883-9163.

Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives include the following: Dec. 15 from 7 a.m. to noon at

building 6263. Dec. 16 from 7-noon at building 5681, from 7-noon at Corps of Engineers and from 8-1:30 at NASA building 4316. Dec. 22 from 7-12:30 at SMDC building 5220. Jan. 5 from 7-12:30 at building 5400. Jan. 12 from 7-12:30 at SMDC building 5220 and from 7-12:30 at the Sparkman Center. Jan. 13 from 7-12:30 at the Sparkman Center, from 7-noon at Corps of Engineers, from 7-12:30 at building 4545 and from 7:30-12:30 at Army offices on Wynn Drive. Jan. 19 from 7-12:30 at building 7613 (Red Cross bus will be parked in front of 7612). Jan. 20 from 8-1:30 at NASA building 4316. Jan. 26 from 7-12:30 at building 4488 and from 7-12:30 at Ground-based Midcourse Defense at 5000 Bradford Drive.

Living holiday tree

First Baptist Church will present its 21st annual production of the "Living Christmas Tree," which features a choir of more than 150 singers and a full orchestra, Thursday through Sunday in the church's sanctuary. Evening performances will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30. Matinees will be Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m. An abbreviated performance especially for young children and their families is Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are free and available at the church at 600 Governors Drive. Ticket reservations are also available by calling 428-9422 or visiting the church web site www.fbchsv.org/lct.

See Announcements on page 26

