

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 55 No. 3

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January 18, 2006

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Let the (computer) games begin

Recreation's first Gaming Party

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

The competitive world of computer gaming is coming to Redstone Arsenal.

On Saturday, computer gamers from throughout the Redstone community will come together – with computers in hand – for the first-ever MWR Gaming Party. The Morale Welfare and Recreation event will feature three tournament games and many non-tournament games.

The gaming party will be held at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711 on Aerobee Road. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m. with practice rounds held from 9:15-9:45 a.m. Game play begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 6 p.m.

More than \$1,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded during an awards ceremony at 6:15 p.m. In addition, the \$10 entry fee includes lunch, dinner and snacks.

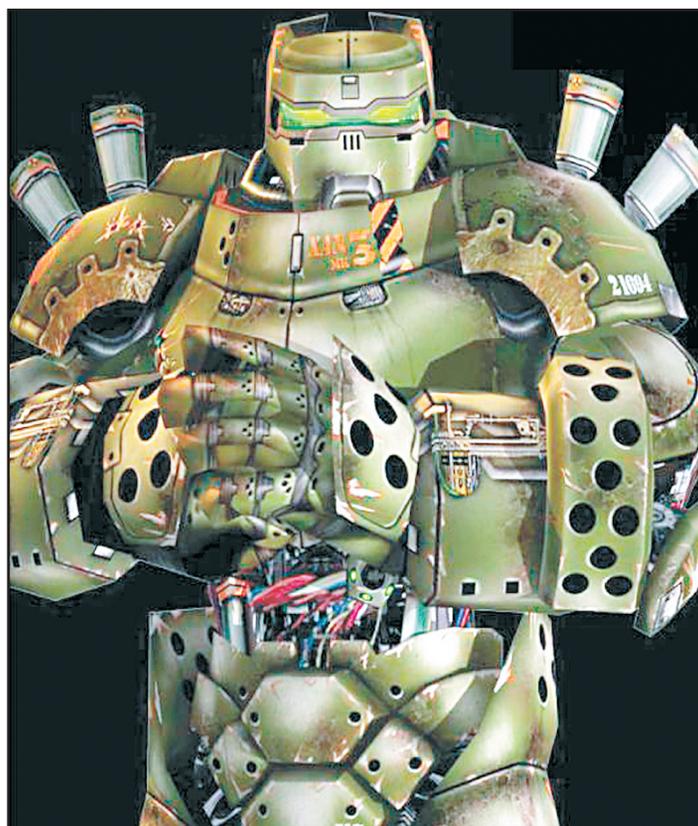
More than 30 gamers are expected to participate in the MWR Gaming Party. Gamers must bring their own computer equipment, including headphones and 10 to 15 feet of CAT-5 cable.

"We know there is a demand for this kind of event," said Andrea Mattox, the event organizer. "There are gaming parties around the world. This is a niche that MWR hasn't reached yet. We think gaming parties will be popular on Redstone Arsenal."

Gamers will get to participate in three different tournaments – Warcraft III: Frozen Throne will begin at 10 a.m., Unreal Tournament 2004 will begin at 12:30 p.m. and Half Life 2: Deathmatch will begin at 2 p.m. Winners of these tournaments will receive prizes.

Gaming background

Mattox became interested in organizing an MWR gaming party because of her husband's interest in computer gaming. A software engineer with Software Engineering Directorate,



Courtesy graphic

ROBOT WARRIOR— Warcraft III: Frozen Throne is among the tournaments slated for the MWR Gaming Party.

Brooks Mattox gets together with a group of about 15 friends from the Arsenal every few months to enjoy multi-player computer gaming.

"All my friends are into gaming," he said. "It's a way for us to get together and blow off some steam."

Brooks Mattox has been a consultant for the MWR Gaming Party. He hopes gamers from all across the Redstone community will participate in the event.

"This is MWR's survey event to see how big it is on the Arsenal," he said. "There is a significant population of Arsenal employees interested in gaming and participating in an event like this. It's fun to play single player games, but it's even more fun to bring together a bunch of players in one room to play multi-player games."

Father-son hobby

Rodney Ford, an SAIC manager supporting the System Simulation and Development Directorate on the Arsenal, and

his son, 16-year-old Nathan, are looking forward to the gaming party.

"We are both playing as participants," Ford said. "We will both be bringing a computer so we can play in the same tournaments. We are really looking forward to this one because there will be more people to play against."

Ford started gaming about 28 years ago.

"I had the original Pong," he said. "It was one of the very

first game consoles ever created. That was before anyone had a personal computer."

He plays computer games two or three nights a week with his son. Sometimes, his daughter, 14-year-old Caroline, joins in.

"This is an activity that I primarily enjoy with my son," he said. "Sometimes we will take a whole weekend, and that's all my son and I will do. Every month or two we go to events that last all day or all night, and time flies."

Engineering thing

Computer gamers vary in age, interests and lifestyles. But many gamers, such as 29-year-old Matthew Sweet, a computer engineer with the Software Engineering Directorate, are in their 20s and early 30s.

"I've been playing computer games for about eight years," Sweet said. "I think it attracts more of a mid-20s crowd."

While computer gaming is an attractive hobby for young engineers, Ford said he is still drawn to the games because of their competitive nature and the opportunity to challenge himself in different gaming worlds.

"The thing I'm interested in is the technology, the 3D graphics and the immersion into the gaming world. I'm attracted by the virtual reality aspect of gaming," he said.

The Fords and Sweet participate in the same loosely-formed gaming group as Brooks Mattox. The group was put together through a series of e-mails between co-workers at the Arsenal.

"It's a strange little social dynamic that has brought us together," Ford said. "We meet at each other's houses or apartments with our computers, find ways to all get hooked up and then play computer games. There have been times when we've blown an (electrical) circuit right in the middle of a game."

Ford won't have to worry about electrical circuits or space issues at the MWR Gaming Party. He plans to participate in two of the day's tournaments – Half Life 2: Deathmatch and Unreal Tournament 2004.



Courtesy graphic

GET A LIFE— This is the logo for Half Life 2: Deathmatch, a tournament at Saturday's party.

See Gaming on page 3

An open lane random survey

Why are volunteers important?

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Sue Paddock
DoD civilian



"At Army Community Service, volunteers are the backbone of our agency. They work in all different areas. They help the staff to accomplish our mission. Without them, we'd have to get a lot of extra people to do what they do. We really appreciate our volunteers and what they do."

"I think it's important to volunteer because it's good for the community. It's a way to harness the special talents of people. It's a way to share information and the workload."

Allen Poole
DoD civilian

"Volunteers are important to help in the community. They help a lot of people out."



Edward Grumble
DoD civilian

"I think it's important to volunteer because it's good for the community. It's a way to harness the special talents of people. It's a way to share information and the workload."

"I think volunteering is important because it gives us a chance to give back to the community and help folks who have a need. It's a way to show how grateful we are for where we are today."

Amos Richardson
DoD civilian

"I think volunteering is important because it gives us a chance to give back to the community and help folks who have a need. It's a way to show how grateful we are for where we are today."



Quote of the week

'No social advance rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of dedicated individuals.'

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

One less vehicle on road

I thank David Stone for his insightful letter to the editor (Jan. 11). As another avid bicyclist who rides the Arsenal often, I feel David brought out all the points that many needed to hear again. Another aspect of the problem revolves around the way our society has evolved over the years. People have become very impatient and inconsiderate. Whether it be standing in a line or waiting to pass another vehicle (a slow motorist, farm/construction equipment or a bicyclist), people do not want to be hindered in any manner during their daily routines. Add to this the influx of larger and oversized SUVs/trucks and a dangerous situation exists. This is another reason why Redstone Arsenal should re-evaluate its position for paving road

Letters to the Editor

shoulders.

As well, it would be nice to hear the public, instead of complaining about bicyclists riding to work, commend us for a change. That's one less vehicle on the road, less gas used, less pollution, and the list goes on. At least bicyclists have the heart to try and make a difference in the world. There are many nations in the world where bicyclists are the majority on the roads, and are respected and encouraged. If drivers would go the extra effort to do their part by obeying speed limits and the rules and regulations set forth on and off the Arsenal, then everyone could go to work in any mode of transportation they choose.

Name withheld by request

Traffic light should change

Driving onto the Arsenal at around 7:30 p.m. on a Wednesday, I was stopped by the traffic light at the Visitors Center on Rideout Road. I looked around and saw no traffic either leaving or entering the Visitors Center. In fact there was no traffic in any direction. I sat there, and sat there, and sat there to the point that I was just about ready to drive on through when the light finally changed. I began to wonder why the light was cycling at that time of the evening. Should we not have at least a flashing yellow/red during off peak hours or better a vehicle loop detector for entering/exiting the Visitors Center? Same thing happened again the very next day at 6:30 a.m. on my way to work, and there was no traffic either entering or exiting the Visitors Center.

If we are going to use traffic lights to control the flow of traffic, we need to do it smartly. If the loop detectors are there, and I would hope they are, let's put them to use and save both time and

gasoline for those driving on Rideout Road and those entering and exiting the Visitors Center.

Some time ago there was a comment in either an e-mail or the Rocket about carpooling and saving gas. Let's not burn that saved gas sitting at a red light for traffic that does not exist.

Richard R. Rice

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The installation of vehicle sensors which operate the signal light at Goss and Rideout road is included as part of the Gate 9 construction and therefore the signal light has not been operating properly since the onset of the project. The good news is the majority of the work – to include correcting the timing for the sensors on the signal light – should be complete Saturday, Jan. 14. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused during the construction period."

Questions of supply and demand

Has the management of the Post Gas Station changed in the last six months? I have noticed that the efficiency of the gas station has dropped significantly. Specifically:

- Too frequently they are out of reg-

ular unleaded gas (like today). Perhaps demand has increased but there is no shortage of gas and therefore the frequency of resupply needs to be adjusted.

See **Supply** on page 3

Building demolition schedule

I was wondering when is the scheduled completion date for the tearing down of building 4725?

Anthony Fitzgerald

Editor's note: The scheduled date is March 31, according to Rickey Hammond, project manager at Directorate of Public Works.

Puzzled by PX mall prices

Maybe someone can explain to me and others I have spoken to why the prices charged military patrons in the PX mall area are sometimes 20-30 percent higher than flea markets used by the same vendors in the immediate areas; or why depending on who is minding the stall, they change prices at their whim? Case in point, flask for \$12 one day; on a Saturday it goes to \$15. Baseball caps on post at a vendor cost \$13; Limestone Flea Market same hat and some cases the same vendor, \$5-6 per cap.

I attempted to mail a box from the UPS office in the PX and got a price of \$103 for a 16-pound box to Hawaii.

See **Prices** on page 3

Seepage spotted near building

When the temperature is below freezing, there is a serious hazard in the parking lot beside Sparkman Center building 5307. Water seeps out from a water line leak or a spring that was paved over, and runs across the parking lot. This morning, that water was ice.

The water is seeping out between the curb and the pavement at the south end of the sidewalk to 5307, and can run all the way down to the next curb.

See **Water** on page 5

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

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

Name: Willis Epps

Job: Director of CH-47 Directorate of the Acquisition Center

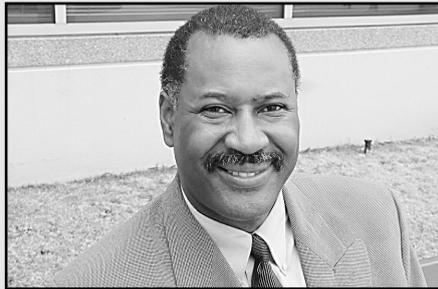
Where do you call home?
Benton Harbor, Mich.

What do you like about your job?

Being able to solve problems and to meet and exceed the customers' expectations.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to tinker with old Chevy pickup trucks, and watch old cowboy flicks.



What are your goals?

Goal is to be a role model for young black males.

What's your favorite type of music?

Jazz

Computer gamers converge for first gaming event

Gaming

continued from page 1

"My favorites are the 3D, first person shooters where you run around in a 3D world shooting other players and taking bases," Ford said.

While Ford enjoys the shooter games, Brooks Mattox is looking forward to playing in Warcraft III: Frozen Throne, a strategy game that involves building a town and an army.

"When I started gaming 15 years ago I started with the original Warcraft," he said. "But all the games are fun because you can involve 16 to 32 different players."

Reality in focus

Sweet plans to play all three games at the MWR Gaming Party, but he isn't overly optimistic about being one of the winning players.

"I practice more when it gets close to a gaming party," Sweet said. "I'll hold my own on Saturday."

The three gamers all said there is an addictive aspect to computer gaming, but the reality of work and having a family keeps gamers' feet on the ground.

"Eventually you realize you've got to keep the electricity on to keep playing the game," Mattox said with a laugh.

MWR's staff hopes the first-ever MWR Gaming Party will be so successful that it will become a regular event sponsored on the Arsenal. MWR has plans to organize gaming parties in April, July and October.

"We hope to get a good turnout for this event," Andrea Mattox said. "We think this first event will help get the word out and our next event will be huge."

Sponsors for the first event include Bill Heard Chevrolet, Knology, Papa John's, Hooters, Coca-Cola and Bawls beverage.

To register for the MWR Gaming Party, call 955-7250.

Demand increases at gas pumps

Supply

continued from page 2

It is almost like they wait to run out before ordering more. Too often I make a specific trip to Redstone just to get gas and am turned away.

- About half the time the pumps don't have the paper to give receipts. I know that I can walk over to the store and get a receipt but that defeats the purpose of paying at the pump and slows everything down.

- Too often several pumps are out of operation. This makes the already heavy flow of customers waiting even worse.

Craig N. Robinson
retiree

Editor's note: The Garrison and the Post Exchange provided the following response. "Management has not changed at the AAFES One Stop in the past six months, however the challenges in the fueling business have. As our prices continue to be the most competitive, we have a larger flow of traffic at our gas pumps. This brings new challenges that we are working to resolve in ordering. Orders

are placed in advance, and not when we run out. It is noteworthy to mention that we have had some issues with our delivery source. Our pumps are monitored at least three times daily to check the receipt printers, and yes, often they have to be reset. When customers pull the paper out before the auto-cutting mechanism is finished, the next customer will not get a receipt. We apologize for any convenience that might cause, and ask that our customers wait until the receipt is printed and released before taking it. This will make the shopping experience more positive for all.

"On the same topic, we would also like to ask our customers to observe the policy on moving vehicles to the side of the One Stop immediately after pumping. Too often, customers pump their gas, then go inside to shop, without moving their vehicle. This causes a backup of customers waiting to pump gas. Please help us enhance the gas shopping experience at the AAFES One Stop.

"Please feel free to call One Stop manager Eileen Berth at 883-0367 or AAFES general manager Kim Sumpter at 883-6100 ext. 122 should you have any concerns or questions in the future."

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

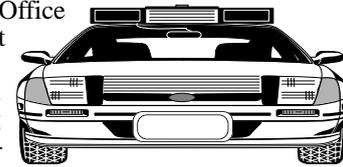
The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

Jan. 5: An individual was found to be operating his vehicle with a suspended license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released to a licensed driver.

Jan. 5: 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.

Jan. 5: An individual was found to be disorderly at the Shoppette. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 6: An individual was found to be operating his vehicle while under the influence of alcohol when he was stopped on Vincent Drive. Further investigation revealed that he was operating his vehicle with a suspended license. He was issued two violation notices and detained until his blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.



Jan. 8: 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.

Jan. 8: An individual reported that someone entered their quarters and moved several items around. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 11: An individual was found to have an outstanding arrest warrant from Jackson County during an inspection at Gate 9. He was released to the Madison County Sheriff's Department for transport to Jackson County.

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

Violation notices issued: 9 speeding, 2 driving with a suspended/revoked/canceled driver's license, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 improper backing, 1 driving under the influence.

PX shopper does cost comparison

Prices

continued from page 2

When I did not partake of this service, I went to the UPS store in Madison and shipped the same box for \$61.15. When I returned with the receipt and showed it to the PX UPS Store attendant, all he did was scratch his head and tell me he didn't understand the reason for the nearly 60 percent price difference but he would look into it. I could have shipped it from the Post Office for \$57 but they could not guarantee a timely delivery. When you go to a Zippy type market I understand you pay for convenience, but to be charged like that on a military installation is not right.

Good way to treat our GIs and their families.

Robert Davenport
Air Force retiree

Editor's note: The Garrison and the Post Exchange provided the following response. "Thank you for your recent questions about two of our vendors in the mall area. In regard to your questions concerning the First Impressions vendor: you are correct; the price of the flask was \$12 and then \$15 the next day. The vendor was running a promotion on that item, then the sale ended. He now offers the flask with engraving included for \$15, which is a very competitive price when compared to the competition.

"It is difficult to compare the retail market with flea marketing. These two markets are structured differently. It may be possible to find something very similar at a local flea market at a lower price. Often, the items there are bought at a wholesale market, and may be discounted to move quickly when they need to get out of that line of merchandise. At that time, one might see things sold at or below cost. AAFES strives to offer a quality product while still generating earnings to return to the Redstone community. The AAFES Morale Welfare and Recreation dividend for Redstone in fiscal 2004 was \$1,355,592.

"The First Impressions vendor in the AAFES mall does try to remain competitive, while still generating a profit to prosper the MWR dividend. They often run specials on hats of two for \$25 and two for \$20 to offer a more competitive price on their products. These prices are very competitive in the market, compared to concessions in the mall selling the same category of merchandise.

"In regard to your recent trip to the UPS store in the AAFES mall, you are correct. An error was made. The cost of shipping is the same at each of the Huntsville/Redstone UPS store locations. We apologize for any inconvenience to you, our valued customer.

"Please feel free to contact AAFES general manager Kim Sumpter - 883-6100 ext 122 or sumpterkim@aafes.com - at any time regarding the level of service provided to our Redstone community."

Tax center almost ready for business

Free service for Soldiers from Soldiers, volunteers

By Capt. DANIEL PAPAJCIK
Tax assistance officer

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center will be open from Jan. 23 to April 15. The tax center will provide free tax preparation and filing assistance to eligible clients, which include active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents.

This service is free and, based on the IRS's schedule for refunds, will have your refund to you within a week of electronic filing. Last year's tax center saved clients more than \$358,000 in tax preparation and filing fees and helped obtain almost \$2.3 million in refunds.

Soldiers and volunteer tax assisters will provide both computer-assisted tax preparation and direct electronic filing of federal returns. Preparation and electronic filing of state tax returns will be available as well. Once again, all active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents are eligible for tax assistance. Reservists or National Guard members who are on active duty orders for more than 29 days (and their dependents) can also take advantage of this free service.

The center will be located in building 3489, at the corner of Ajax and Zeus Roads. IRS-trained Soldiers and civilian volunteers will serve as income tax assisters under the supervision of the Staff Judge Advocate. The officer-in-charge will assist with more complex tax returns on a case-by-case basis and reserves the right to refer clients to a pri-



Photo by Kim Henry

PREPARING PREPARER— Instructor Randy Duff, from the AARP Foundation, prepares Spc. Joseph Bow for his next mission as a volunteer at the Redstone Tax Assistance Center.

ivate tax preparation service. Specifically, the center will not handle tax preparation involving complicated and advanced investment or rental property issues or matters concerning private businesses other than on-post family child care providers who are certified by Child and Youth Services. All tax assistance is strictly limited to personal tax returns.

The services offered by the center provide eligible clients several distinct advantages over commercial tax preparers. First

and foremost, center services are absolutely free. In contrast, the national average for commercial tax preparation and filing fees is well over \$100 per return. Second, the center is conveniently located on Redstone Arsenal. Finally, clients will not be confronted with the temptation of refund anticipation loans. These costly loans are traditionally offered by commercial tax preparers and involve extremely high interest rates. Although clients can get money immediately with a refund anticipation

loan, it will generally cost them a large portion of their refund; sometimes clients will forfeit up to 10 percent of their refund for a seven-day loan. By using the center, most clients will get the entire refund in approximately seven days.

The center will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, with tax return preparation offered by appointment only. Extended hours will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7 to accommodate those in need of

services after normal duty hours. Walk-ins will be welcomed during the extended evening hours only. For an appointment or more information, call the center at 842-1040. Appointments will not be made until Jan. 19.

Now is the time to start planning to compile your tax documents, especially if you will be traveling during the holiday season to the place they are located. Please be prepared to bring the following items to your appointment: all W2s, 1099s, 1098s and brokerage statements; Social Security cards for spouse and dependents; spouse (or a power of attorney that authorizes filing on his or her behalf) when filing a married filing jointly return; any receipts for deductible expenses; check showing bank account number and routing number; last year's tax return or other applicable years; dependent care provider's EIN, name, address, phone number and Social Security number; and advance child tax credit notice if you received one.

Servicemembers should confirm as soon as possible that they have access to the myPay web site for access to W2s when they are released in early January. Be sure to contact your past employers from 2005 to ensure your corresponding W2s will be mailed to the correct address. The center has a dedicated computer to print W2s in the waiting room.

Stay tuned to the *Rocket* for more information about this tax season. The center looks forward to serving the tax preparation needs of Redstone Arsenal. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/taxcenter.html>.

Mini storage facility in store for community

By ADRIAN BAKER
Morale Welfare and Recreation

The Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation has announced plans for opening a mini storage facility in early February.

MWR Outdoor Recreation's new storage facility is comprised of 148 total units, including 138 10-by-10-foot units, six 10-by-20-foot units, and four 5-by-10-foot units for rental use. These new storage units are individually-locking units with rolling overhead doors, complete with full perimeter fencing, and feature the latest digital pass code entry for user's peace of mind. Users will be able to access their mini storage units 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

"We see this as phase one of a much bigger project," Bill Moreland, Outdoor Recreation manager, said. "In the future, customer surveys and subsequent consumer demand will largely determine how many more are built.

"This \$500,000 NAF (non-appropriated fund) Major Construction facility was

built because of increased need and survey results derived from the MWR Triennial Leisure Needs Assessment Survey."

The survey focuses on capturing customer needs and wants in Army communities around the world. The Outdoor Recreation Mini Storage facility is an example of how filling out that survey brings about programs that improve quality of life while in, or working around, the Army.

The Outdoor Recreation Mini Storage is open to you, whether you're on active duty, a retired/Reserve/National Guard military member, a retired federal employee, current federal employee, or a contractor.

Grand opening for the mini storage facility will be in early February, with details coming in the Feb. 1 *Redstone Rocket*. If you're interested in placing your name on the contact list to rent a unit, call 876-0883 or e-mail larry.gene.blankenship@us.army.mil. For more details on this new MWR facility, visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Editor's note: Adrian Baker is director of MWR sales and marketing.

Contract awarded for fire control radar

Air defense system international effort

Medium Extended Air Defense System, United States National Product Office has contracted with Lockheed Martin, Maritime Systems and Sensors, in Syracuse, N.Y., to design and develop a state of the art, low noise X-band exciter for the MEADS Multifunction Fire Control Radar.

The MEADS US NPO is an element of the Program Executive Office, Missiles and Space Lower Tier Project Office, which is responsible for the development, fielding and support of the Patriot and MEADS air and missile defense systems.

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

An exciter provides the signal stability essential for exceptional clutter rejection performance in the X-band radar frequency range. The exciter creates the X-band excitation signal that is distributed to the MFCR Active Array during transmit and generates the local oscillator signals needed by the receiver. It also provides the signals necessary for radar clocks and timing.

Multiple Technical Interchange Meetings have been held at Lockheed Martin MS2-Syracuse with Steve Pearce leading

a team of government experts from the Army Missile Research Development and Engineering Center and local System Engineering and Technical Assistance contractors. Steve Pearce, of the LTPO-MEADS NPO, is the lead U.S. engineer for MFCR development and U.S. government technical lead for the exciter. Chris Baniewicz, Lockheed Martin MS2-Syracuse, is the contractor program manager for the exciter and heads the contractor team responsible for the design and production of the MFCR exciter. Baniewicz and Pearce have formed an Exciter Working Group to interface with German-led MFCR Transceiver Group, the section of the MFCR into which the exciter will be integrated. Multiple interface and requirement meetings have been held over the past three months to work through the stringent requirements.

MEADS is a highly mobile theater missile defense system developed to provide forward-deployed forces with protection against cruise missiles, short-range ballistic missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles. (*Lower Tier Project Office release*)



Courtesy photo

BREAK TIME— Steve Pearce, of the LTPO-MEADS National Product Office, and Chris Baniewicz, of Lockheed Martin MS2-Syracuse, take a break at a recent Technical Interchange Meeting.

UNA commissions two ROTC cadets

FLORENCE – As the University of North Alabama completed its 175th year in December, it commissioned two military science students as second lieutenants, one of whom was the 1,075th commissionee since the program began in the late 1940s.

Criminal justice major Michael Paul Scott, of Florence, took the oath of office as the 1,075th commissionee from Lt. Col. Michael Fennell, commander of the Lion Battalion of the Reserved Officers Training Corps and chairman of the UNA Department of Military Science. He will

be assigned to the air defense artillery branch of the Army.

The parents of Brian Douglas Gibson of Huntsville pinned second lieutenant bars on him during the commissioning ceremony. The computer information systems major will be assigned to the armor branch.

Fennell gave the commissioning ceremony address in the absence of Col. Eli Ballard, commander of the Eighth Brigade of the Army western region based in Huntsville. (*University of North Alabama release*)

Drainage problem has slippery solution

Water

continued from page 2

I don't know if there is a quick answer for the water, but when the temperature is below freezing, someone may need to salt the area!

I've reported this to the Sparkman Management Office, but haven't heard anything.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The problem with water seepage began when the pavement areas around building 5307 were removed and replaced with sod. The construction was accomplished to correct building parking offset requirements;

thereby, satisfying Force Protection criteria.

"During periods of heavy rainfall, the water percolates through the soil to a thin residual layer of aggregate base material. This coarse base or stone was left over from the previously paved areas. Over a period of days the groundwater will migrate to the end of sidewalk and weep out onto the asphalt pavement as suggested. In recent days the drainage has dried considerably.

"The Garrison DPW will address the problem, determine a solution, and make the necessary repairs to alleviate the condition. The repairs will be accomplished as soon as possible. During the interim time period, the area will be cleaned of all leaves and debris. It will also be salted during the remaining cold weather when conditions are favorable for icing."

Huntsville mayor visits Army Materiel Command

*Spencer describes city
for potential residents*

By **BETH MUSSELMAN**
AMC News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer visited headquarters Army Materiel Command Jan. 9 to tour the facility and meet the AMC work force.

Spencer came to Fort Belvoir under the invitation of AMC commander Gen. Benjamin Griffin. Kathryn Szymanski, acting executive deputy to the commanding general, hosted the event.

Spencer's visit began with a tour of the AMC Technology Gallery followed by a courtesy call with Lt. Gen. William Mortensen. The mayor was also given a command briefing and a tour of the Miller Operations Center before holding a town hall meeting with AMC employees.

Approximately 100 AMC employees gathered to hear the mayor speak and numerous others tuned in to the presentation via their desktop viewers. The town hall was designed to inform AMC employees about the Huntsville community and answer their



AMC News Service

HEADQUARTERS VISIT— Army Materiel Command's Kathryn Szymanski (right), acting executive deputy to the commanding general, explains exhibits in the Technology Gallery to Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer during her visit to AMC. Spencer then conducted a town hall meeting to answer questions from AMC employees considering the BRAC move to Huntsville.

concerns. The 2005 BRAC announcement has relocated AMC to Huntsville.

"This is only the beginning, the first step. I want to put your minds at ease on what Huntsville is," Spencer said.

"Mayor Spencer has been a strong supporter of the military and the war fighter," Szymanski said.

See **Mayor** on page 7

Robots lead the way for safer roads

High-tech tools do dirty work that servicemembers don't

By Pfc. MARK B. MATTHEWS
27th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP VICTORY, BAGHDAD, Iraq — Technology has come a long way in the past decade. Although it may be a few years before Johnny 5 can be found on the shelves of electronic stores, robots are used on a daily basis in medical research and automobile manufacturing. However, servicemembers in Iraq see them as vital tools in force protection.

Employees of the Aviation and Missile Command build and maintain a variety of robots used to detect, disarm and dispose of improvised explosive devices on the roads of Iraq.

"We provide the ground support for the robotics community in theater, particularly the IED task force," said Paul Varian, logistics assistance representative for AMCOM. "All of their logistics, training, supply and repairs come out of this facility."

The robots are very useful and have a wide variety of tools to help servicemembers efficiently and safely dispose of dangerous materials.

"The biggest benefit these robots give is that they can be the eyes, ears and in the case of one robot even the nose, forward of the Soldier," Varian said. "The robots are able to get out there and be in harm's way so the servicemember doesn't have to."

The robots have a very dangerous job and not all come back in one piece, but according to the people who work on the robots that is a good thing.

"We have had a fair number of robots that have been either damaged or destroyed as result of them doing their job," Varian

said. "So if a robot is damaged or destroyed that means a servicemember is not and that is always a good thing."

The servicemembers that actually use the robots in the field seem to enjoy having the robots do the dirty work.

"These robots are very effective," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Schilhabel, team leader for 447th Explosive Ordnance Disposal. "It just makes it a lot easier and safer so that we are not actually out there doing the hands stuff. We are using a robot."

Although the robots are very small they are built to take a licking and keep on ticking.

"These robots are pretty tough. Some of these robots will take a significant beating throughout the day," Varian said. "Several of them have taken on some pretty serious explosions. They come back, we put a new camera and arm on them and we send them right back out."

As the roads in Iraq continue to challenge the robots, employees of AMCOM and the servicemembers tasked in operating the robots will continue to do their job and bring about safer roads for the Iraqi people.

Editor's note: This article appeared in the Black-anthem Military News.



Photo by Pfc. Mark B. Matthews

REPAIR WORK— James Taylor, an AMCOM robot technician, repairs a robot's arm on Camp Victory in Iraq.



Photo by Pfc. Mark B. Matthews

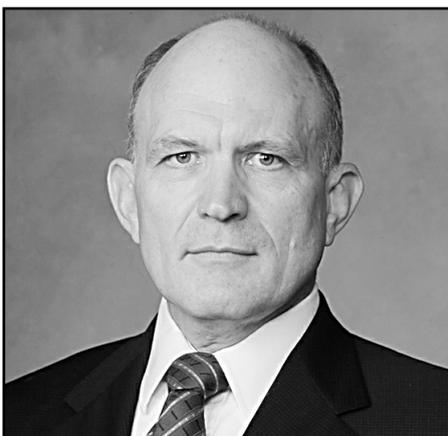
ON ROAD AGAIN— These robots are constantly being tested and modified to conduct their jobs as efficiently as possible. They can have up to six cameras on them and are expected to be agile enough to get into small places.



Courtesy photo

State appointee

Al Reisz, president of Reisz Engineers, has been appointed by Gov. Bob Riley to the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. This board regulates engineering and land surveying in Alabama and enforces state laws regarding such practices. Reisz, a fellow in the Society of American Military Engineers, has been active in engineering projects in past years at Redstone Arsenal and in aerospace projects at Marshall Space Flight Center. He is a retired lieutenant colonel having served with the Army and the Alabama Army National Guard.



Courtesy photo

Board member

Retired Maj. Gen. John Holly has been appointed to the board of directors for Analytical Services Inc. He currently serves as senior vice president and general manager of Huntsville-based Intergraph's federal solutions business unit.

UAH offering tech transfer series from Army's Comanche program

The Comanche helicopter program may have never reached full production, but that doesn't mean that there isn't value in the research and development that took place when the Army was considering a new version of its primary rotorcraft.

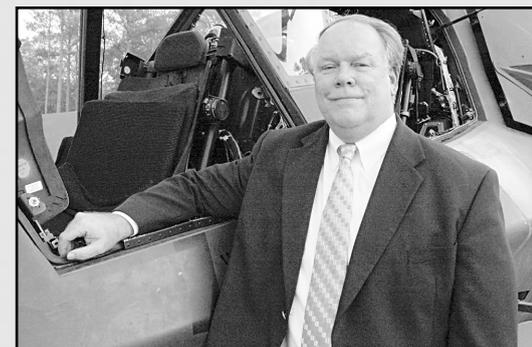
That is the task that has fallen on Jeff Cerny, a principal research scientist in University of Alabama-Huntsville's Rotorcraft Systems Engineering & Simulation Center. He has put together a dozen programs that will take the technology developed by that program and use it for the future.

"Some mistakes were made during the development of Comanche, but we gained a lot of wisdom as a result of that program," Cerny said. "We have 20 years of engineering expertise wrapped up in the Comanche, and we are going to use our experience there and transfer elements of that technology into new pursuits."

Cerny points out that the Comanche, or RAH-66, was a leading carrier of advanced technology, with state-of-the-art communication, navigation and sensor capabilities.

"We recognize the need to ensure that those gains made in technology will be widely available for use by other Department of Defense programs," he said. From that effort is a 12-part series of presentations. Cerny also plans to capture the series on CDROMs and offer the information through the Internet.

Some of the topics that Cerny hopes will provide "lessons learned" include the practical applications of systems engineering for an advanced rotorcraft vehicle. But the series will also delve into



Courtesy photo

RESEARCHER— Jeff Cerny, a principal research scientist in University of Alabama-Huntsville's Rotorcraft Systems Engineering & Simulation Center, is leading a technology transfer series on the former Comanche helicopter program.

more information gleaned from the Comanche, such as sensors and weapons, dynamic systems, flight test experience, advanced aircraft subsystems and airborne communications and networks.

This series will continue through much of 2006 beginning Jan. 10 with "condition-based maintenance."

Future topics during 2006 include:

- February — Modeling and simulation
- March — Airborne communications and networks
- April — Weight control program and processes
- May — Risk planning, analysis and abatement
- June — Sensors and weapons
- July — Dynamic systems
- August — Advanced aircraft subsystems
- September — Comanche flight test experience

For more information, call Trudy Adams of UAH Professional Development at 824.6940. (UAH release)

Keeping alive memories of nation's veterans

Veterans museum shares stories from experience

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

There are hundreds of stories to be told at the Veterans Memorial Museum.

Stories of American bravery — from the nation's earliest wars through the battle front successes of World War I and World War II and continuing into the heartache of the Vietnam War and the determination of today's war on terrorism — fill the museum that, since 2001, has been a testimony to America's most challenging times, and its most courageous and decorated Soldiers.

Housed in the Sgt. Paul L. Bolden Military Museum Building located in John Hunt Park, the Veterans Memorial Museum has been designated as the State of Alabama Veterans Memorial Museum and is part of the North

Alabama Military Heritage Trail. The museum has been built on the memories and keepsakes of veterans who want to keep the nation's military history alive by sharing their stories with Americans.

"This museum is about all American veterans, yesterday, today and tomorrow," said Randy Withrow, a volunteer who leads the museum's efforts. "We don't care where the veterans come from. But most of the memorabilia we have here does have some kind of connection to Huntsville."

Being located in a city known for its contributions to the nation's military efforts has provided the museum a significant source for its displays. Many retired military who grew up in the area or who came to Huntsville to work at Redstone Arsenal have left their keepsakes with the museum. Its displays have been compiled through the volunteer work of a handful of local military retirees and other local residents, and with the help

of donations from corporate and organizational sponsors.

The North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition as well as the local chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, local American Legions, the 19th Alabama Infantry, the 8th Air Force Historical Society and a host of other military organizations have assisted in the museum's efforts to preserve and display military history. And AMCOM's historical office has provided the museum with information and display materials.

In turn, the veterans museum has become an "unofficial ambassador of Redstone Arsenal." Museum visitors first see a room set aside just for memorabilia from Redstone Arsenal, including a case of grenades, a police badge and a civilian employee uniform from the days when Huntsville Arsenal was known for its munitions production. Among the keepsakes is a

See **Museum** on page 16



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES— The tanks and other hardware at the Veterans Memorial Museum aren't the only items that tell a story. Several display cases filled with memorabilia from different aspects of military history or with memorabilia telling a Soldier's story share the museum space with hardware. Retired Lt. Col. Randy Withrow, center, leads the volunteer efforts that have made the museum a reality. With him are, left, retired Air Force and Reserve Lt. Col. Otha Vaughan Jr., who was a charter member of the NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center team, and retired Lt. Col. Milt Aitken, who served two tours in Vietnam and who worked at Redstone Arsenal until retirement in 2000.

Military children write book about growing up

'Reality Street' proceeds fund college education

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Looking back through their book, Brittany Gibbs, J.T. White and Amabile Ford realize how far they have come.

Now 11th graders in high school, the students were just eighth graders at Stone Middle School when they worked with 11 other students to pen a book called "Reality Street." At the time, they didn't realize they would actually publish a book that would be available through all Madison County public libraries, be part of the collection at the Library of Congress and the U.S. Holocaust Museum Library in Washington, D.C., or sell so well that it would surpass its original printing of 200 copies.

They didn't know they had written stories that would have universal appeal for teenagers dealing with low self-esteem, divorced families, rough neighborhoods, difficult friends and troubled school days. Or, that they would be co-authors of a book that would become reading

material for parents struggling to understand the things their teenage children are going through.

But all those things came true. And so did something else — the

sales from their book will help each of them go on to college.

For these three teenagers, all children of Soldiers, their book has become a small miracle that will help them achieve their

dreams of a college education and professional careers.

Ask any of them and they'll tell you it's hard writing about personal feelings, particularly when you come from a family background that may be considered "on the wrong side of the tracks." But their gifted/talented teacher, Barbara Murphy, encouraged them to write down their experiences and feelings, no matter how difficult they were to face.

"She kind of had to pull it out of us a little at a time," Brittany recalls. "But after awhile, I gave in. I realized it's not really a big deal to write down what you experience. And it took a lot off our shoulders because we got to express what we were feeling."

Brittany is the daughter of Beulah Fludd and retired Sgt. 1st Class Cleveland Gibbs. In "Reality Street," Brittany wrote about a teacher who tells her she has a bad attitude, about a fight with a good friend that turned physical and about a gay friend who wants to fit in like everyone else. Even though each story deals with a difficult subject, Brittany's optimism and hope shines through in the resolutions of her conflicts.

She also wrote about good things that have happened to her



Photo by Kari Hawkins

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY— Co-authors of a book about middle school experiences look over the stories they wrote while attending Stone Middle School. They are, from left, Brittany Gibbs, daughter of Beulah Fludd and retired Sgt. 1st Class Cleveland Gibbs; J.T. White, son of Reshell and Reserve Master Sgt. Eddie White; and Amabile Ford, daughter Brenda and retired Sgt. Wallace Ford. With them are, from left, J.T.'s mother, Reshell White; gifted/talented teacher Barbara Murphy; and Amabile's mother, Brenda Ford, a Phoenix Service contractor at the Sparkman Center.

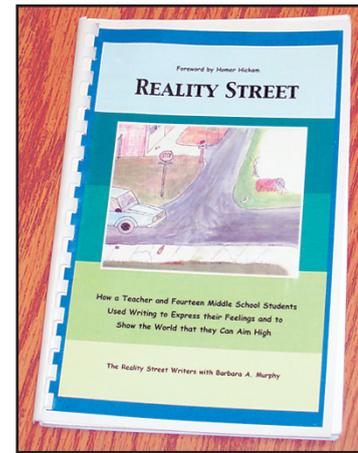


Photo by Kari Hawkins

STRUCK CHORD— "Reality Street" is available through all Madison County public libraries, part of the collection at the Library of Congress and the U.S. Holocaust Museum Library in Washington, D.C., and has surpassed its original printing of 200 copies.

and her family, such as the difference Community Watch made in making her neighborhood safer at night. Another story tells how she grew to love her journalism class, where she learned how to interview people and

See **Book** on page 18

Museum

continued from page 14

foretelling photograph of Col. Carroll D. Hudson (who at the time was a major) turning the dirt in a cotton field on Arsenal lands. Redstone's most successful military systems, such as the Hawk and the Pershing, along with today's work at Redstone Arsenal are also represented.

"The Redstone Arsenal Room provides a thumbnail sketch of Redstone Arsenal," Withrow said.

Down the hall and in the warehouse-style main section of the building, the museum has been organized with display cases and a large viewing area.

The museum's featured displays include the history of the Purple Heart, the story of WWI/Korean War Army nurse Dottie Cutts, the wartime achievements of the USS Banner APA 60 during WWII, the 9th Armored Division's experience at the Battle of the Bulge, and re-enactment grade replicas of Union and Confederate uniforms.

A display of the Home Front during WWII includes a gas mask, war ration books and one of the first Gold Star banners; and a Flying Tigers display tells the story of an all-volunteer group of American Soldiers who flew missions from China over Japan before the U.S. entered WWII. A display of Tuskegee Airmen show how they overcame obstacles to become heroes during WWII and a USS Spadefish display shows the history of one of WWII's highest scoring submarines.

Stepping back further in history, there are displays honoring Alabamians who fought in the Revolutionary War, the Battle of 1812, as the "Red Rovers" during the war for Texas' independence, the Indian Wars, the Mexican War, the Civil War and

the Spanish-American War.

The museum also holds an extensive collection of original uniforms dating from WWI to present and weaponry from Japan, Germany, Russia and other foreign countries.

More than 30 military hardware displays include an OH-58 Kiowa from Fort Rucker, and a Huey and Cobra from the State of Alabama. WWII hardware includes the oldest surviving jeep, a Sherman flamethrower, an M3A1 Halftrack and a Harley Davidson motorcycle. There is also a Vietnam era anti-aircraft gun on a truck chassis and an armored personnel carrier, and the Gulf War's Fast Track Attack Vehicle. A Huey used in Mel Gibson's film "We Were Soldiers" is on display as well as a replica of the PBR (Patrol Boat River) used by the Navy in Vietnam and seen in the movie "Apocalypse Now."

One of the museum's showcase pieces is a French 40 and 8 Boxcar, which could hold either 40 men or eight horses. The boxcar, used during WWI and WWII, was among the 49 boxcars filled with gifts by the French and donated to the U.S. in recognition of American war efforts. Each state, including Alabama, received a boxcar. When the museum obtained Alabama's boxcar, it needed extensive renovation. Today, it holds a lot of history, including WWI uniforms from the 42nd Rainbow and a call to mobilization announcement presented to a U.S. Army major by the French and dated May 2, 1918.

Another special feature is a WWII briefing room fashioned after a Bomb Squad briefing room used by the 8th Air Force. In addition, the museum displays a complete collection of state flags, a wall of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients and an Alabama Wall of Honor listing names of Alabama Soldiers deployed in the global war on terrorism. There is also a reference library that includes documents writ-

ten by veterans.

Open to the public since Veterans Day 2001, the Veterans Memorial Museum is operated through the Alabama Center of Military History, a non-profit, tax exempt educational institution. Its building, once used by General Aviation and then later as the city's Work Release Center, needed extensive renovation before it could house a museum.

"When we started, we had nothing," Withrow said. "The building was a jail, a dormitory for prisoners. We had to take all the barriers and chain link down before we could work on the displays. We weren't quite ready to open on Veterans Day 2001, but after 9/11 we felt we needed to."

The museum hosts several events throughout the year, including veterans reunions, community-wide events and school tours.

"This is all about trying to educate the public about what our veterans have done and are trying to do," Withrow said. "The veterans built this country and have been there to serve their country ever since."

The vast array of military memorabilia makes the veterans museum a resource for students doing research on military eras, for history and social studies teachers who want to give their students a hands-on experience with military history, and for anyone with a question about the nation's military. Visitors often get immersed in the stories told by the displays.

"We've had to chase people out at the end of the day," Withrow said. "If you really take your time looking at all we have and read the information we put out, you can spend quite a lot of time here. It is enthralling."

Museum volunteers don't turn any military memorabilia away.

"Everyone and every event has a story," Withrow said. "We want to give the veterans a place to tell their stories. We are responsive to their needs to share their

experiences and we are responsible in preserving their memories."

Although the City of Huntsville has allowed the museum to use its current facility along with two acres of land, Withrow would like city officials to provide adjacent acreage so the museum can raise funds to build a second building to hold its ever-growing collection.

"We basically have an elephant in a matchbox," Withrow said. "To restore and properly display these military memorabilia we need to have a second building. We need to be able to get all of our hardware out of the weather."

Leading the efforts to preserve military history is a natural for Withrow, who retired as a lieutenant colonel after 27 years in the Army and who has collected military memorabilia since he was a boy.

"I basically grew up surrounded by World War II folks," he said. "I was aware of what they had done for our country."

Although visitors are welcome to roam the museum at their leisure, Withrow and other museum volunteers often lead personal tours, explaining highlights of the displays and pointing out significant historical items. In their way, they bring the history alive for visitors.

"We want the museum to be a resource, a presence that serves the veterans and the public," Withrow said. "It's all about telling the veteran's story. All veterans deserve our support and a way to tell their story."

Editor's note: Veterans Memorial Museum, 2060A Airport Road at John Hunt Park, is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Labor Day through Memorial Day, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day; and open special hours for groups. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for students under 18. For information call 883-3737 or visit <http://www.memorialmuseum.org>.

Book

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write on deadlines, how to manage her time and responsibilities and how to put together a newspaper that others would want to read.

"All of these kids are leaders," Murphy said. "They are exceptional kids. They are a very special and wonderful group of kids. One reason for my doing the book was to show the students they could exceed their own expectations."

J.T., who is the son of Reshell and Reserve Master Sgt. Eddie White, was not sure about the book project when Murphy suggested it. The students had to review their middle school journals and find stories that would work in a book about middle school teens. Most of the eight girls and six boys in her class were not sure they could complete a book and have it published.

"I wasn't very excited about it, but I was willing to try," he said. "We started looking through our journals and picking out sections that we thought would be good for the book. Then we went to the computer lab and we typed, edited and revised multiple times."

When writing and editing, the students also had to think

about who the book's audience would be.

"We had to take out a lot of slang," Brittany said.

But with slang out of the way, the subjects the students addressed were things all teenagers have to deal with and resolve in their own lives. In one of his stories, J.T. wrote about the cliques in his school – namely, the Jocks, Nerds and Cheerleaders. He concluded that doing your best and not caring what others think is better than trying to fit in and worrying about being popular.

In another story, J.T. wrote about worrying whether his dad will have to serve in Iraq. He describes his family and writes, "they are the coolest people I know." He also wrote about a field trip experience that got him in trouble at a family amusement park.

The students divided their stories into seven sections – school; family; conflict; choices; neighborhood; love, hate and friendship; and eclectic. Famous author Homer Hickam wrote the foreword and retired football star and local business owner John Stallworth wrote the introduction. Murphy also wrote passages in the book.

"Homer Hickam told the students a great quote: 'Millions of people want to write and be published. Only a few can and you

(the students) are among those few,'" Murphy said.

The students presented a copy of their book to Gov. Bob Riley. Brittany and J.T. have spoken at the Huntsville City School's Teacher Conference in 2003, 18th annual Staff Development Conference in Atlanta in 2004 and at the Alabama Gifted Child Conference in Birmingham in 2005. Brittany also spoke at the U.S. Holocaust Museum at the book presentation and she'll speak at a reading conference in March. The students also participated in several book signings.

The book's authors come from blue-collar backgrounds similar to the way Hickam grew up. They often face difficult choices and temptations that can lead them from not fulfilling their potential.

"The demographics here are similar to an inner city school," Murphy said.

Amabile, the daughter of Brenda and retired Sgt. Wallace Ford, wrote about a lot of different things – friendship, conflicts, teachers. But more than the other students, one of her entries mirrors the experiences of other military children. She complains she is always getting picked on by kids in schools and wonders if it is because she has attended eight different schools in eight years and has always "been the new kid on the block." She wants to live a "normal" life and concludes, "I'm waiting for the good things in life

to show up. Someday they will."

In other stories, Amabile wrote about a friend's betrayal and what can happen when you are friends with a thief and a liar, about liking a boy who has another girlfriend, and about how jealous are hurting themselves. In a poem about love, she writes "Love is not something we should fear, but something that we should hold dear."

The students chose "Reality Street" for the name of their book because "it's realistic," Amabile said. "We didn't make up anything. It's all about things we've experienced and are going through. At the time, I thought it applied more to middle school students. But now I think it probably is good for high school students as well. It's all about what it's like to grow up in a demographic area like this."

J.T. said the experience has helped him "to express myself more and be more open to my feelings" while Brittany said the book "helps her appreciate where she has come from."

Amabile hopes other students will learn from the mistakes the writers write about in "Reality Street."

"Maybe they will be able to relate to the stories and find them interesting," she said. "Maybe they will help them to not make the same mistakes we did."

Amabile's mother, who works

as a Phoenix Service contractor at the Sparkman Center, thinks "Reality Street" has been a good experience for the students and their parents.

"It showed me that I need to have an open heart and open hands not just for my own children, but also for other children," she said. "I hope they look back at the book and say 'Hey, I know where I'm going now.' It's a positive in their lives that shows they are determined to make it in life. They have all come a long way."

The college money raised from the book will indeed be spent as all three students are already making plans for continuing their education. Brittany plans on attending the University of Alabama in Birmingham or Florida State University and study either medicine or interior design. Already an accomplished musician on the trumpet and French horn, J.T. plans to go to the University of North Alabama where he will study music education. Amabile plans to attend Harvard, the University of North Carolina or Duke and will study either law or computer engineering. Kaila Ward, another student who contributed to the book and whose father is a Soldier serving in Iraq, also has plans for college.

For more information on the book, visit the web site at www.huntsvillecitykids.com or call 883-0589.

Martial arts authority visits Redstone

*Noted author
led filming*

By **DAN O'BOYLE**
For the Rocket

Richard "Mack" Machowicz, author of the bestselling book "Unleash the Warrior Within: Develop the Focus, Discipline, Confidence and Courage You Need to Achieve Unlimited Goals," visited Redstone recently as part of a film crew.

He will be featured later this year in a Discovery Channel segment from a Javelin missile firing at Test Area 6.

Machowicz is a 10-year Navy SEAL veteran, having participated in numerous tactical operations while attached to SEAL Team One and Two.

He has more than 20 years of experience in the martial arts studying such systems as muay thai boxing, Jeet Kune Do, kickboxing, aikido, jujitsu, savate, arnis and karate. He was a certified instructor in Naval Special Warfare Combat Fighting Instructor Course, a Naval special warfare scout/sniper and has received multiple black belts.

He has also served as a per-

sonal protection specialist for political, business and entertainment industry customers.

Machowicz is the founder of the Bukido Institute and creator of the Bukido Training System. Bukido is billed as being the physical manifestation of a performance philosophy which uses unarmed combat as a metaphor for exploring the dynamics of doubt, hesitation, second guessing, stress, pain, fatigue and fear. Bukido teaches how to maximize one's ability to focus in any environment.



Photo by Andy Milk

DISCOVERY CHANNEL – Martial arts expert and author Richard "Mack" Machowicz records a segment during his Test Area 6 visit for a Javelin missile firing.

Machowicz has worked with NFL and NBA athletes. He has been featured in a number of publications including the Los Angeles Times, LA Weekly's "Best of LA," Muscle and Fitness, Glamour, Men's Fitness, Jump, The Dallas Morning News, and Mentor's Magazine. His work has appeared on Extra, ESPN, Fox Sports and Lifetime's "New Attitudes."

Machowicz co-founded Warpath Entertainment, which has produced two short films — the most recent of which is "Window" starring Academy Award winner Louis Gossett Jr. He has also written, produced and directed the short film "Trouble With Julian."

He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and lives in Los Angeles.

State honors Teledyne Solutions quality

Teledyne Solutions Inc. has won the Level Two Alabama Quality Award in the Service Sector from the Alabama Productivity Center, an affiliate of the Alabama Technology Network.

The Level Two Award recognizes organizations that have demonstrated sustained commitment to and application of performance excellence principles and practices. The companies have made progress in building sound and notable systematic processes that have improved results in key portions of the organization.

"We are very honored to have been selected for this recognition," said Steve Kuffner, president of Teledyne Solutions Inc. "TSI is committed to providing our customers with quality and

excellence. We are pleased to see these efforts acknowledged through this award."

The AQA, which has been presented since 1986, is given to organizations whose innovations have resulted in increased productivity and quality. The award is based on the Malcolm Baldrige quality management framework used in the National level award. The selection process includes a written application which is reviewed and evaluated by members of the Productivity Center's Board of Examiners, a consensus review and evaluation, a site visit and the judges' review and recommendations following the visit.

TSI received the Level One Award in 2002. *(Teledyne Solutions release)*

Troops ready to tip off basketball tournament

Preseason opens tonight at Pagano

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

Banter between teams has already started – even before opening tip-off of the preseason tournament.

The unit-level preseason basketball tournament is scheduled to begin tonight at 6 at Pagano Gym. Games will be 6, 7 and 8 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

“It usually takes about a week and a half,” sports director Gaylene Wilson said

of the tournament. The regular season should start around Jan. 30 and the post-season tournament in March.

“Usually (in the season) you play everybody in your conference twice and everybody in the other conference once,” Wilson said.

Eight teams are expected to compete this year, including defending champion Charlie Company.

“We’re going to have a real good team and mostly cadre this year, a few students,” Wolfpack player-coach Chelsie Stokes said. Charlie’s returnees include forwards Stokes and LaQuaine Bess.

John Edwards, director of officials, will give a rules update tonight at 5:30 before the first game.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

DOWN BUT NOT OUT— Charlie’s David Belton (22) goes down but teammate Jessie Satterfield (40) grabs the loose ball as Guyron Brock (24) looks on during Charlie’s win over Headquarters & Alpha in the 2005 post championship final. In pursuit for Headquarters & Alpha at left is Mathew Pitman (20).



Photo by Terry Bradford

Military on ice

Staff Sgt. Scott Fuchs of 832nd Ordnance Battalion gets ready to drop the puck for the University of Alabama-Huntsville hockey game against the Air Force Academy on “Military Appreciation Night” Jan. 6 at the Von Braun Center. The UAH Chargers beat the Falcons 3-2. The local chapter for Association of U.S. Army purchased 1,000 tickets for Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School trainees and Team Redstone Soldiers.

Workers from northern Virginia tour local community

Visit

continued from page 7

presented a brief history of the complex and answered questions about U.S. Space Camp.

Afterward, the special events manager, Amelia Flanigan, accompanied several employees on a tour of the new state-of-the-art S&RC Education/Training Facility.

“The Space and Rocket Center has the unique ability to give visitors a taste of what Huntsville is all about, as well as a glimpse at the quality of life we enjoy here,” Larry Capps, chief executive officer, said. “So naturally we’re delighted to help the Missile Defense Agency welcome newcomers to North Alabama, and we’ll do all we can to make them feel at home.”

Prior to their tour, Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer and Dallas Fanning, director of Urban Development and Planning, met with the MDA employees at the Space and Rocket Center and welcomed them to Huntsville.

After providing the employees with a community profile, Spencer and Fanning answered several questions from the group of potential North Alabama residents.

Several employees were surprised at the quality of life and the cultural diversity in the Huntsville community ranging from Broadway productions and fine arts

to concerts and professional sports. Many also commented about the tax base being appreciably lower in Alabama than elsewhere.

“It was a great pleasure to welcome the employees of the MDA Contracting Office and spend some time with them talking about Huntsville,” Spencer said. “I was pleased to hear Mark Lumer say during his introduction of me that seeing the mayor was something that the group would never see in Washington!”

“While I appreciated the compliment very much,” she said, “I believe that it is the responsibility of my office to promote Huntsville as much as possible, especially to those who are considering relocating here.

“I was very impressed with the dialogue that took place during my visit with the group. All the questions were well thought out as well as pertinent to the situation of making a significant move. I am grateful for the opportunity to give them a snapshot of what Huntsville is all about. This was my first chance to talk directly with the group, and I am certainly looking forward to many more.

“The recommendations of the BRAC Commission represent one of the most important opportunities that Huntsville has ever had,” Spencer added. “Because of this, I intend to make myself available to talk about the possibility of relocation to our area.”

Sports & Recreation

Computer gamers

Morale Welfare and Recreation is hosting the first MWR Gaming Party Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711. The games will include Warcraft III: Frozen Throne, Half Life 2: Deathmatch, Unreal Tournament and many more non-tournament games. There will be more than \$1,000 in cash and prizes. This event is open to the entire Redstone community. Entry fee is \$10 and you must provide your computer equipment. Lunch, dinner and snacks are provided. Spaces are going fast. To reserve your space, call 955-7250. For a flyer, visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Bowling benefit

Junior Achievement's 21st annual Bowl-A-Thon is Feb. 11-12 at five local bowling centers (Madison Bowling Center Inc., AMF Parkway Lanes, AMF Pin Palace, Plamor Lanes and Redstone Lanes). Last year more than 40 companies and 700 bowlers participated in the weekend fundraiser. Each bowler pays a \$12 registration fee that covers the cost of bowling three games, shoes, a T-shirt and a door prize ticket. For more information, call 533-4661.

Women's bowling tournament

Huntsville Women's Bowling Association

will hold its 46th annual championship tournament Feb. 18-19 and Feb. 25-26 at Redstone Lanes. Entry deadline is Jan. 26. Fees are \$64 per team, \$32 doubles, \$16 singles, \$3 AE handicap and \$5 AE scratch. For an entry form, stop by Redstone Lanes at building 3424. For information call Christal Howard of Morale Welfare and Recreation 876-2073.

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.

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. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight 876-8036.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. Jan. 25 in the Officers and Civilians Club. Cindy Maloney, from the Huntsville Airport Authority, is scheduled speaker. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows, are invited. For more information, call retired Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323.

Airborne chapter

The Vulcan Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association will hold its monthly meeting Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Baxters Restaurant in Cullman, off I-65 at exit 310. Membership in the association is open to all Airborne and glider-qualified individuals. For more information, call Barry Simpson 533-3000 or Dennis Camp 883-7488.

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. For more information, call 881-6992.

Help wanted

The Thrift Shop is looking for an assistant manager for 15-plus hours per week. Application/job description can be picked up at the shop during business hours. Turn in applications by Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. For more information, call Penny 881-6992.

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.

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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. 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.

Aviation scholarships

Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America is sponsoring two Aviation Challenge 2006 Scholarships in conjunction with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Children and grandchildren (between the ages of 9/attending or completed fourth grade and 18, not started college) of individuals who are Tennessee Valley AAAA Chapter members by Dec. 31, 2005 will be eligible to compete for the scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded in the form of certificates for use during 2006. Applications for scholarships and membership

and more information on Tennessee Valley AAAA Aviation Challenge Scholarship application procedures will be available at the Tennessee Valley AAAA chapter Christmas social as well as on the TVC web site at www.tennvalleyquad-a.org/scholarships.html. Applications are due Jan. 31 in accordance with the instructions on the application. For more information call Tom Harrison, chapter vice president for scholarships, 882-6709.

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.

Volunteer opportunities

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

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 313-5724 or Randy Duff 420-3223.

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. 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.

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.

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The application can be found at <http://www.asmcnline.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.

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.

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.

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.

Training seminar

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 11th annual seminar, "Pathways to Professional Excellence," Feb. 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. Keynote speakers will be Alyce Hartley and Bonnie Powell from UAB in Birmingham HRM Training. Afternoon workshop topics include Working Professionally with Personalities, Resume Building, Excel, Powerpoint Presentations, and "Who's in the Driver's Seat of Your Career Development?" A Dillard's fashion show will also be included with the

luncheon and continental breakfast and snacks will be provided to attendees. The course is in TIPS by the course number PPE, and vendor name is IAAP. Tuition fees are \$125 and student rates are \$50. You do not have to be in the administrative career field to attend this training event. To register call Rob Archer 313-8137.

Army families

Have you ever attempted to mail a letter without a stamp? Living the military lifestyle or working on a military installation without taking Army Family Team Building classes is like mailing a letter without a stamp. If you are willing to allow AFTB to help you make the connection, there will be a level one session starting on Jan. 24-26 from 6-9 p.m. Dinner and child care is provided. The training will be at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Call 842-8375 before Friday to enroll in this class and to register the free child care.

Job shadowing

Junior Achievement of Northern Alabama, in partnership with the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, seeks 700 host job positions for Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Groundhog Job Shadow Day is a one-day event which allows students to follow an employee in a chosen career and learn what is required to be successful in that position. Students also see the connection between what they are learning in the

classroom and what is needed in the "real world" of work thus opening their minds to career options they may never have considered. JANA and the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce support the national Groundhog Job Shadow Day which takes place in February throughout the country. Locally, students will be able to select one day from Feb. 9, 16 or 23. Last year more than 300 students from 15 local high schools participated. This year more than 700 requests from students have been received. To get involved, call the local JANA office 533-4661.

Flu vaccine

Fox Army Health Center's Preventive Medicine Service has received more flu vaccine. For beneficiaries 13 years old and older, flu immunizations will be available in the PM clinic at Fox Army Health Center on Monday through Friday in the afternoon from 1-4 (while supplies last). Beneficiaries include active duty military personnel, military retirees, dependents, and current federal (DoD) civilian employees (No contractors or retired DoD civilian personnel.) Influenza vaccination is mandatory for all active duty military personnel and reservists who are on active duty for 30 days or more from Oct. 1, 2005 through March 31. For children under 13, call the Fox immunization clinic 955-8888 ext.1238.

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Job fair

The 2006 Job Fair will be held Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500. This event is open to all authorized patrons including transitioning personnel, retirees, reservists, National Guard and military family members in the surrounding communities. The job fair will provide an opportunity to meet with many local employers in one location to discuss employment and present résumés. For more information, call Debra Jefferson of Army Community Service 876-5397.

Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$750 annual scholarships to a local high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information or a scholarship application, call Jackie Kenner 876-8131 or Hilary Marshall 313-1349.

Parents' night out

Parents' Night Out is the third Saturday of every month. "We'll watch your kids so you take that much needed rest," a prepared release said. Reservations can be made by calling the Child Development Center 876-7952. This program is open to the entire Redstone community. Fees for

E-4 and below are \$10 per child. For all others, cost is \$15 per child. A 10 percent multiple child reduction will be given. Evening snack will be provided. Note: the March Parents' Night Out will be on Friday, March 17 so that parents can attend the Comedy Review at the Officers and Civilians Club; call 830-2582 for Comedy Review details.

Teen financial class

Army Community Service will hold a Financial Planning and Budgeting Class Jan. 21 or April 29 from 10 a.m. to noon at building 3338 in the ACS conference room. This class is open to Redstone community teens and their parents. The class covers budgetary planning, savings and investments. Call 876-5397 to reserve your seat.

MWR auction

Morale Welfare and Recreation is holding an online auction through Jan. 23 which will have bowling equipment and furniture. Visit www.redstonemwr.com to bid for these items.

Westminster open houses

Open houses at Westminster Christian Academy's three campuses are held in January for Christian families interested in partnering with Westminster to educate and train their children. An open house will be held at the Westminster Madison/Monrovia campus on Mt. Zion Road on Jan. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

with lunch provided, and at the Westminster main campus on Evangel Drive on Jan 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m. with lunch provided. The last open house is an evening opportunity at the Westminster North Hills campus Jan. 26 from 6:30-8 p.m. with light refreshments. For information about the open houses, call 705-8000 or e-mail angie.johnson@wca-hsv.org for reservations.

Prayer breakfast

The next LCMC Nondenominational Prayer Breakfast is Jan. 24 at 7:30 a.m. in the Sparkman Center building 5308, room 8124 (conference room). No food or drink will be served, but you may bring your own. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Richard Doty 313-1537 or Sharon Board 876-0194.

Swing dance

Huntsville Swing Dance Society will have a swing dance featuring The Blue Savoy Combo, playing swing, blues and jazz, Jan. 28 at Knights of Columbus Hall, 3053 Leeman Ferry Road. Free swing lesson at 7:15 p.m.; and the band plays from 8-11. Admission is \$12, and \$10 for HSDS members, military and students with ID. For information visit www.huntsvilleswingdance.org.

Warrant officer recruitment

A Warrant Officer Recruiting Team from headquarters Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky., will brief on qualifica-

tions and application procedures to Soldiers interested in becoming warrant officers. Current shortages include military intelligence, criminal investigations, and Special Forces. The recruiting visit is Jan. 24 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at Heiser Hall. For information call Master Sgt. Timothy Carlile, installation career counselor, 842-0870 or Chief Warrant Officer A.J. Williams at USAREC (502) 626-0271.

Contracting seminar

National Contract Management Association presents National Education Seminar 2006, "Contract Negotiations," Feb. 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 5903 University Drive. This highly interactive event covers the skills, tools and best practices of contract negotiations for both buyers and sellers. Attendance will earn .7 CEU or 7 CLP and each attendee will receive a copy of best-selling author Gregory A. Garrett's newest book "Contract Negotiations: Skills, Tools, and Best Practices." For more information, visit www.ncmahsv.org or call Denise Pelham 468-6016.

Visitor center

The Joint Visitor Control Center on Ride-out Road, north of Gate 9, is now open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Its phone numbers are reception counter 876-1110, 876-1114 or fax 876-1521.

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Art exhibit

The Huntsville Museum of Art has an exhibition through Feb. 12 of the work of Maxfield Parrish, a renowned American artist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Wachovia presents "Maxfield Parrish - Master of Make-Believe" at the museum, 300 Church St. south. For ticket information and museum hours, call 535-4350.

Welfare fund requests

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club distributes funds each year to a variety of requesting organizations. OCWC welfare request forms will be available via the Internet at ocwcwelfare@knology.net or at the Army Community Service at P.O. Box 8113, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808. The request deadline is Feb. 28. The 2005-06 Welfare Committee will not consider requests after the deadline. The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Musical arts

Lee High School Lyric Theatre is presenting Rogers and Hammerstein's musical "South Pacific." Evening performances are Feb. 10-11 and 16-18. A matinee performance will be presented Feb. 12 with special discounts for veterans and active duty military. Cost is adults \$12, students/seniors \$10; and Thursday nights, veterans and military in uniform, \$8. Group rates are available. For information call Shelby Holland 859-2563.

Art auction benefit

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will present the 34th annual Art Exhibition and Auction on Feb. 25 at the Officers and Civilians Club. There will also be a silent Craft and Service Auction with the preview starting at 5:30 p.m. The live auction will begin at 7 p.m. This year's theme will be a "Touch of Manhattan." Ross Galleries, from Holbrook, N.Y., will provide the artwork. Tickets are \$10 per person with proceeds going to support community activities for military and civilian families. For ticket information, call Patti Fitzgerald 797-6015.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?															
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U				
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																							
SCBK06013473	Supervisory General Engr	18-Jan-06	Acq Supp Ctr- GMD Prm Ofc	NH-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838		X	X	X				X	X	X		X				
SCBK06013473D	Supervisory General Engr	18-Jan-06	Acq Supp Ctr- GMD Prm Ofc	NH-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838								X				X				
WTST05049711	Supervisory Security Spec	19-Jan-06	AMC- Intelligence & Security Dir	GG-0080	13	13	72,486 - 94,229	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK05037173	General Supply Spec	19-Jan-06	AMCOM, TMDE Activity, Bus Mamt Dir	GS-2001	7	9	35,375 - 56,258	X															
SCBK05896216	Supervisory Architect, Supervisory Civil Eng, Supervisory Mech Engr, Supervisory Elec Engr	20-Jan-06	Corps of Engrs Huntsville	GS-0808, 0810, 0830, 0850	14	14	85,656 - 111,355	X															
SCBK06041724	Account (Internal Review Evaluator)	20-Jan-06	SMDC	GS-0510	13	13	74,621 - 97,003	X		X													
SCBK06004830	Contract Specialist	20-Jan-06	Acq Supp Ctr- Program Exec Ofc	GS-1102	13	13	74,621 - 97,003	X		X													
SCBK06792705	Lead Mobilization Plans & Oper Spec	20-Jan-06	AMC- G3 (Operations)	GS-0301	13	13	74,621 - 97,003	X						X				X					
SCBK05006028	Lead Aerospace Engr	21-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	85,656 - 130,988	X	X			X		X	X			X					
SCBK05006028D	Lead Aerospace Engr	21-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	85,656 - 130,988							X					X				
SCBK05991512	Lead Computer Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	85,656 - 130,988	X	X			X		X	X			X					
SCBK05991512D	Lead Computer Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0854	4	4	85,656 - 130,988							X					X				
SCBK05008176	Electronics Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	85,656 - 130,988	X	X			X		X	X			X					
SCBK05008176D	Electronics Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	85,656 - 130,988							X					X				
SCBK05009219	Electronics Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	85,656 - 130,988	X	X			X		X	X			X					
SCBK05009219D	Electronics Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	85,656 - 130,988							X					X				
SCBK05033702	General Engineer	27-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	85,656 - 130,988	X	X			X		X	X			X					
SCBK05033702D	General Engineer	27-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	85,656 - 130,988							X					X				
SCBK05000821	General Engineer	27-Jan-06	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	72,486 - 94,229					X											
SCBK05883126	Aerospace Engineer	1-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	60,955 - 94,229	X	X			X		X	X			X					
SCBK05883126D	Aerospace Engineer	1-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	60,955 - 94,229							X					X				
SCBK06018433	IT Specialist (APPSW)	1-Feb-06	MAT CMD LOG SPT ACTY	GS-2210	12	12	60,896 - 79,162	X															
SCBK05609747	Equipment Specialist (Aircrafts & Electronics)	3-Feb-06	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	54,221 - 79,238				X								X				
SCBK05990462	Equipment Specialist (Aircrafts)	3-Feb-06	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	54,221 - 79,238				X								X				
SCBK05971612	Equipment Specialist (General)	3-Feb-06	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	54,221 - 79,238				X								X				
SCBK06018910	Lead General Engr	4-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK06018910D	Lead General Engr	4-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838								X				X				
SCNAFBK050126	Lifeguard	15-May-06	Recreation Serv Div	NF-0189	1	1	5.15 - 10.32	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOB.SOPM.GOV																							
SCBK06013473D	Supervisory General Engr	18-Jan-06	Acq Supp Ctr- GMD Prm Ofc	NH-0801	14	15	88,178 - 134,838								X				X				
WTST05049711	Supervisory Security Spec	19-Jan-06	AMC- Intelligence & Security Dir	GG-0080	13	13	72,486 - 94,229	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK05006028D	Lead Aerospace Engr	21-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	14	15	85,656 - 130,988								X				X				
SCBK05008176D	Electronics Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	14	15	85,656 - 130,988								X				X				
SCBK05009219D	Electronics Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	14	15	85,656 - 130,988								X				X				
SCBK05991512D	Lead Computer Engr	23-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0854	14	15	85,656 - 130,988								X				X				
WTST06037691	Intelligence Spec (I&TS)	26-Jan-06	AMC- Intelligence & Security Dir	GG-0132	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
SCBK05033702D	General Engineer	27-Jan-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	14	15	85,656 - 130,988								X				X				
SCBK06668451D1	Air Traffic Cntrl Spec (Terminal)	30-Jan-06	SMDC	GS-2152	11	11	58,811 - 76,454								X				X				
SCBK05883126D	Aerospace Engineer	1-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	12	13	60,955 - 94,229								X				X				
WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)																							
A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.																							
B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).																							
C - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).																							
D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)																							
E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements)																							
F - All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)																							
H - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)																							
I - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.)																							
R - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.)																							
T - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (SF-50 documenting service required)																							
V - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).																							
U - All U.S. citizens																							
NOTE: If you are interested, carefully read the announcement for the official area of consideration, qualification requirements, and application procedures.																							
NOTE: The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e. Cashier, Food Service, Custodial, Bartender, etc. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the web at www.redstonemwr.com or you may telephone 876-7772.																							
Resumes are now being accepted for AMC Fellows and Business Enterprise Solutions Trainee. Visit www.amccareers.com or www.cpol.army.mil , search for Vacancy Announcement Numbers: NEAEJ04710482 & NEAE04756647 , for more information.																							