

Redstone Rocket

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

February 1, 2006

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Black Hawks up for football

Helicopters fly over NFC championship

By JASON KAYE
Army News Service

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — You have a gaggle of geese, a murder of crows and a flare of larks, but it took an Army mission to support the National Football League to clarify what you call a group of helicopters.

At some point Jan. 22, air traffic control at Seattle's Boeing Field decided the flight of five Black Hawks on the west apron was a "herd" and when flight lead Chief Warrant Officer 4 Shawn Hayes called and requested to "stampede" to Qwest Field, the excitement level was high.

The UH-60s were from the 4th Squadron, 6th Air Cavalry, part of the 66th Aviation Brigade at Fort Lewis, and were taking part in a flyover prior to the kickoff of the NFC championship game between the Seattle Seahawks and Carolina Panthers. The Seahawks won 34-14 and will face Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in Detroit. The Steelers beat Denver 34-17 in the AFC championship.

Squadron CO: Great training

"I think it's a great opportunity. It's a great recruiting tool, and we're all for supporting that, but it's also a great training event for my guys. It allows us to do multi-ship operations, formation flight and lets us fly in Class B airspace. We don't get an opportunity to do that a whole lot," said Lt. Col Ray Gentzyl, the squadron commander.

The opportunity came after a request for support from the Seattle Recruiting Battalion and once the unit decided adequate resources were available the planning started.

"We've had people drawing names out of hats to see what the crews were going to be because everybody wanted to do it," Hayes said.

Putting together something of this magnitude presented some challenges. After nearly a month of daily rain, weather was a key issue. Then there was all the necessary coordination



Photo by Jason Kaye

VISION QWEST— A flight of five UH-60 Black Hawks from the 4th Squadron, 6th Air Cavalry flies over Qwest Field in Seattle just prior to kickoff of the NFC championship game.

to fly in very controlled air space. The air above Qwest Field is known to pilots as Class B, which means that it is very busy. There are two major airports nearby; Seattle is an urban center; and on top of that, during the game Qwest Field was subject to temporary flight restrictions — a security precaution initiated after 9-11.

Flyover brings recruit questions

As a recruiting tool the flyover was already opening new doors of communication. Hayes, who planned the operation, has already fielded a few requests for information.

"Honestly I've already had two calls from the recruiting battalion — 'Hey we know you guys are doing the flyover and we've got some questions about getting guys into the flight program. Can you help us out?' I'm supposed to talk to one of the kids next week to try and get him to go Army aviation," Hayes said.

Flyover boosts unit morale

Jan. 19, the crews flew to Seattle to make a few rehearsal runs over the stadium. Office workers in nearby high rises gathered by their windows to get a better look at the unusual sight of four Army helicopters

hovering in the downtown area. By game day everything was timed down to the second and the Black Hawks were loaded up with lucky Soldiers chosen by their troop commanders for the ride over the stadium.

"For the Soldiers of the squadron it's a great morale booster especially since it's a televised national event. I guarantee these Soldiers are calling their parents and saying, 'Mom, Dad watch the game because right before kickoff my squadron is going to fly over on national television.' I would say that the majority of the Soldiers are very proud of that," Gentzyl said.

Timing is everything

The flight left Fort Lewis and headed to Boeing Field, the King County regional airport, to top off fuel and be in a location just down the road from the stadium. At 3:15 the flight took off and swung around the north side of the city to wait for the call from their contact on the ground. When "Light Horse 1-0" keyed the mike, all that could be heard was the roar of the 12th Man, more than 67,000 Seahawks fans, who were making it clear that Qwest Field is indeed the loudest stadium in the NFL.

The call came that the flight was five minutes out, and regular countdown updates came every minute thereafter.

The UH-60s tightened up their formation and when the word came they went with authority, but just as they were nearing the stadium word from the ground was "wait 90 seconds." The formation banked hard right after clarification and midway through their turn the call came to fly in again.

Unit good despite network cut

The formation made its way over the stadium just after the national anthem — and also just after the network cut to a commercial. The jubilation of a successful run was tempered by disappointment at not appearing on the broadcast.

The commander was pleased with the work of the pilots.

"This was great training. These guys did what they were asked to do, and they did it well. It's what they get paid to do," Gentzyl said.

"Now I'm headed home to watch the rest of the game," he added.

Editor's note: Jason Kaye writes for the Northwest Guardian newspaper at Fort Lewis, Wash.

An open lane random survey

What do you think of military housing?

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

Spc. **Charlotte Otorubio**
59th Ordnance Brigade



"I've had bad housing and I've had good housing. It depends on where you are."

Pfc. **Michael Brock**
Headquarters & Alpha

"Military housing here is great. I love it."



Pfc. **Andrew Pavlack**
Headquarters & Alpha



"It's outstanding here. I've lived in WWII barracks for a while, so I've never had my own room before."

Morris Nix
retiree

"We loved it when we used it. It's a wonderful thing."



Quote of the week

'Our bombs are smarter than the average high school student. At least they can find Kuwait.'

— A. Whitney Brown

Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.

Clearing the air on quality

It seems the buildings that make up the Sparkman Center are a hotbed for colds and flu; not only during the winter months, but all year-round. I would like to know what are the controls and processes to monitor the indoor air quality at the Sparkman Center. Based on my five-plus years of working here, I have never seen or heard of any IAQ tests being performed or if tests have been performed the results have not been published. What is the schedule for IAQ testing at the Sparkman Center? Who performs the testing? What are their qualifications to perform the IAQ testing? And lastly, how are the results published so the general public can review the results?

Thank you and I look forward to the response.

Gary Braden

Editor's note: Fox Army Health Center provided the following response. "In response to your reader's question regarding the Sparkman Center and the perception of excess flu and colds, we examined the Occupational Health records for the last quarter for Redstone, and only found nine respiratory cases, none of which were reported from the Sparkman Center.

"Regarding the spread of what is commonly referred to as 'flu' and 'colds,' the key thing to remember is that these types of infections are viral in nature, and spread by person-to-person contact and poor health practices, generally through unprotected coughing and sneezing, and insufficient hand washing.

"Although coughing and sneezing are considered by many to be innocuous, studies of sneezing have shown that a typical sneeze may contain around 40,000 droplets, and may have velocities in excess of 100 mph. In other words, a sneeze droplet could cross a 20-foot room in about 0.14 seconds. From this it is fairly easy to see how easily diseases can be spread.

"In addition to the droplets themselves, droplets on hands can contaminate other objects such as door handles, desks, keyboards, phones and other objects. The best way to minimize transmission is to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue. If a tissue is unavailable, then one should use a hand followed by washing with soap and water, or an alcohol based gel.

"The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has a wealth of information on good health practices at <http://www.cdc.gov/germstopper/index.htm>."

Pleasing experience at post restaurant

We had the pleasure of dining at the Soldatenstube Restaurant on the evening of Jan. 19. The meal was delicious, the service and management excellent and the move to the Officers and Civilians Club a definite plus. We had a wonderful time, the manager and waitress were friendly and outgoing and we had the

opportunity to meet the chef that prepared the great food. We have been longtime patrons at Soldatenstube and wanted to express our appreciation and encourage others to visit the restaurant. It is truly one of the best restaurants in the city.

Frank and Claudia Wagner
Hampton Cove

Letters to the Editor

Redstone generates technology dollars

As we peer ahead into the 21st century, we must constantly be aware of how we can provide an improved standard of living and a brighter future for all of the citizens of Alabama.

One of the single most important factors in achieving a higher standard of living is education. That's not a profound statement by any means. Study after study shows a direct correlation between higher education and higher incomes. It's a relationship and a fact that most everyone can agree upon. Brains are the single most important asset we can develop if we hope to provide a brighter future for all Alabamians.

It was rocket scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun who spoke early, and often, about the importance of brainpower when he arrived in Huntsville in 1950. Dr. von Braun led the development of the Army's missile program during that decade, and was spurred on to the peaceful conquest of space during the 1960s.

Early during the '60s, Dr. von Braun made an address to a joint session of the Alabama House and Senate. He spoke

See **Dollars** on page 23

Getting to know you

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

Name: Staff Sgt. Mark Thomas

Job: MOS Training platoon sergeant, Headquarters & Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion

Where do you call home?
Boligee, Ala.

What do you like about your job?

I love being in contact with Soldiers, training with them, handling their issues. It's a very rewarding job.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Play basketball and spend time with my family (wife, Bridget, and four children ages 7 months to 9 years).

What are your goals?

My goal is to get promoted to first sergeant and retire out of the Army. And in the meantime, get a college degree (in education).

What's your favorite type of music?

Rhythm and blues



Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

The *Redstone Rocket* is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in *The Redstone Rocket* through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the *Redstone Rocket* is *The Huntsville Times*, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

The deadline for display and commercial classified is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

email: skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil
Rocket articles are available online at the following:
https://ams36.redstone.army.mil:4443/portal/page?_pageid=614,1983766&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_cat_id=6&menupair=priz1870500

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Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for *The Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

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Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Jan. 20: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol when he struck a barricade at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and detained in the detention cell until his blood-alcohol content reached an acceptable level.

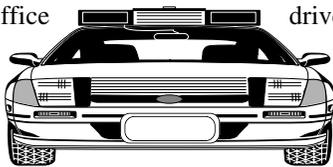
Jan. 21: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license during an inspection at Gate 1. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Jan. 21: An individual was observed in the Post Exchange selecting several items, concealing them and then leaving without rendering the proper payment. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 21: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Jan. 21: An individual was observed in the Post Exchange selecting several items, concealing them and then leaving without rendering the proper payment. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 22: An individual was found to be operating her motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol when she struck several cones and a stop stick at Gate 10. Further investigation revealed the passenger was in possession of cocaine. The



driver was issued a violation notice and detained in the detention cell until her blood-alcohol content reached an acceptable level. The passenger was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 22: An individual was observed in the Post Exchange selecting several items, concealing them and then leaving without rendering the proper payment. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 22: An individual reported that she was assaulted at an on-post location. Further investigation revealed that the subject was in possession of drug paraphernalia. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 24: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Jan. 24: An individual reported that another individual brandished a 9mm handgun while he was at work. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Traffic accidents reported: 13 without injuries, none with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 15 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 2 driving under the influence of alcohol, 3 driving with a suspended driver's license, 1 possession of drug paraphernalia, 1 following too close, 3 shoplifting, 1 improper backing.

Figuring survivor benefit

The following question and answer appeared in NARFE Magazine, published by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, and is reprinted by permission:

QUESTION: Let's assume my average high-three years' pay is \$100,000. If I retire with full Civil Service Retirement System amount of 80 percent less the survivor annuity that I elect to take (i.e., costs 8 percent), I

therefore receive 72 percent of \$100,000. What percent would my spouse receive as a survivor? Does the 8 percent survivor annuity cost continue to be a cost to the survivor or does it go to zero?

ANSWER: Under the Civil Service Retirement System, the maximum survivor benefit is 55 percent of your annuity before the reduction for the survivor benefit.

Grand opening on Soldatenstube's menu

German restaurant celebrates new location at O' Club

By ADRIAN BAKER

MWR sales and marketing director

The Soldatenstube German Restaurant invites you to its grand opening Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. in its new location, the Officers and Civilians Club. Come see the Soldatenstube's new home, complete with authentic German guesthouse atmosphere.

Though the Soldatenstube has moved to the club, it's still open to the entire Redstone community. That's right, if you dined at the Soldatenstube in either of the two previous locations, you can certainly dine there now — you do not have to be an Officers and Civilians Club member to dine at the Soldatenstube. All the beer, menu items and friendly staff are on hand for your dining pleasure.

Each Tuesday and Wednesday, the Soldatenstube staff will be serving up a traditional German plate lunch for \$6.95.



Photo by Mark Justice

DINING IN— The Soldatenstube has moved from the golf course to the Twickenham Lounge at the Officers and Civilians Club.

Wednesday and Thursday evenings feature family-style dining and a la carte dining, complete with tasty German sides such as potato salad, slaw, cucumber salad, and many other of your favorites.

For more information on the Soldatenstube and its new location, visit www.redstonemwr.com or call 830-2582.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Components pact

Letterkenny Army Depot (Pa.) commander Col. Bob Swenson visits MACRO Industries Inc. of Huntsville Jan. 26 for an agreement signing between Letterkenny, MACRO Industries and Boeing of St. Louis to manufacture items made of lightweight components for aviation support and missiles. At right is MACRO Industries vice president Marcia Elkins.

Tactical missile system turns 15 years old

ATACMS first used during Desert Storm

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

With four fielded ATACMS variants supporting missions across the globe, Redstone's history of Army tactical missile support marked its 15th anniversary Jan. 18.

For it was on that date in 1991 that the first two ATACMS were fired in combat, during Operation Desert Storm.

That "spectacularly successful" debut was noted by Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Kelly, then director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"We used it in certain efforts which were extremely high priority," Kelly said. "It really delivered."

Here in 2006, the key term for ATACMS is evolution, according to Lt. Col. Tony Hodge, who recently retired as project manager. His successor is Lt. Col. Ty Weaver.

"ATACMS has evolved from an area to a precise target system, improving in range and accuracy," Hodge said. "Further, the missile has evolved from a shorter range to greater range weapon

system, with a new and improved guidance set, new fuzing and new payloads. Additionally, we are working to make the system insensitive munition compliant, making the missile resistant to anything that could possibly cause it to detonate."

Since Desert Storm, ATACMS has been used in Bosnia, Kosovo and in the current Global War on Terrorism.

"During the Kosovo campaign,



File photo

UP AND AWAY— The Army tactical missile has evolved from an area to a precise target system.

commanders identified the need for a precision munition," Hodge said. "With the Army and Lockheed, coming up with the Quick Reaction Unitary. We took an off-the-shelf, Navy WDU-23 warhead and mated it with ATACMS missile. We switched out the payload, with the guidance, motor and control section remaining the same, doing all this in four months. Since then have continued to improve the unitary, and are currently focused on efforts to improve the warhead."

Hodge and his project management team have also worked with their Navy counterparts on an Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration, completing three flight tests of an ATACMS Penetrator variant, but, currently, there is no Army penetrator requirement that needs to be filled.

"ATACMS is a corps-level asset that permits freedom of maneuver and is more responsive than air support, because we are not hindered by the weather and not hampered the elements," Hodge said. "As materiel developers, we have played in every major conflict since Desert Storm. And we stand ready and remain responsive to commanders and users in the field and warfighter requirements."

Army launched missile mission half-century ago

Redstone became known as center for defense

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

The Army Ballistic Missile Agency was established at Redstone Arsenal 50 years ago today.

ABMA was a Class II activity under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Ordnance.

See **History** on page 7



Historical photo

THAT WAS THEN— Building 4488 on Martin Road, the current Garrison headquarters, is a key location in Arsenal history.

Money matters

Growing the financial power of teenagers



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS— ACS volunteer Teen Finance instructor Jeff Shaner, second from left, knows how to get teens interested in mutual funds. Just mention the word “profit” or “earnings,” and teens are all smiles about the financial possibilities that come with saving and investing. With Shaner are, from left, 13-year-old Hilary Shaner, who is Shaner’s daughter; 16-year-old Courtney Cox, daughter of Col. David Cox; 13-year-old Jonathan Ralleca, son of Army civilian Jun Ralleca; and 17-year-old Ara Ba, granddaughter of retired Col. Jo Thurston.

Class teaches youngsters how to save and invest

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Watch out, teens. Marketing experts have their sights aimed on you.

With the buying power of today’s teens, reaching and grabbing the teen market can mean profits for a company’s bottom line. Success for many companies is often defined by how much teens spend on clothes, music, food, concerts, jewelry, videos, computers, cars, cell phones and many other things.

But the personal power of a teen consumer isn’t found in how much money they are putting in corporate pockets. It’s found in how much money lines their own pockets.

“Today’s teenagers have a huge

See **Money** on page 7

Conservative investment strategy can yield profitable future

Teens learning to reap rewards

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Sixteen-year-old Courtney Cox’s recent investment of \$10,000 in the stock market has brought her winning returns.

She earned \$622 on her investment in only two months, representing a 6 percent return. Based on that, her “adviser” predicted her \$10,000 would grow by 10 percent in a year.

Too bad it was all “pretend money.”

Courtney, the daughter of Col. David Cox, was one of about a dozen teens who attended a Teen Finance class offered by Army Community Service recently. Of the six teens who played the investment game at a previous meeting in the fall, Courtney’s investments showed the most growth. She used the online service known as Morningstar.com to research mutual funds. Her strategy involved investing \$5,000 each in two different mutual funds.

Other players fared well also, earning returns anywhere from \$290 to \$578 for the two-month time span. But two players — who split their investment between mutual funds, one that lost money and the other that earned money — came in at losses of just over \$100 each.

“At this point, I would tell them this is

no time to panic,” said Jeff Shaner, a former Army captain who is now a financial planner and a volunteer instructor with ACS’s Teen Finance class.

“I don’t want anyone to sell. You don’t sell after a few months in a mutual fund. Over a 10-year period, 97 percent of mutual funds make money. As a whole, mutual funds have never had a losing 10-year period.”

Shaner shared with the teens his family story of moving from the use of credit to a “pay-as-you-go” philosophy for spending with an emphasis on saving and investing. It was a shift he and his wife, a retired Air Force major, and their three daughters made about five years ago.

“We made a budget and we made a commitment to pay as you go,” he said. “We live on a cash basis. We decided we didn’t want to live on credit anymore to make it from month to month.”

Despite good incomes, about 70 percent of Americans are struggling financially, Shaner said. They live paycheck to paycheck with nothing left to put in savings.

For his own family’s financial well-being, Shaner said “we realized we had to make some drastic changes.”

The first test to the family’s financial plan came a year after their shift to “no credit” when Shaner’s car broke down and it was decided the car was not worth the repairs it needed.

See **Future** on page 7

■ Finance class volunteer teaches from experience

Future

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"I had saved \$1,600 and that's what I spent on a new car," he said. "Instead of an SUV, Volvo or BMW, I had a Toyota with an air bag and anti-lock brakes, faded paint and torn seats ... That car never impressed anyone at a stoplight. To me, it was a symbol of my commitment to this financial plan."

Shaner put 100,000 miles on that car and when it broke down he had saved \$2,300 to spend on the next car.

"Right now, I'm putting money away for the next car," he said. "You move up gradually. You don't just start with a BMW. And you make yourself rich over time."

Once the family budget and pay-as-you-go plan was in place, Shaner began to focus on investments for both he and his wife, and his daughters.

He agreed to match any money his eldest daughter Rachel put in her savings account. Once she reached \$1,000 in savings, the two of them started looking at mutual funds for her to invest in. Over a three-year period, Rachel and her "401Dad" invested money every month — \$50, \$100 or \$150 — in a growth stock mutual fund. Also, during that

time the value of the mutual fund grew from \$18 to \$35 a share. As of August 2005, Rachel's mutual fund value was at \$9,338.

"The share price in this fund was nearly doubled," Shaner said. "She made 100 percent profit in nearly three years."

During this same time period, Shaner's wife was driving a nice van. The couple began investing in a mutual fund so they can pay cash for her next van. They now have about \$65,000 in the mutual fund accounts.

"We are not relying on credit. We are not using it as a crutch to get along," he said. "Put money away now and build up your investment and you will be able to pay cash for all the things you want."

Mutual funds are a good investment, Shaner told the teens, because "they spread your risk by buying stock in many different companies. If you leave your money in over a five-year period, it's a pretty sure bet you are going to make money."

Following his presentation, Shaner and the teens visited the ACS computer lab, where they talked about the kinds of mutual funds they can research through Morningstar.com or other online reporting agencies.

"You need to learn about mutual funds on paper first," he said. "Then when you have

confidence you invest in mutual funds with real money."

In their lesson with "pretend money," Shaner suggested the teens consider investing in four different kinds of mutual funds — large growth, medium growth, small growth and international companies. They should research the different types of mutual funds to decide where they want to put their investment.

"Small company funds are more aggressive while large company funds are more sedate," Shaner said "I like to mix mutual funds so I have some more aggressive, some more sedate. Then you can put your mutual funds on a graph to compare how they are doing against each other. If one is lagging behind the others, then you can make some changes."

Adding mutual funds investing in international companies can also offset losses if there are problems in the U.S. economy.

"If U.S. companies have a couple of bad years, your international mutual funds will help with that," Shaner said. "It's all about diversifying. This is very conservative mutual fund investment advice. I don't want anyone to go out on a limb."

On Morningstar.com, stocks are rated with 1 to 5 stars.

"I only look at mutual funds with four or five stars," Shaner said. "They have a good return, low expense ratio and good management record."

■ Ballistic missile agency created 50 years ago today

History

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Interestingly, it began with the purely military mission of fielding the Army's first intermediate range ballistic missile.

The Army satellite program, for which ABMA was best known, began under special orders and was not actually assigned as an ABMA mission agency.

On March 31, 1958, the Department of the Army created the Army Ordnance Missile Command based on increasing missile importance and the pressing need for making maximum use of available resources.

At that time, the AOMC was the largest field organization within any of the Army's technical services. The command's subordinate elements included ABMA, Redstone Arsenal, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and White Sands Proving Ground.

Another subordinate element of AOMC — the Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency — was created in April 1958. ARGMA assumed the technical missions formerly assigned to Redstone Arsenal.

"From January 1958 to July 1960, the Army made its most notable contributions to the nation's outstandingly successful space effort," Mike Baker, AMCOM command historian, said. "The

ABMA was foremost among the Army commands aiding the nation's space mission. However, in October 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved the transfer of the Army agency's scientists and engineers to the newly created National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA."

In July 1960, AOMC formally lost all of its space related missions, along with about 4,000 civilian employees as well as \$100 million worth of facilities and equipment.

As part of the later reorganization of AOMC, both ABMA and ARGMA were abolished in December 1961. Additional restructuring of the organization helped to smooth the transition from AOMC to the new command that was created at Redstone Arsenal as part of the Army's 1962 reorganization.

"The U.S. Army Missile Command — MICOM — was established at Redstone in May 1962 and officially three months later," Baker said. "It was then that AOMC officially ceased to exist."

"From January 1950 to August 1962 many noteworthy achievements for the Army's rocket and missile programs occurred right here at Redstone Arsenal. The Arsenal's pursuit of excellence in missiles — and now aviation — was firmly established during these formative years when Redstone became known as the nerve center of the nation's front line in defense."

■ Finance class teaches difference from 'wants' and 'needs'

Money

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amount of buying power with regard to spending and the marketing people know this," said Kathleen Riester, a financial counselor for Army Community Service.

"So, they spend an enormous amount of money marketing to teens. We need to educate teens about money and give them the tools so they learn a different message. And that message is saving and investing, not spending."

Riester is leading a small movement of teens on Redstone Arsenal who are interested in controlling their spending so they can save and invest for future purchases. She teaches a Teen Finance Class, offered by Army Community Service four times a year, that provides information to teenagers (parents are optional) on things like budgets, credit and debit cards, taxes, savings and investing.

But learning how to overcome the temptations of a consumer-driven society in favor of a future free of debt is a difficult lesson, one that many parents have yet to learn. Riester wants to give both teens and their parents the tools to live debt free.

Whether they know it or not, teens start learning about money from their parents, who pass on their value system to their children, Riester told teens and parents who attended a recent Teen Finance class. For this

reason, it is important for parents to have an open dialogue about money with their children.

"Parents should bring their teens to the table and show them where the money is going each month," she said. "The more we educate and teach them, the more they'll understand why the spending has to cease, and the emphasis must shift to saving and investing."

Riester told the teens that controlling their spending and learning how to save and earn money involves being able to know the difference between a "need" and a "want," and being able to set financial goals.

"Think about an item that you would like to purchase," she told the teens. "Think about the cost of that item. Is it something you really need or something you want? You need to make that distinction."

A teenager considering buying an iPod may define that as a "want" because they like to listen to music or as a "need" because they are a musician and an iPod would be a tool to help them learn music. Likewise, every teenager "wants" a car, but that "want" becomes a "need" when a teen has a part-time job that requires transportation.

"I have a job and sometimes my work schedule conflicts with my mom," said 16-year-old Seconda Knox, daughter of LOGSA employee Sherree Knox. "I want to save enough money so I can buy a car in a year."

Seconda told the class she has saved about \$1,000 toward the purchase of her own car and also wants to

invest some of the money she makes at her part-time job.

"One-third of her income is going to savings because her goal is to buy a car in a year," Riester said. "A gold star in your crown today for doing that. You have to have a realistic financial goal so you can change your thought process to saving and investing."

Saving money toward an expensive purchase or for investing requires the use of a budget, Riester said.

"It will show you what's coming in and what's going out," she told the teens. "You need to get in a habit of doing this every month. A lot of people think they have it all in their head, but when you put it down with pencil and paper it's a very different picture."

Any teenager can create a budget, whether they only receive a weekly allowance, gifts of money at birthdays or special occasions, or they have a part-time salary.

"We just kicked off this class during the past year," Riester said. "It's open to teens as young as 11. Teens can take all four classes or come to just one or two of the classes. We always review basics and then go into things that will help the teens learn how to save and invest."

Editor's note: The next set of Teen Finance classes will begin Saturday, April 29. Classes are from 10 a.m. to noon at Army Community Service, building 3338 at the corner of Red Eye and Mauler roads. They are open to children of civilian government employees, military retirees, government contractors and Soldiers. For more information, call 876-5397.

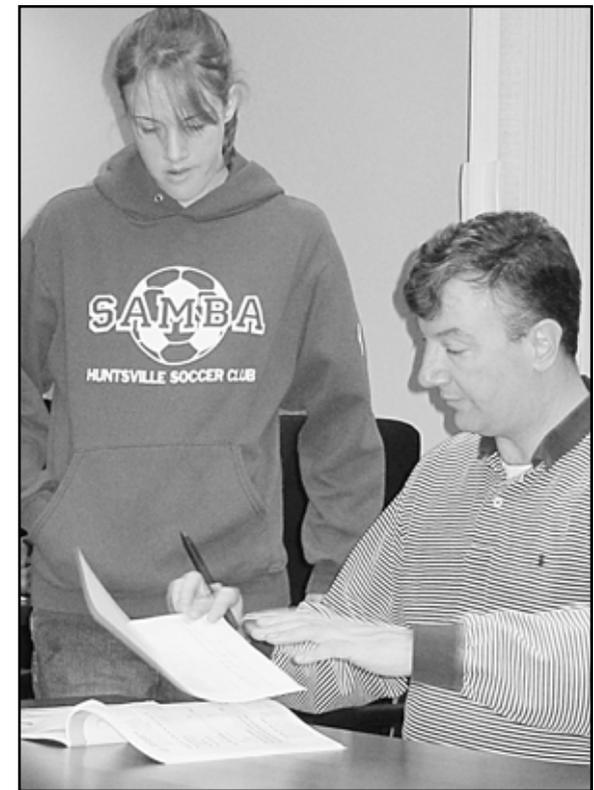


Photo by Kari Hawkins

CHECKING NUMBERS— Fourteen-year-old Victoria Stiene looks over some financial investments with her dad, Joe Stiene, a systems analyst with the Space and Missile Defense Command. Victoria earns money by working at 3H Stables, and her dad helps her with savings and investing. Although the Teen Finance class is aimed at teenagers, their parents are also invited to attend. The next class is April 29 at Army Community Service.

Hail and farewell

Post command sergeant major returns to his roots

Yates attended school in North Alabama

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Redstone's new command sergeant major has spent most of his Army career at Fort Bragg, N.C., but this assignment is like returning to his North Alabama roots.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates was born in Chattanooga, started first-grade in Summit, Ala. (in Blount County), attended a year of junior high at J.P. Pennington in Blountsville, and was a freshman at Guntersville High. He finished high school in Rossville, Ga., before joining the Army in 1977.

"I'm returning here after many years," said Yates, who bought a house in Brooksville five years ago and resides there now. "I'm a hometown boy."

He's also an aviation veteran of the first Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi

Freedom. So he knows what deployed Soldiers are experiencing.

"I have served in both Afghanistan and Iraq as a brigade sergeant major," Yates said. "So I feel that I bring a lot to the AMCOM world and the AMC world to better help the Soldier out there in the field."

He wants to continue the support to Soldiers that was provided by his predecessor, Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn, who left in December for the U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. The Army selected Yates for this position Dec. 15 and he began his new job Jan. 23 after arriving from Fort Bragg where he served as brigade command sergeant major for the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade.

His career has come far since his first assignment as a cook in 1977 with the 1st Battalion, 505th Regiment, Airborne Infantry. In 1980 he went to school at Fort Rucker to become a helicopter repairman and boxed on the post team. Twenty-one of his more than 28 years in the Army have

been spent at Fort Bragg.

"I'm glad to be a part of the team at AMCOM and AMC," Yates, 46, said.

His wife, Angela, is joining him from Fort Bragg. This is definitely an Army family. His oldest daughter, Grace Grimaldi, 23, resides in South Bend, Ind., with her husband, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Grimaldi, and their two children, Camille, 2, and Annalynn, 3. His son, Albert Wayne Cascasan, 23, resides at Fort Rucker with his wife, Warrant Officer Kimberly Cascasan, an aviator. His youngest daughter, Spc. Lydia Cascasan, 19, is an intelligence analyst at Fort Bragg.

Yates enjoys fishing and riding his motorcycle.

"There may not be a lot of military here but I have never in my life seen the civilian population supporting the Army as much as Huntsville does," he said. "I don't think there's another place in the world more appreciative of what the military does. In my experiences, in my opinion, there is no one else more appreciative of what we do."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BACK HOME— Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates, who was a youngster in Blount County, is Redstone's new top enlisted Soldier.

Gamers trek to Arsenal for computer party

First tournament draws 40 entries

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
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Amidst the food and drink and crowd of people who were fully enjoying the get-together, there was something that was decidedly lacking at the MWR Gaming Party – the noise and din of an actual party.

Oh, there were little groups here and there talking about their latest on-screen challenge and the antics of their competitors. But, boisterous conversations, raucous laughter and general party-going on a large scale were not on the agenda at this gaming event.

Rather, the guests – or gamers – spent their day in front of computer screens, playing computer games that took them into another dimension as they battled opponents, built armies, dodged enemy fire and added up points that would allow them to go on to the next competitive level.

About 40 gamers enjoyed a day of gaming challenges during the first-ever MWR Gaming Party on Jan. 21 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. The event is the first of quarterly gaming par-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PRACTICING FOR SHOWDOWN— Kurt Anderson, left, and Phillip Baxter, who both work for the Software Engineering Directorate, practice their skills at *Half Life 2: Deathmatch* during the MWR Gaming Party. The two gamers ended up going head-to-head in the competition with Baxter coming out on top as the winner.

ties that Morale Welfare and Recreation plans to host for gamers this year.

“Everyone left extremely happy and asking ‘When’s the next one? When’s the next one?’” organizer Andrea Mattox of MWR said.

The gamers not only enjoyed the day’s games – *Warcraft III: Frozen Throne*, *Unreal Tournament 2004* and *Half Life 2: Deathmatch* – but also the food and prizes donated by corporate sponsors. But more

than anything, they enjoyed the opportunity to come together with a large group of gamers and play against new challengers.

“I play computer games with my two roommates, but not ever with this many people,” said Stephen Sewell, who works for Analytical Services. His handle at the gaming event was “Fishbait.”

Sewell and his friend, Brian “Drawfire” Harrison, an intern with the System Simulation and Development Directorate, were at the event to play in *Unreal Tournament*, which involved a series of 15-minute double elimination games.

“*Unreal Tournament* is a fun first-person shooter that happens to be the only game I own that I’m good at,” Sewell said. “But I’m fully expecting to have free time after the first round.”

“You don’t have to be an expert to play it,” Harrison added.

The two friends were sitting next to a gamer they had just met – 17-year-old Brian “Freefire” Suhs, who attends Bob Jones High and whose parents, Norm and Donna Suhs, work at Redstone.

One of Suhs’ first opponents during *Unreal Tournament* – Danny “Wonderdude” Shrider, a Sverdrup computer programmer supporting Logistics Support

See Gaming on page 11

Heavy metal displayed at auto show

By JOHN REESE
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Amidst the 800 shiny new cars at the 2006 Washington D.C. Auto Show, the Stryker stands out like a sturdy green oak in a flower garden.

“We’re here in support of recruiting command and basically to show the taxpayers what they’re getting for their money,” said Randall R. Rankin, spokesperson for the Stryker display. “It’s big, it’s green, it’s got a gun on it, and it draws a crowd.”

The purpose of the display is to showcase the Army’s newest capabilities, the Stryker family of vehicles being one of the newer vehicles in the military inventory.

Children stared at it with wide eyes before climbing aboard. A gaggle of models taking a break from pitching cars admired the Stryker, lining up to have their pictures taken by the rear door. A pair of potential recruits sitting inside recovered quickly from their surprise and invited the models to join them.

“The Stryker appeals to all



Photo by Lt. Col. William Thurmond

INTERACTIVE DISPLAY— Evan Beckley, 7, gets a close-up look at the inside of a Stryker ICV on display as part of the Army interactive area of the 2006 Washington Auto Show.

ages,” said Rankin, noting the different reactions people had as they approached the eight-wheeled, olive-drab armored vehicle. “The older folks, espe-

cially the retirees, look at it and say, ‘It’s not my old M-113!’ The real young kids get in there and climb on it and are oohing and aahing. The recruiting targets for

the most part ask some intelligent questions. They want to know what we do with it, how it works, and how well they survive.”

Rankin rattles off Stryker statistics at machinegun speed: composition, speed, variations, weapons, and the two Medal of Honor recipients, one from World War I, one from Vietnam that the vehicle was named after.

This particular vehicle, an infantry carrier from the assortment of 10 mission-specific configurations in the Stryker family, will go from the DC show to a Chicago show, then on to another show in Cleveland. After that the days of car shows and models will be over and it’s off to duty at Fort Lewis, Wash., for use by Soldiers.

“I did the show in Detroit and we were non-stop people around the vehicle from start of show to end of show,” Rankin said. “Saturday and Sunday is going to be very busy. In Detroit we probably had, in the course of the weekend, a thousand people in and around the vehicle.”

Having the Stryker at the auto show helps the recruiting effort, said Staff Sgt. Albert L. Cook,

Baltimore Recruiting Battalion.

“We get a lot of contacts,” he said. “This is our target market. It’s exposure.”

“The Stryker generates interest,” added fellow recruiter Cpl. Nicholas Watts. “We talk to people, try to get the Army name out there, because a lot of people don’t know all of the things the Army has to offer. As long as we can get that message out to them and better inform the public, the better the recruiting effort will be.”

The huge auto show attracted thousands of people, including the mayor of the nation’s capital.

“The Army is a big part of our city and a big part our country, and whenever the Army participates it’s a wonderful thing,” said car buff Mayor Anthony A. Williams after a press conference and luncheon at the show. “We’re certainly happy to have them participating.”

“I think it gives a very positive image to the public,” Rankin said. “It shows that the military is transforming and that we are getting the best equipment possible for Soldiers.”

The auto show continued through Jan. 29.

■ Tournament attracts computer wizards who like new challenges

Gaming

continued from page 10

Activity — was good at eluding Suh with jumping moves.

“You jumped up and you were halfway across the map,” Suh said.

Suh lost to Shrider with a score of 12-1.

“He’d jump up and it would be an instant head shot with a rocket launcher,” Suh said. “But I’m happy. I won a \$35 door prize to CompUSA.”

Shrider, who at 37 is a member of the unofficial Old Man’s Clan, attended the event with clan members John “JavaGroupie” Lowman, also a Sverdrup contractor, and Ron “Scrambled Monkey” Waters.

“I’ve been playing as long as computers have been around,” Lowman said. “But I haven’t played multi-player games as long. This is only the second (gaming) party I’ve been to.”

But, Waters, a radiologist who traveled all the way from his home in Montgomery to participate in the event, has been to several gaming parties.

“I will go a long way to play computer games,” he joked. “I’m probably not going to win today. But I’m going to have a good time and that’s what it’s all about.”

In their Unreal Tournament match, Lowman lost to Waters 16-5.

“He’s just a lot better,” Lowman said of his opponent. “It was pretty much a massacre.”

The more complicated game of Warcraft began the day’s gaming event. By noon, Rodney “Revo_Emag” Ford, an SAIC manager supporting the System Simulation and Development Directorate, was the “king of the loser bracket” while his son, 16-year-old Nathan “Angus” Ford, was anticipating a good chance at winning Unreal Tournament, which was the second tournament of the day.

Nathan Ford won his first two Unreal Tournament matches 25-1 and 22-8.

“That would be cool to win,” said Ford, who plays



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FIXING GLITCH— Even when gaming pros face off, there can be problems with computers. Fifteen-year-old Thomas Lambert was in the Warcraft III finals when his computer started giving him problems. His dad, Jay Lambert of AED, was able to assist him; and Thomas Lambert went on to win the Warcraft tournament.

Unreal Tournament and other games at home every day as a way to relax.

“Unreal Tournament is not a game that has a lot of strategy. This game’s a lot more reflex. It’s all about who can aim and shoot the fastest. It just takes practice. When I get home from school I’ll play about an hour. I’ll play while I’m talking on the phone with my friends.”

Strategy may be lacking in the high-speed and high-action world of Unreal Tournament. But, David “Bluejay” Bowman, a software engineer for JTC/SIL, said there are tactics to the game.

“First you have to find your opponent and engage

him,” Bowman said. “You have tactics like running, hiding, turning corners and trying to ambush.”

“I run as fast as I can,” added 29-year-old Matthew “Sweetinator” Sweet, a computer engineer with the Software Engineering Directorate.

In another corner of the auditorium, Phillip “Gsus Freak” Baxter, 20, and Kurt “Corn Muffin” Anderson, 25, who both work for the Software Engineering Directorate, were practicing their computer moves in preparation for the last game tournament of the day — Half Life 2.

“We work on America’s Army and that’s based on Unreal Tournament, so we really aren’t into playing that,” Anderson said.

“We play Half Life 2 a lot. This whole event is great. It’s amazing. They’re thinking about doing this quarterly and that gets me really pumped. I’m excited about coming to these events.”

The two admitted they’ve been killed many times as players of Half Life 2.

“The best thing to do when that happens is laugh it off,” Anderson said. “This is a lot of fun. But if you take it too seriously, that’s not too good.”

As the Warcraft III tournament neared its conclusion, 15-year-old Thomas “DrPeppfan” Lambert was one of the finalists. But he was also having computer problems. He recruited his dad, Jay Lambert, an AED engineer, to help with the problem.

In the end, Lambert overcame his computer problems and went on to win Warcraft III. He received a 300 gigabyte hard drive for his effort.

Friends Anderson and Baxter ended up going “head-to-head” in the finals for Half Life 2. Baxter was the winner of the tournament and received a set of surround sound speakers. And, Nathan Ford was the winner of Unreal Tournament, winning a sound blaster card.

“Our sponsors really made this event possible,” Mattox said. Sponsors included Bill Heard Chevrolet, Knology, Papa John’s, Hooters, Coca-Cola and Bawls beverage.

“This is one of the events we are sponsoring as part of an overall sponsor package,” said Ken Hester of Bill Heard Chevrolet, who came by to check out the gaming party. “This is our way of being part of this community.”

AMC employee defends country, even without citizenship

By BETH MUSSELMAN

Army Materiel Command

Andre Parris, like many Soldiers, defended the United States in the War on Terror. Unlike most, he did it without being able to call the U.S. home.

A Trinidad and Tobago native, Parris was a successful student. Not only did he excel in his own studies, he also assisted underclassmen as a student instructor.

Once he was finished with his university studies, Parris applied for a U.S. visa and relocated to Maryland, where his mother and sister lived. Needing employment, he worked many odd jobs until he began investigating possibilities with the Army. During his research, Parris discovered the Army would provide many benefits and help him finish his education.

"I did my research and asked a lot of questions, I knew what I wanted but was surprised that I could join without citizenship," Parris said.

Although he was not a citizen, Parris enlisted in the Maryland National Guard as a generator mechanic May 29, 2002. Once he finished basic training and advanced individual training in September 2003, Parris applied



Courtesy photo

LOOK TO FUTURE— Chaplain (Col.) Steven Moon, Army Materiel Command chaplain, goes over his schedule with Andre Parris, automation assistant. Parris, a disabled veteran, was recently hired by AMC under the Always A Soldier program after receiving his U.S. citizenship.

for his green card.

In December 2003, Parris was notified his unit had been activated and was deploying to Iraq. He was sent to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Redstone Arsenal, to train on the Shadow 200 unmanned aerial system before deploying in

October 2003.

Stationed south of Baghdad, Parris' unit supported the 1st Cavalry Division. And from across the globe, Parris continued to pursue his U.S. citizenship.

Three months later, his tour abruptly ended.

On the day before New Year's Eve, Parris' unit was preparing for their first flight mission. During set-up, they realized a necessary cord was missing. Parris decided to go find out if any of the joint forces nearby may have the equipment they needed. He jumped in a Humvee and headed over to the Marines camp. Finding no one at the front of the tent he returned to his vehicle to go around to the back. As he rounded the corner, he recalls a subliminal push to take a left.

"I just remember a voice in my head that kept saying, turn left, turn left," Parris recalled.

At that instant, he looked ahead to find a tall, dark dust spire, rising about 75 feet in the air. He immediately realized what it was and slammed on the gas but it was too late. The mortar round landed right underneath the driver's seat of the Humvee.

Feeling something graze his head, Parris reached up to find himself bleeding. Holding the wound with his left hand, he knew he had to get back to a protected area.

Having difficulty seeing, Parris steered his Humvee back to his unit's location. A fellow Soldier helped him to the aid tent. It was only after the Soldiers in the

aid tent treated his head and leg injury that the eye injury became apparent.

"They cleaned me up and were ready to send me off when I noticed I still wasn't able to see clearly. I told the nurse it looked like there was a bubble in my eye and it was getting bigger."

Not able to treat the problem locally, Parris was flown by helicopter to the Army's Baghdad hospital. Once in Baghdad, Parris called his girlfriend in Trinidad to tell her about his injury.

"Sujata was at work when I called and told her I had been injured, she dropped the phone in shock."

Unable to get treatment for his eye injury in Baghdad, Parris slept while he awaited a transfer to Landstuhl, Germany. He was awakened later that evening by a 1st Cavalry colonel, a chaplain and two sergeants. The Soldiers were there to present Parris with a Purple Heart and two coins.

"I was so out of it from all the medication I had no idea what was going on," Parris said laughing.

Once in Landstuhl, Parris was treated for three weeks and then returned to Fort Bragg, N.C., on

See **Citizen** on page 22

CFC participants thanked for super effort

Annual charity drive tops \$1.9 million

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Combined Federal Campaign coordinator Donna Johnson encouraged everyone to give themselves a Super Bowl ovation during the CFC awards ceremony Monday.

The 2005 Tennessee Valley charity campaign raised \$1,961,541 to exceed the \$1.8 million goal. Organizations and individuals received awards in the ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium.

In her enthusiasm, Johnson can be forgiven if she misnamed the Pittsburgh Steelers in her remarks.

"No matter if you're rooting for the Seattle Seahawks or the Pittsburgh Pirates, we're all on a winning team this morning," she said.

Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, expressed his congratulations on videotape from Fort Rucker. Dr. Richard Amos, deputy to the commander, presented the

awards in his absence.

"We could not be prouder of you as individuals and as teams," Pillsbury said.

"Once again the Tennessee Valley folks have shown their generosity and their spirit," Amos said.

The annual Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign included 36 federal organizations with more than 15,000 employees – including federal, postal and military. It covered six North Alabama

counties (Marshall, Madison, Limestone, Cullman, Morgan and Lawrence) and Lincoln County, Tenn. Johnson serves as chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee.

"CFC is about making a difference in

someone's life in their time of need," she said.

Contributions go to 158 local and 1,718 national and international charitable organizations. The 2004 campaign raised \$1,918,000.

Engine contract awarded to Honeywell

WARREN, Mich. — The TACOM Life Cycle Management Command has awarded a contract for Total InteGrated Engine Revitalization, a program that will improve and extend the life of the AGT1500 turbine engine used to power the Abrams family of vehicles, to Honeywell International of Morris Township, N.J.

The TIGER contract includes an initial 12-month term worth \$69 million and three one-year options. The performance-based contract has a potential value of \$1.4 billion over 48 months.

"The AGT1500 is one of the key reasons the Abrams is the finest main battle tank in the world," Lt. Col. Michael Flanagan, product manager for Abrams tank, said. "Honeywell's engineering expertise makes it uniquely qualified to partner with the Army to take a smarter, more proactive approach that will ensure our military can rely on the Abrams tank now and for years to come."

The contract calls for Honeywell to improve service of the Abrams's AGT1500 engine using Six Sigma processes to gather data on performance and then to make data-driven decisions to affect repairs and

engineering improvements.

The Army's Program Manager Heavy Brigade Combat Team will team with Honeywell, TACOM LCMC, and Anniston Army Depot under a long-term agreement. Honeywell will provide engineering support, durability design improvements, integrated supply chain management, material management, field repair support, field and overhaul data collection and fact-based maintenance. The contract includes critical field support services in Kuwait, Korea and key locations across the United States.

"With the TIGER program in place, commanders at every level will know exactly how much engine life remains in each tank, and be able to execute engine repairs and replacements before deploying to the field," Flanagan said.

The Army will also transition the responsibility for on-time acquisition and delivery of all engine parts to Honeywell during the first phase of the program. This integrated approach will lower operating and sustainment cost; improve parts availability; and boost the overall quality of engine components. (Tank Automotive Command release)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TEAMWORK— Combined Federal Campaign coordinator Donna Johnson reads award recipients' names while Melinda Seigler, CFC director for principal combined fund organization United Way of Madison County, hands the plaques to AMCOM deputy commander Dr. Richard Amos for presentation.

Dining facility looks toward next competition

*Redstone misses
Connelly award*

By SKIP VAUGHN

*Rocket editor
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Maybe next year will bring better news for the Redstone dining facility.

The dining facility was one of seven finalists in the large facilities category for the 38th annual Philip A. Connelly awards competition. But the winner is Grafenwoehr, Germany, with runner-up Fort Riley, Kan.

The Armywide award will be presented April 5-9 at the International Food Service Executives Association conference in Miami, Fla.

Redstone officials had been optimistic during the three-member evaluation team's visit Oct. 25, but were disappointed when the results were announced.

"It was a surprise to us that we didn't at least get recognized some way," Don Olsen, director of logistics, said. "And I've been trying to find out from our region food adviser what we didn't do so we can try to improve for next year."

Each finalist was the winner from its respective region. Redstone's facility represented the Southeast.

"We're always winners," said Dan Tyree, the facility's project manager for K and K Food Service. "We're here to make sure these troops are well fed. That's our sole function."

Hal Weatherman serves as food program manager and contracting officer representative for the Garrison's Directorate of Logistics. K



Photo by Skip Vaughn

HOME COOKING— The dining facility serves from 1,000 to 1,500 meals per day to the troops.

and K Food Service, out of Hopkinsville, Ky., employs 63 workers at the dining facility which serves from 1,000 to 1,500 meals per day to the troops. Tyree is the facility's manager, and Dennis Hardin assistant manager.

The seven finalists in the large dining facility category included Southeast – Redstone Arsenal; Southwest – Belas Hall Dining Facility, Presidio of Monterey, Calif.; Northeast – 548th Corps Support Battalion, Fort Drum, N.Y.; Northwest – 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Riley; U.S. Army Europe – 100th ASG, Grafenwoehr; 8th Army – Three Kingdoms Inn DFAC, Yongsan, Korea; and U.S. Army Pacific – 45th CSG K-Quad, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

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

Secretary of Army visits Corpus Christi depot

*Harvey thanks workers
for improved processes*

By LOIS CONTRERAS

Corpus Christi public affairs officer

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — The sleek Gulf Stream jet made a sharp contrast in the midst of Navy T-44 and T-34 trainer air-

craft as it landed at Truax Field just past 9 a.m. Jan. 25. Onboard were Dr. Francis Harvey, secretary of the Army, and Gen. Benjamin Griffin, commander of Army Materiel Command, who were here to visit Corpus Christi Army Depot.

Corpus Christi commander Col. Tim Sassenrath and Capt.

See Depot on page 23



Courtesy photo

DESERT DAMAGE— Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis Harvey, center, takes a closer look at damage caused by desert sand to an engine part back from Iraq as Corpus Christi commander Col. Tim Sassenrath, left, briefs during the tour of the T700 engine assembly line. Looking on at right is Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Benjamin Griffin, who accompanied Harvey on his visit to Corpus Christi Army Depot.

Voices of Medhold seeks to soothe injured Soldiers

Singing group entertains from Walter Reed center

By **TIM HIPPS**
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – The Voices of Medhold, a singing group from the Medical Hold Company at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, entertained the audience while judges tallied the results of the Army's 2006 Margaret "Skippy" Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest Jan. 21 at Wallace Theater.

These Soldiers and military civilians use music to help motivate and lift the spirits of injured comrades.

"We represent every single injured Soldier in the United States military," said Staff Sgt. Michael Green, one of the founding members of the group.

The Voices of Medhold is the brainchild of Maj. Carzell Middleton, commander of the Medical Hold Company at WRAMC in Washington, D.C.

"Major Middleton wanted to

form a choir," Green said. "One morning in formation, he asked for some volunteers and three or four of us stepped forward. That was the beginning of it."

WRAMC treats U.S. military personnel injured during conflicts throughout the world. Named in Maj. Walter Reed's honor, the facility opened in 1909 on principles that it would provide patient care, teaching and research. Most members of The Voices of Medhold have been treated at the hospital.

"When you're in an emotional state, sometimes it takes certain things to put you over that hump, to get you from point A to point B," Staff Sgt. Alan Drew said. "Walter Reed and the staff there was absolutely fantastic. They were very supportive of our physical condition, but you have to take charge of your mental condition. That's what the music did for us. It helped us to mentally get ourselves prepared to get better."

The group has employed a revolving door of volunteer vocalists,

See **Singing** on page 19

Help protect classified, sensitive information

Editor's note: The AMCOM G-2 (Intelligence and Security) provided the following message to the Redstone community regarding protection of classified and sensitive information.

We are constantly faced with short suspenses and quick reaction tasks. Please take the time to think about security before you hit the send button on your computer and before you leave for the day. Recent security incidents have occurred because people did not check their areas for classified material before they left for the day nor check their classified printers to ensure there were no printing jobs left in the printer. Once you get into the habit of doing these security checks, they should become second nature to you.

The following is a reminder of what you should consider in protecting classified and sensitive information. If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact your security manager or the AMCOM, G-2 Security Support Team, 876-8143. They are here to assist you.

As a user of classified and unclassified information, you are responsible for the protection and control of this information. You must safeguard classified and unclassified information at all times to prevent loss or compromise and unauthorized disclosure, dissemination or duplication. This material must not be taken home, and you must not work on classified material at home.

Security includes not only the safeguarding of classified information, but also unclassified, sensitive but unclassified information and OPSEC vulnerabilities. It is critical that briefing slides, notes and e-mails are appropriately marked, transmitted and handled according to the classification and sensitivity. Portion markings are required for both hard-copy and electronic (e-mail and files) classified documents or unclassified documents with control markings (such as for official use only). Every individual is responsible for accu-

rately applying the proper classification, security handling/control, and classification and declassification markings on all materials generated, to include ensuring that the document is being posted on the appropriate system.

E-mail and the Internet create many opportunities for inadvertent disclosure of classified information. Before sending an e-mail, posting to a bulletin board, publishing anything on the Internet, or adding to an existing web page, you must be absolutely certain none of the information is classified or sensitive unclassified information. Be familiar with Army Materiel Command and Aviation and Missile Command's policy for use of the Internet. Per Appendix C of AMC-R 25-75, http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/ci/pubs/r25_75.pdf, AMC and AMCOM web sites must meet specific DoD OPSEC requirements.

With the increased use and availability of the worldwide web, documents must be reviewed for sensitivity and the classification of the information prior to posting on the Internet. The author must ensure that the document or file is current, properly classified, and bears all security control markings each time the files is created, changed, modified or updated. DoD Directive 5230.9 requires that any official information intended for public release that pertains to military matters, national security issues or subjects of significant concern to the Department of Defense will be cleared by appropriate security review and Public Affairs offices prior to release. This includes materials placed on the Internet or released through electronic media.

People are actively searching the unclassified networks for information in order to obtain targeting data, weapons system vulnerabilities and mission capability, and tactics, techniques and procedures for use against our military. A more aggressive attitude toward protecting friendly information is vital to our mission success.

New housing initiatives arrive on block

Plan brings updated features, community center for residents

By KARI HAWKINS
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The problems with the on-post home where Maj. Christine Hackett and her husband, retired Sgt. 1st Class Talbot Hackett, live are numerous. The roof is soft, termites swarm around the house every spring, there are structural issues and everything about the house is "old and dated."

But the worst thing? The couple can't open their windows.

"We have lead-based paint and, unfortunately, the easiest way to mediate that is to paint over it and not break the seal," Christine Hackett said. "So, we're not allowed to open the windows."

The Hacketts have lived in their home on Ripley for about two years. Thursday, they were among about a dozen Redstone Arsenal Family Housing residents who attended a Focus Group Meeting to review renovations and upgrades that will be part of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative.

The Hacketts got some good news at that meeting — their home will be demolished as part of the plan and they will be moved to a renovated home.

They weren't the only residents who were excited about the housing changes coming to Redstone Arsenal. So, too, were Maj. Trey and Anna Kelley, whose home will get a major renovation that will include a two-car garage, new siding, shutters, roofing and gutters, and an expanded kitchen.

"These changes will encourage more Soldiers to live on post," Anna Kelley said. "If these plans stay as they are, there will be no reason not to live on Redstone Arsenal."

Renovations and upgrades to Redstone Arsenal housing will take place during a 30-month time frame beginning in October when Hunt/Investment Builders Inc. takes over as the Army's partner in a community development and management plan for family housing. The transition period, during which Soldiers will sign new leases, learn more about the Army and Hunt/IBI partnership, and discuss property issues with Hunt/IBI, will begin in June.

During the meeting, Robert Kelly, project developer for the Hunt/IBI Development Team, told attendees that the company is looking for input from Redstone Arsenal residents about what they would like to see in the renovated and upgraded homes. He was also looking for feedback on plans for a new community center, which will also be completed in the 30-month time frame.

As the Arsenal's new property manager, Hunt/IBI is eager to establish a good working relationship with post families. The Army, as well as other branches of the military, view companies like Hunt/IBI as the answer to more and better housing for Soldier families. In 1996, Congress passed legislation that enabled the Department of Defense to privatize family housing.

"There is a housing shortage on military installations around the nation," Kelly said. "Privatization is being used to



Photo by Kari Hawkins

LOTS TO SMILE ABOUT— Maj. Christine Hackett, right, looks over renovated housing plans with her husband, retired Sgt. 1st Class Talbot Hackett and Marilyn Phillips, wife of Brig. Gen. Bill Phillips, during the first of many housing meetings with officials of Hunt/IBI, the real estate development partner in Redstone Arsenal's Residential Communities Initiative. By privatizing military housing at Redstone Arsenal, Soldiers and their families will be offered quality housing with updated amenities and a new community center. Renovations will begin in October and be completed in 2008.

take care of the shortages and substandard housing. The legislation allows DoD to go into the real estate market and find a private development partner to build and renovate homes."

Describing some of Redstone Arsenal housing as "being in pretty bad shape and needing help," Kelly said Hunt/IBI has a 50-year agreement with the Army to provide private sector management and maintenance for Redstone Arsenal housing. Hunt/IBI will partner with the Army as owners and managers of the Arsenal's housing properties.

"We work on military housing projects all over the country, that's our specialty," Kelly said of his El Paso, Texas-based company. "We've privatized 14 properties for the Navy, Air Force and Marines. This is our first Army project."

Changes inside and out

The renovation and upgrade project involves changes to both the exterior and interior of Arsenal housing. In their review of housing, Kelly said his company found "all sorts of architectural styles

around the installation. We want to use existing strong architectural themes to tie the neighborhoods together."

There are currently 452 existing homes on post. Plans include the demolition of 100 of those homes, bringing the Arsenal more in line with the number of on-post housing units that Redstone Arsenal should have. That number is determined by a housing market analysis, which takes into account the number of key and essential personnel who are required to live on post and the needs of the military families.

Major renovations will be made to 85 homes built in 1957, '59 and '72. Medium renovations will be made to 145 homes built in 2003; and minor renovations will be made to 120 homes built in 1995. All renovations and the community center will be completed by October 2008.

In areas 3, 10 and 5 (Saturn Pointe, Pathfinder Pointe and Freedom Landing), 85 homes will receive major renovations, including landscaping, new roof lines, brick repair, new window shutters and doors, additional square footage, two-car garages, utility rooms, expanded kitchens,

new floor finishes and new appliances. Some three bedrooms will be converted to four bedrooms and master bedrooms will be expanded.

"We are taking a house now that has basically 1,400 square feet and taking it to 2,200 or 2,300 square feet," Kelly said.

In area 2 (Challenger Heights), 24 homes built in 1995-96 will be renovated to blend in with newer homes built in 2002-03. Changes include landscaping, enclosed garages, vinyl shutters, new doors and termite treatment.

In areas 2 and 4 (Challenger Heights, New Endeavor Village and Endeavor Village), minor renovations will be made to 118 units. These renovations involve primarily expanding the kitchen area.

"These homes were built in 2002-2003 and they are comparable to what you see on the market. They are not traditional military homes," Kelly said. "They have some market rate features that we like to see and they have a lot of extra storage space."

In area 1 (Columbia Centre), 96 homes will undergo minor renovations, including new landscaping, new shutters and paint, termite treatment, refaced cabinets and partial privacy fencing. In area 6 (Voyager Village), 24 units will get minor renovations that include new vinyl shutters and paint, new kitchen cabinets, a master bathroom expansion and new kitchen appliances.

Sensitive to needs

"It will take 30 months to complete renovations and demolitions," Kelly said. "We will do all the renovations before demolishing homes to keep you guys from having to move more than once. We are very sensitive to your needs and we want to make this as easy on you as possible."

Renovations will be completed during the first year and demolition will occur during the second year. Homes that will be demolished are located in area 3 (Ripley Street), area 5 (Hughes/Roberts/Simpson and Skinner streets), area 10 (Tripp) and area 6 (Roberts and Hughes streets).

New community center

In addition, Hunt/IBI will build a new community center at the corner of Skinner Drive and Goss Road that will be accessible only by those who live in Arsenal housing. It will include a swimming pool, basketball courts, fitness center, flexible space, picnic areas, walking paths and

See **Housing** on page 19



Courtesy photos

BEFORE AND AFTER— Many homes on Redstone Arsenal will undergo renovations as Hunt/IBI partners with Redstone Arsenal Family Housing to provide quality housing for Soldiers and their families. The photo at left shows an existing home. In the artist's rendering at right, the exteriors of the older homes are upgraded with architectural features, such as brick repair and new shutters, doors, entry ways, soffits and fascias, that will tie together all neighborhoods.

Singing

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including active-duty Soldiers, National Guardsmen, Reservists and civilian members of the hospital staff.

In addition to Green and Drew, the current Voices of Medhold are Sgt. Jonathan Oliver, Sgt. Carl Oliver, Sgt. Michael Walcott, Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Lampkins and Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Goodson. The Stars of Tomorrow contest was their first official gig outside the gates of WRAMC.

"This isn't our job. I'm a chaplain's assistant," Drew said. "We get together maybe twice

a week for rehearsals. On average, we've done maybe two shows a month lately. Before, it was just once every blue moon."

Their primary missions are to entertain and boost the morale of Soldiers.

"We want to give something to the Soldiers and it's a healing process for us, too," Green said. "It just feels good to do it. It's an honor."

"We're not trying to be anything but what we are, which is Soldiers helping out other Soldiers helping out other Soldiers," Drew added. "If one Soldier smiles today because somebody spent time with him or somebody sang to him or somebody made him laugh, then we did our job."

Editor's note: Tim Hippy writes for the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

Housing

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sidewalks. It will also be home to the company's on-post property management office, which will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Service calls will be responded to at any time.

There will be some changes in housing that Soldiers and their families will need to be aware of, Kelly said, such as the cost of utilities, which will be included in the monthly leasing fee. In the first year of the new arrangement, average usage will be determined for each home. During this time, families will not be required to pay utilities. In the second year, the average utility rate established in the first year will be included in the rent. In the third year and beyond, families will pay for their actual usage by getting a credit on their rent when they use less than the average and a debit when they use over the average.

Those attending the meeting asked Hunt/IBI officials to consider an indoor swimming pool at the community center and screened-in back porches in the homes. They also asked for more storage space.

The newly renovated housing will be available to all military personnel working at Redstone Arsenal. But it may also be open to other types of residents.

"This program is built around military families and the intent is to

fill these homes with military families," Kelly said. "We've put the amenities and community center on post in such a way that military families will want to live here."

Vacant homes will be made available to military families for three months. But, if after that period, there is an occupancy rate of more than 5 percent, then there is a "slim chance" homes will be made available to others, such as retirees, DoD employees and contractors.

Sense of community

One couple — Staff Sgt. Fernando and Lorie Puga — asked Fred Johnson, Hunt/IBI program management director, several questions about the relationship between Hunt/IBI and the military families it will serve, maintenance responsibilities of the management company and the schedule for moving to a renovated home.

"You guys are making a sacrifice," he told them. "The best I can do is make you comfortable with a nice sense of community. We want to instill a sense of community in these neighborhoods by offering you quality housing. If we take care of the assets and if we take care of you, it's a win-win situation."

Those with questions regarding the Residential Communities Initiative and Hunt/IBI management plans can call Johnson at 430-1517. The Hunt/IBI office is now located in building 110.



Arnews photo

ON STAGE— The Voices of Medhold, a singing group from the Medical Hold Company at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., entertains the audience while judges tally the results of the Army's 2006 Margaret "Skippy" Lynn Stars of Tomorrow Talent Contest Jan. 21 at Fort Belvoir, Va. From left are Sgt. Jonathan Oliver, Sgt. Carl Oliver, Staff Sgt. Michael Green, Staff Sgt. Alan Drew, Sgt. Michael Walcott, Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Lampkins and Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Goodson.

Troop teams show balance entering regular season

326th beats MEDDAC for preseason title

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The 326th Chemical Company and MEDDAC have momentum as the troop basketball season opens tonight at Pagano Gym.

The 326th beat MEDDAC 56-39 and 64-48 in the preseason tournament final Monday night, avenging an earlier loss to the medics.

"The players just stepped up," 326th coach Eddie Bryan said after his team beat the Marines 55-48 in the losers bracket final last Thursday night.

Miguel Smith scored 16 points and Michael Gola and Derrick Davis added 15

apiece for the 326th against the Marines. "That's balance," Davis said. "Defense and boards. That's what won that game. Defense and boards."

Shooting was the difference, according to point guard Louis Baldwin, who contributed five points and two assists. The 326th shot better than it did in a 45-39 loss to MEDDAC in Thursday night's first game.

"Every game we won we've been shooting pretty good," Baldwin said.

The 326th led the Marines 27-24 at halftime and surged to a 44-32 advantage by midway in the second half. The Marines couldn't keep the pace after beating Charlie Company 57-50 the previous game.

"That was our second game of the night, so I'm sure we were a little worn out," Marines coach Matthew Fitch said. "But we're going to do good in the season. We've got a veteran team. A lot of them have played basketball so I'm not worried at all."

Marines forward Damian Cason had a game-high 19 points and 10 rebounds while small forward Brian Walker added 10 points.

MEDDAC sent the 326th to the losers bracket on the strength of Tommie Brooks' 12 points. Matthew Alekseunas added 11 and Michael Madkins 10.

Davis had 13 and David Maragne 10 for the 326th.

In other preseason games last week, MEDDAC def. the Marines 54-48 and Headquarters & Alpha def. HHC 59th 45-29 on Jan. 23; the Marines def. NCO Academy 48-29 and Charlie def. Headquarters & Alpha 32-28 on Jan. 25.

Starting tonight, the regular season games are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. at Pagano Gym.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

EASY TWO— Charlie guard David Hooks makes a layup but the Marines won 57-50 in a preseason game Thursday night.

10th Mountain Division joins basketball league

Eighteen Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., have arrived in time for basketball season.

These members of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion are here for a training mission. They've signed up a team for the unit level basketball competition which begins tonight at Pagano Gym.

"So they're going to be joining us for basketball," recreation assistant Mike Potter said. "They're here from Jan. 23 to April 15."

Eleven Army boxers advance to Armed Forces final

Competitors go head-to-head during 16 bouts in two nights

By ESAU LOLIS
Army News Service

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. — More than 1,800 spectators witnessed 29 boxers from across the Army contend for the All-Army Boxing Championship at Fort Huachuca's Barnes Field House Jan. 20 and 21.

Returning to this year's boxing competition was 2005 Conseil de International Sports Militaire light-heavyweight bronze medalist Staff Sgt. Christopher Downs of Fort Carson, Colo., and the 2004 light-middleweight gold medalist 1st Lt. Boyd Melson. Both won gold at Huachuca as boxing enthusiasts enjoyed free admission for the 16 bouts over two nights.

Downs wins gold

Downs won gold at the Armed Forces Boxing Championships last year and nabbed a Bronze

Medal at the U.S. Amateur Boxing Nationals last March.

Downs won the 2006 All-Army light-heavyweight gold medal by way of referee stopping the contest due to head injury. At the beginning of round one, Downs threw a series of powerful blows to the head of Spc. Tremaine Knox of Fort Riley, Kan., sending him to the canvas. The referee stopped the contest after only 29 seconds of the first round.

Melson moves forward

Former CISM gold medalist and three-time All-Army champion 1st Lt. Boyd Melson won the light-middleweight gold medal and moved forward in his quest to the 2006 CISM championship by defeating Spc. Jonathan Conn by referee stopping the contest.

Shortly into the third round, Melson threw a lightning-fast combination dazing Conn, and causing his nose to bleed and sending him into a dizzying standing eight count. The referee stopped the contest and declared Melson the victor.

Franklin beats Jimenez

Unopposed boxers Spc. John Franklin and Sgt. Jose Jimenez fought a match bout. Franklin won the bout by outpointing Jimenez 33 to 13.

Jimenez, who returned from Iraq just three weeks ago, described his advancement to the All Army Boxing Championship saying, "it was a long time coming." Jimenez competed in 2002 but did not place.

Guzman takes heavyweight title

In a battle of Army heavyweight superstars, defending All-Army champion Sgt. Joe Guzman of Fort Carson, Colo., faced off against Spc. Jeffrey Spencer of Fort Hood, Texas, during the final bout of the night.

Both boxers were evenly matched, blow for blow during the first two rounds. The Guzman onslaught began in round three. The bell rang to begin the final round and Guzman came out swinging with an array of scoring blows to Spencer's torso. The referee stopped the bout

twice to warn Guzman. Guzman nearly dropped Spencer but Spencer fought back bravely.

The crowd went wild as the competition came down to the last 10 seconds. Once the bout was over, the crowd eagerly anticipated the judge's decision. Guzman was named champion outpointing Spencer by just three points 30-27. Guzman was awarded the 2006 All-Army heavyweight gold medal.

"He came out fast and I didn't think he was going to be able to maintain that tempo," Guzman said of Spencer. "The last round I got two eight-counts and that's what I needed."

Guzman went on to say he changed his boxing style up a little during the last round which helped him to win.

Three women unopposed

Just three women made it to this year's All-Army trial camp and championships. 2nd Lt. Khara Keegan, 119, of Fort Huachuca,



Photo by Esau Lolis

REAL McCOY— Spc. Quentin McCoy, Fort Carson, Colo., moves in on his opponent, Spc. Joshua Kidwell of Fort Bliss, Texas, on the first night of All-Army boxing, Jan. 20. McCoy outpointed Kidwell 34-14. McCoy then defeated Fort Huachuca's Spc. Nathaniel Hicks to win the 2006 super-middleweight All-Army Gold medal.

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Retiree, student and former White House security adviser

Twitty has plenty to tell while writing history

By **KELLEY LANE**
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Life is a journey, not a destination. Fred Twitty's journey has taken him full circle to Alabama, but the stops along the way are the stuff of best sellers. He hopes he's writing one now.

He was born in small town Colony, Ala., where he lived until heading off to private school in Nashville at age 13. There he would attend the Nashville Christian Institute. While the school closed in 1967, it boasted impressive alumni. Twitty is proud to call NCI his alma mater, and to have been in attendance with some of its finest, including civil rights lawyer Fred Gray. Gray is best known for his work as Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s attorney during the Montgomery bus boycott. He wishes he could have known him better.

"He was the first African-American chosen as the president of the Alabama Bar Association," he said. "He went to the same school, but before I got there because of his age and all."

Also among the list that he's proud to call schoolmate and friend is Vernon Winfrey, perhaps most known for his famous daughter, Oprah. Even though many years have passed, the two still keep in touch. Winfrey still runs his Cleveland Avenue barbershop in Nashville. Twitty proudly sports his handiwork today.

"He gave me my last haircut a couple of weeks ago," Twitty said.

After graduating NCI in 1957, Twitty headed off to college. He attended Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, a mere 18 months before a family problem called him home. When he was ready to go back, the draft said otherwise.

"Uncle Sam had other plans," Twitty said. "I would not falsify, because I've always tried to be a person of ethics and tell the truth. I didn't say I was still in school. I said that I wasn't, pending going back. So I had to go into the service."

Like many young men at the time in a similar situation, Twitty did not see his induction into the Army as a career move.

"I declared at that time that I would not spend one day over that draft," Twitty said laughing. "But I ended up spending 35 years, 10 months and 12 days before I got out. I would have stayed longer, but I began to lose sight in my right eye due to a vein inclusion. It's all gone now."

Before he retired as the Army's liaison officer for counterintelligence with the Department of Defense headquarters, as a chief warrant officer 5, Twitty spent the bulk of his career in counterintelligence. He traveled the world teaching other Soldiers in many places, including Germany and Korea. Due to the nature of the field, he is unable to talk about much of the specifics. However, he is quite proud of one assignment in particular.

During the George Herbert Bush presidential administration, Twitty was appointed deputy security adviser for the



Photo by Kelley Lane

ALWAYS LEARNING— Fred Twitty is pursuing a second bachelor's degree at Columbia College and eventually wants to get a master's and doctorate. Columbia College office manager Gabriele Lasher answers a few questions for him.

White House in 1991. He remained in the position until 1994, which saw a change of president in the middle.

"We weren't political. Whoever was in office at the time, we served them faithfully," he said. He was given the Presidential Support Badge as a permanent part of both his uniform and civilian attire in 1992.

"It was a good assignment. It was a busy assignment," Twitty said. "I'm privileged to have served and been able to support national security at the highest level and ensure the survival of the presidency through working

with the Secret Service and other agencies. To my knowledge, I was the first African-American to be in that position."

Twitty has been a busy man in his retirement as well. Currently, he can be found on post at Columbia College most days, working on a second bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration. He received his first while enlisted from Excelsior University in Albany, N.Y., in liberal arts. At the end of the current semester, he will be only 12 credit hours away from his second bachelor's. However, he doesn't plan on stopping there

either. He plans to go on to get his master's degree in the field and hopefully his doctorate as well.

"If I live long enough," he quipped.

He intends to use his continued education in much the manner that he uses his time not spent in scholarly pursuit, mentoring and helping those in his church and community.

"Everybody needs a mentor," Twitty said. "No matter how old or in what position."

He also makes time for his children and grandchildren, two of whom are serving their country at the time. Twitty's twin grandsons are deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. He said he's planning a big party for their return to their home in Texas.

He's also renewing acquaintance with his hometown, looking up the people and places that were a part of his childhood.

"I'm glad that I'm able to go back and visit now," Twitty said. "I'm beginning to learn some of the people I knew before I left home."

With all of that on his plate, it would seem that he wouldn't have time for anything else. Somehow, he finds time to run his own business and has begun work on a book about his life. He said he writes when he finds time and when inspiration hits him.

"I believe, whether it's a religious or a secular institute, that people should read and sharpen your mind. I believe if I stopped I'd probably die soon. It's a way to keep you going. I'll probably be doing something until I die. My goal is to get that Ph.D. degree," he said. "I'm not going to give up until I do."

Wounded veteran optimistic about future

Citizen

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medical hold. It was determined that Parris should not return to active duty and he was returned to Guard status in April 2004.

With all that he had experienced, Parris kept his priorities in order. He continued to check on his citizenship status through his entire ordeal. Once off active duty, Parris took time off to return to Trinidad, where he married his longtime girlfriend.

But the joyous occasion was quickly halted when Parris was informed he would have to return without his new wife.

"I tried to bring Sujata back with me, but they said because I was on a green card she had to apply for her own. I understand that there's a process, but I was in the U.S. Army and had been injured fighting for this country."

With his options limited, Parris

returned to the U.S. without his wife.

When he returned, Parris made completing his citizenship paperwork his top concern. He spent months writing letters to congressmen and speaking to the Veterans Association, but continued to find red tape wherever he turned. Frustrated with the process, and missing his wife, Parris went online and sent an e-mail to the vice president's office.

Two weeks later, Parris received a letter from vice president's office notifying him that they were looking into his situation. A week later, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services notified him that his paperwork was being transferred and they would be in touch.

A week before Thanksgiving, USCIS called Parris to set up his long-awaited appointment. The process, which normally takes weeks — interview, paperwork, citizenship oath — was completed all in one day.

Almost three years after beginning the long journey to citizenship, Andre Parris was finally a U.S. citizen.

"I did my part for this country; I was even injured doing it. All I wanted was to be a citizen and be able to be with my family. It just goes to show you have to know who to complain to when you're having a problem," Parris said.

With his citizenship journey behind him, he began applying for his wife's visa. He has been told her status will be upgraded since he is now a citizen.

"I am just hoping the paperwork will be finished and she will be able to join me before June 22. That is our one year anniversary," Parris said.

Rounding off his tumultuous year was the start of a new career. As an injured Soldier, Parris became eligible for the AMC Always A Soldier program. Having done his research, Parris was already in contact with the program's director Steve Clark.

"As soon as I got my citizenship I called Mr. Clark and he asked when I could start."

Now the automation assistant for Army Materiel Command chaplain's office, Parris is excited about the future.

"I have a lot of options now, I plan to

take advantage of all the education opportunities the Army has to offer and continue my education," he said.

AMC has also recognized Parris' achievements, awarding him with the Combat Action Badge and the Iraqi Expeditionary Medal.

"They've helped take care of me here and I'm really enjoying doing something different," he said. "Who knows what will happen next? I appreciate the experiences I had with the Army, and now I am ready to finish my education and look forward to advancing in my career."

With a turbulent year behind him, Parris is looking forward to the future. And at just 22 years old, he still has plenty of time to continue his contributions to the United States and the Army.

Editor's note: The Always A Soldier Program is an Army Materiel Command based initiative focused on assisting this nation's wounded veterans after their selfless service. The goal of the program is to provide continuing support to war fighters beyond their active duty service.

Dollars

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of the need to develop the scientific and engineering minds of Alabamians. He told the lawmakers that Alabama could play a key role in putting a man on the moon if we were bold enough to meet the challenge.

Of course, history would prove him correct. Eight years after his talk in Montgomery, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin would ride an Alabama-developed Saturn V rocket into space and would plant their feet firmly on lunar soil at Tranquility Base.

I read Dr. von Braun's address to the Alabama Legislature last year when NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe visited Montgomery. Two quotations from Dr. von Braun during his address to that legislative body stood out in my mind.

The first quote was, "Opportunity goes where the best people go, and the best people go where good education goes. To make Alabama more attractive to technical and scientific people across the country — and to further develop the people we have now — the academic and research environment in Alabama must be improved."

Von Braun said it was colleges and universities that would bring business to Alabama. "Let's be honest with ourselves. It's not water, or real estate, or labor or cheap taxes that brings industry to a state or city. It's brainpower. Nowadays, brainpower dumped in a desert will

make it rich."

As a result of Dr. von Braun's vision, plus an investment in education, and the hard work of Alabamians during the course of the past half century, Redstone Arsenal has become a spigot of money, pouring billions of dollars into the state's economy every year. It is the engine that drives North Alabama's financial well being. But you can be assured that with those numbers, Redstone's impact provides benefits that reach into every corner of Alabama as well.

Today, Redstone Arsenal is home to three major federal laboratories — the Army's Aviation and Missile Command and Strategic Missile Defense Command and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. And, as has been our good fortune, Redstone will become headquarters to more Army agencies in the near future.

The annual budget for those federal agencies totals approximately \$20 billion — a huge amount for any state but staggering when you put it into perspective for Alabama. Simply put, Redstone's budget is nearly four times the size of Alabama's education and general fund budgets combined.

Unfortunately, some research suggests that most of that money escapes Alabama's borders. While definitive numbers may be difficult to ascertain, some estimates claim that only 15 percent of those dollars stay in Alabama. This leaves us with several simple, but logical, questions.

Where does the money go?

A good portion of the money that

■ Corpus Christi production earns praise from Army secretary

Depot

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Tim Coolidge, NAS-Corpus Christi commanding officer, were at the flightline to welcome the secretary and his party.

Harvey and Griffin viewed the command video and then toured selected depot facilities. At the cross service assembly line, George Kunkle, Corpus Christi process optimization manager, briefed the party on the Pave Hawk program that was in trouble due to long turnaround time and high cost. With the implementation of Lean initiatives, the depot was able to cut more than 50 percent in man-hours and turnaround time. Of particular interest to Harvey was how well-organized and clean (Leaned) the Pave Hawk line was. He repeatedly pointed these areas out to Griffin, stating that the condition of the Pave Hawk line propagates a safer work environment. At the T700 engine assembly line, Harvey got a close view of damage caused by desert sand to power turbine nozzles and compressor sections.

Manuel Torres, Bearing Facility supervisor, greeted each member of the secretary's party as they entered the shop. Torres then introduced Michael Sparks, who was hired under the "Always a Soldier" program and Blas Medrano III, both Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans and Bearing Shop employees. The "Always a Soldier"

program was created by the Army Materiel Command for Soldiers wounded in combat who, due to injuries, cannot remain on active duty. The program helps these Soldiers find employment at Army installations. Sparks said he still feels part of the Army knowing that he is helping the Soldier in the field by working on aircraft.

At Hangar 44, Harvey addressed Hangar 44 and Lean Office employees involved in a Value Stream Analysis event.

"You are all part of an important Armywide initiative called Lean/Six Sigma," Harvey told the group. Through Lean/Six Sigma initiatives implemented at Corpus Christi, turnaround time on the T700 family of engines and the UH-60 A to A Recapitalization Program has been reduced. The group is in the process of Leaning the CH-47 production line.

"This (Lean/Six Sigma) is going on parallel with our forces transformation," Harvey said. "When you increase the productivity and quality of output, you can bring in more work and will save more money. What you are doing here today is not just an exercise for saving money. The point is to free up financial resources and give that money back to the war fighter. We want to ensure 100 percent readiness at all times."

Griffin told the group, "Thank you. You are doing great work here."

"I'll be back," said Harvey, seemingly pleased with his first visit to the depot.

leaves Alabama goes to other states, such as missiles and helicopters. States with a more mature aerospace industry, such as California, are the recipients of dollars that flow through Alabama and Redstone Arsenal. Research dollars leak from our borders as well. States that offer stronger support for research are benefiting also from that money.

Why is this important?

What results from this "leakage" of federal dollars to other states is opportunity lost. The bottom line is that Alabama is losing a tremendous opportunity to add more jobs and more income. And, of course, with more jobs and more income comes additional tax revenue to fund education and basic services for all Alabamians.

What kind of impact are we talking about?

The same research that shows that most of these federal dollars "leak" to other states also points out that efforts to retain some of those dollars would be of tremendous benefit to Alabama. For example, if it was possible to increase the retention of those dollars 1 percent, we could directly generate another \$200 million in economic activity and 2,000 jobs.

What can we do?

Alabama must initiate a strategic effort to add to our science, technology and research base, especially those relating to aviation and aerospace. Such technologies include robotics, modeling and

simulation, nanotechnology, materials science, optics, cluster computing, among others. To the extent we conduct this research and development in Alabama, the jobs stay here rather than "leaking" to other states.

Federal dollars can be, and should be, considered an important seed for growing Alabama's 21st century economy. These dollars provide direct fuel for our economy, and, at the same time, generate a significant long-term return for our economy through increased productivity and an overall improvement in our quality of life.

Alabama's federal legislators do an admirable job in securing these dollars for institutions within our state. It's imperative that Alabama find ways to keep more of that money inside our borders.

I am announcing an initiative to investigate those possibilities — the Redstone Development Initiative. This process begins with a \$35,000 grant that I have secured through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

This grant will allow the University of Alabama-Huntsville to investigate the federal budgets of Redstone Arsenal agencies and determine the origination and destination of those dollars, an important first step in finding ways to retain the billions of dollars that fall into our backyard.

Ray Garner

Editor's note: Ray Garner (R-Monrovia) represents District 25 in the Alabama House of Representatives.

■ Army ready to defend Armed Forces boxing title

Boxing

continued from page 20

Ariz., Spc. Lupita Cook, 154, of Fort Polk, La., and Sgt. Princess Finn, 165, of Camp Humphries, Korea. Keegan and Finn will advance to the Armed Forces Championships.

"Unfortunately we only have so many females; just three of us, and we are all in three different weight classes and there's a large enough range between our weights that we can't even have a match bout," Keegan said. "Hopefully in the future we can get more women involved in boxing and aware of the sport."

Preliminary bout wows audience

During the preliminary bouts, Staff Sgt. Eric Raymon and Spc. Nathaniel Hicks, both from Fort Huachuca, provided a crowd-pleasing bout that had spectators oohing and aahing for four rounds of evenly matched boxing. At the conclusion of the bout, everyone was on their feet anticipating the judges decision. The boxers received a standing ovation and crowd-favorite Hicks won the preliminary bout.

Hicks went on to face World-Class Athlete Program boxer, Spc. Quentin McCoy, Fort Carson, Colo., for the middleweight championship.

McCoy punished Hicks blow after blow until the sound of the bell in round four. McCoy outpointed Hicks 34-13.

"I am mentally stronger this year than I was last year," McCoy said. "I think that's my biggest step forward so far."

McCoy said that 75 percent of competi-

tion is mental and 25 percent is physical. "I think I'm finally getting the mental part down," he said laughing.

Alvarez, Shepherd win

Sgt. Esteban Alvarez and Staff Sgt. Marshall Christmas contended for the 141 weight class championship. Christmas returned to compete this year after taking a year off to be an All-Army boxing coach. The bout was evenly matched and Alvarez stole the bout during the last 10 seconds by scoring two blows and was awarded the 2006 All-Army light welterweight gold medal.

Super heavyweight Sgt. Andrew Shepherd of Fort Eustis, Va. advanced to the Armed Forces Championship unopposed. Shepherd was scheduled to box Sgt. David Griffin of Fort Hood, Texas, and the only other super heavyweight in camp. Griffin injured his shoulder during training and was unable to compete.

Boxers contend for WCAP billet

Several boxers contended for a spot on the World Class Athlete Program boxing team.

All-Army head coach Basheer Abdullah is looking at four candidates for the WCAP Program. Sgt. Andrew Shepherd, 201-plus, Spc. Charles Rios, 132, Sgt. Esteban Alvarez, 141, and Sgt. Jose Jimenez, 125.

"We have some of the best amateur boxers in the country in the WCAP Program," Abdullah said.

Eleven Army boxers will compete at the 2006 Armed Forces Championship May 11-18 at Camp Hueneme, Calif.

Editor's note: Esau Lolis writes for the Scout Newspaper at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Boating course

The Redstone Flotilla boating skills and seamanship safety course is 6:30-8:30 p.m. each Thursday night from Feb. 9 through March 23 at building 3305 on Zeus Drive, room 215. Fee is \$25 to cover material costs. Successful completion exempts the student from taking the state boat operator's examination. For information call Tom Kunhart 830-6621.

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 fund-raiser. 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 today. 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.

Monrovia umpires

Monrovia Umpires Association is recruiting for baseball and softball umpires to call games at Phillips Park in Monrovia. You must be at least age 17 by April 1. For more information, e-mail Ron Rohan at rawhide@knology.net.

Golf league

The OMMCS Golf League will have its 2006 golf season initial meeting Feb. 16 at 4:30 p.m. at the Redstone Golf Course clubhouse. It appears that at least three team vacancies exist from the league's 20-team roster. The league plays each week, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 3:45 and 4:52. Each team will only play one day per week, fielding a team of four players. Each team roster should have from 6-12 players. The league will begin play April 4 and run through the second week in September. A team entry fee of \$110 is charged to all teams, which is used to pay to winning teams for the first and second parts of the season, as well as individual and team wins each week. For more information, call Dean Anderson 313-3477 or Dave Parker 313-4196.

Youth soccer

AYSO Soccer at John Hunt Park is taking registrations for the spring season for ages 4-14 boys and girls. Cost is \$65 per player and includes the uniform. Practice begins Feb. 20 and the season will end April 22. Registration can be made online at www.ayso160.org or call 539-5201 to have forms sent to you. Forms are also available at John Hunt Park at the Infor-

mation board at the corner of Airport Road and JC Way.



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.

Civil War round table

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin, north entrance. Nancy Rohr, local historian and editor of "Incidents of the War: The Civil War Journal of May Jane Chadick," is to present a program on "Octavia Otey's Uncivil War," a story of the Otey family, residing near Meridianville during the federal occupation of North Alabama. The meeting is free. Chicken dinner is available at 5:30 for \$6.95. For information call 858-6191.

Resource managers

American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold a luncheon Feb. 9 at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center. Past presidents will be recognized for the 20th anniversary of Redstone's chapter. For tickets contact your ASMC organizational representative or call Kim Jean 876-3033 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.



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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-4 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. The shop is accepting winter clothing/items through Feb. 16. "Join us Saturday, Feb. 4 from 10-2; all TSP winter clothing will be 50 percent off," a prepared release said. 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

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up at the shop during business hours. Turn in applications by Thursday 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.

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 Friday. 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.

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.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. This scholarship is open to high school seniors, undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found at <http://www.asmconline.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. Friday. 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.

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.

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.

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 Rideout 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.

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 ocwelfare@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.

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.

Comedy club

The Officers and Civilians Club will hold its first Comedy Review on March 24 at 6 p.m. in the ballroom. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets will be available starting Feb. 1 at the Sparkman Cafeteria, the Officers and Civilians Club, Redstone Lanes, and the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. For more information, call 830-2582.

CFC applications

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations wanting to receive contributions. Under federal law, the applicant must be a 501 (c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications is March 13 through April 13. CFC manages the collection and disbursements of donations from military and federal employees in Cullman, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan counties, as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. For more information or to obtain an application, call Melinda Seigler, CFC director, at 536-0745, ext. 108 or the CFC office 876-9143. You may also download the application with instructions at <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil>.

Women's health awareness

Feb. 3 is National Wear Red Day, a day when Americans nationwide will take women's health to heart by wearing red to show their support for women's heart disease awareness. More women die of heart disease than all cancers combined, yet only 20 percent of women identify heart disease as the greatest health problem facing women today and most fail to make the connection between its risk factors and their personal risk of developing heart disease. National Wear Red Day is an annual event held on the first Friday in February. On this day, women and men across the country will wear red to unite in the national movement to give women a personal and urgent wakeup call about their risk of heart disease. Everyone can participate by showing off a favorite red dress, shirt, tie, or by wearing the Red Dress Pin (available at www.hearttruth.gov). Join this national effort by wearing red Feb. 3, and encourage your family, friends, and co-workers to do the same. For ideas and tools to help you participate in National Wear Red Day

or to order a Red Dress Pin, visit www.hearttruth.gov.

Newcomers' orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation scheduled Feb. 7 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. "If you have already attended a Newcomers' Orientation or you were reassigned to a new unit at Redstone Arsenal, please disregard this notice," a prepared release said. For more information call Mary Breedon, relocation assistance program manager at ACS, 876-5397.

Barbershop quartet

Southern Splendor Chorus, a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, provides singing Valentine's. For information, visit www.southernsplendorchorus.org or call 682-9441.

Black history contests

Team Redstone is holding display and essay contests for Black History Month. This year's theme is "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal,

Social and Civic Institutions." Send essays by Feb. 15 to Sgt. 1st Class Monique Mixon of Garrison equal opportunity at AMSAM-RA-EO, fax 876-8947, monique.c.mixon@redstone.army.mil; or to Master Sgt. Tuynuykua Jackson of 59th Ordnance Brigade equal opportunity at ATKS-AE, fax 842-6853, tuynuykua.jackson@redstone.army.mil. Static displays should be in place by Feb. 15 for judging Feb. 16. Plaques and trophies will be awarded during the Black History Month observance Feb. 23 at 10:30 a.m. at NASA's Morris Auditorium, building 4200 on Rideout Road. For more information, call Jackson 876-9224 or 842-9765.

Theater auditions

Madison Theatre Guild will hold auditions for Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Ernest," Feb. 5 from 2-4 p.m. and Feb. 7 from 6-9 p.m. at the Madison Public Library (behind Kroger on Hughes Road and Browns Ferry Road). Production dates are April 7-9. Characters needed are two men and two women between the ages of 18-40, and three "older" men and two "older" women (ages not important). Those auditioning will be asked to read excerpts from the script. For more information, call director Katie Husby 325-2636 or Madison Theatre Guild artistic director Jeannie King 656-8360.

Young Marines

The Young Marines of North Alabama will hold Spring Boot Camp beginning

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Feb. 6. Young Marines is open to boys and girls ages 8-17. It stresses academic achievement, service to others, devotion to God, country, community and family. Founded in 1958, Young Marines has been operational in Huntsville since 1995. For more information, call Mr. Gentry 882-0848.

Professional development
American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold a mini-PDI, "To Boldly Go Where Few Have Ever Gone Before," Feb. 28 and March 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Cost is \$75 for ASMC members, \$85 for non-members. For reservations or information call Cody Swinford 876-4283, Debbie O'Neal 876-2671, Kim Jean 876-3033, Theresa McBride 842-9272 or Linda Caswell 955-0702.

Business expo
A retail franchise expo, co-sponsored by FranNet Alabama and the Madison Chamber of Commerce, will be held Feb. 10 from 2-8 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel-Madison. Presentations are 3 and 6 p.m. "If you need ideas on what kinds of businesses are available, how much they cost, and how they operate, this free, informative afternoon is made for you," a prepared release said. For more information, call FranNet Alabama (205) 981-0567 or Madison Chamber of Commerce (256) 461-0518.

Musical arts
Lee High School Lyric Theatre is presenting Rogers and Hammerstein's musical "South Pacific." The cast will perform a preview Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Post Exchange. Evening performances are Feb. 10-11 and 16-18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lee High auditorium, 606 Forrest Circle. A matinee performance will be presented 2:30 p.m. Feb. 12. Cost is adults \$12, students/seniors \$10. Active duty military are encouraged to wear their uniforms Feb. 16. Tickets for veterans and active military are \$8. World War II veterans' tickets for the Feb. 12 matinee are \$5. For information call Shelby Holland 859-2563.

Blood drives
Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: Feb. 2 — building 5400 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Feb. 3 — Post Exchange from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Army offices on Wynn Drive from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and EG&G at NASA building 4471 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Feb. 9 — building 6263 from 7-noon; Feb. 16 — SMDC at building 5220 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Sparkman Center from 7-12:30; Feb. 17 — Corps of Engineers from 7-noon, building 5681 from 7-noon and NASA

building 4316 from 8-1:30.

Blue star banner
The North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organization Coalition would like to invite the Waiting

Spouses and other geographically separated families to a Blue Star Banner presentation Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Refreshments will be

served. To register to receive a blue star banner, visit the web site at www.alabamaveteran.com and the registration form is online. Information about the blue star program is also available on the

web site. If you have more than one family member serving, call Mary Breeden of ACS 876-5397. They have two- and three-star banners available, but the number of banners is needed.

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																
AS OF 26 Jan 06																																			
THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL																																			
SCBK05883126	Aerospace Engineer	1-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	60,955 - 94,229		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																											
SCBK06055177	Electronics Engr	1-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	62,751 - 97,003			X	X	X	X				X	X		X															
SCBK06055177D	Electronics Engr	1-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	62,751 - 97,003											X		X															
SCBK06991126D	Supervisory Program Analyst	1-Feb-06	Acq Supp Center-ARROW Prgm Ofc	NH-0343	4	4	88,178 - 134,838											X		X															
SCBK06013473R	Supervisory General Engr	1-Feb-06	Acq Supp Center-GMD Joint Prgm Ofc	NH-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X							X	X	X	X															
SCBK06013473DR	Supervisory General Engr	1-Feb-06	Acq Supp Center-GMD Joint Prgm Ofc	NH-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838											X		X															
SCBK06029943	Management Assistant (OA)	2-Feb-06	AMC- Command Group	NK-0344	3	3	39,177 - 61,945	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															
SCBK06018910D	Lead General Engr	4-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838											X		X															
SCBK06050062	Supervisory General Engr	6-Feb-06	USADTC, Redstone Tech Test Ctr	GS-0801	14	14	88,178 - 114,631	X																											
SCBK05058597	Traffic Mgmt Spec	6-Feb-06	IMMC	GS-2130	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X																											
SCBK05012239	Supervisory Mgmt & Prgm Analyst	7-Feb-06	IMMC	NH-0343	3	3	62,751 - 97,003	X																											
WTST06099407	Security Spec (information)	8-Feb-06	AMC- Intelligence & Security Dir	GG-0080	13	13	74,621 - 97,003	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK06041723	Management Analyst	9-Feb-06	SMDC	GS-0343	13	13	74,621 - 97,003			X	X						X	X		X															
SCBK06086103	Building Manager	9-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DE-1176	4	4	74,621 - 114,631	X	X																										
SCBK06084145	Inspector	10-Feb-06	AMC- Ofc of the Inspector General	NH-1801	3	3	62,751 - 97,003							X			X	X		X															
SCBK06067936	IT Spec (INFOSEC)	14-Feb-06	AMC- CIO/G6 (Info Mgmt)	GS-2210	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X																											
WTST06020793	Supervisory General Engr	16-Feb-06	Assistant Sec of the Army, PEO, SIM, TRNG & Instrumentation	GG-0801	15	15	103,723 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
SCBK06023440	Budget Analyst	19-Feb-06	Corps of Engrs Huntsville	GS-0560	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X																											
SCBK06036350	General Engineer	21-Feb-06	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	88,178 - 114,631				X																								
SCBK06090312	IT Specialist (SYSANALYSIS)	22-Feb-06	AMCOM, TMDE Activity, Bus Mgmt Dir	GS-2210	7	9	41,508 - 64,522	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	X															
THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOBS.OPM.GOV																																			
SCBK05883126D	Aerospace Engineer	1-Feb-06	AMRDEC	DB-0861	12	13	60,955 - 94,229											X		X															
SCBK06013473DR	Supervisory General Engr	1-Feb-06	Acq Supp Center-GMD Joint Prgm Ofc	NH-0801	14	15	88,178 - 134,838											X		X															
SCBK06991126D	Supervisory Program Analyst	1-Feb-06	Acq Supp Center-ARROW Prgm Ofc	NH-0343	14	15	88,178 - 134,838											X		X															
WTST06099407	Security Spec (information)	8-Feb-06	AMC- Intelligence & Security Dir	GG-0080	13	13	74,621 - 97,003	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X															
WTST06020793	Supervisory General Engr	16-Feb-06	Assistant Sec of the Army, PEO, SIM, TRNG & Instrumentation	GG-0801	15	15	103,723 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	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.