

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 55 No. 6

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

February 8, 2006

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Retired colonel always a Soldier
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Garrison civilians setting standards

Organization's budget presenting challenge

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor

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Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski gives a frank appraisal of his organization's fiscal situation.

"Money is the enemy," he said during the Garrison's town hall meeting Jan. 31 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

The more than 2,000-member organization that provides emergency services, maintains buildings and grounds, and performs many other support duties daily, doesn't have a budget for this year. If things don't improve, and money can't be juggled as necessary, the Garrison could run out of money June 30.

Olshefski expressed confidence that this won't happen, pointing out that his managers found a way to get through similar dire circumstances last year.

"I can say there's a 99.9 per-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

JUST THE FACTS— Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski describes the Garrison's financial outlook.

cent chance that's not going to happen," he said of running out of money in June.

He praised his mostly-civilian work force — his "troops" —

for what they do at Redstone.

"I'm going to tell you right now: Civilians set the standards in Garrison organizations," he said.

The colonel discussed the

construction plans on Martin Road to accommodate the arrival of organizations, including headquarters Army Materiel Command, from the base realignment and closure actions last year. Redstone stands to gain more than 4,000 people.

"Suffice to say, we won on BRAC," Olshefski said.

There were few questions from the audience after the colonel's blunt — and often humorous — presentation.

"As you can see he's a very compassionate individual," Darrell Brewer, deputy to the Garrison commander, told the crowd. "He's tough, but he's got a good sense of humor."

Belinda Bailey of the Directorate of Information Management was among those who attended the afternoon event. "It was interesting, enjoyable and informative," she said.

"Honest presentation," Ken Hewitt of environmental management division at Directorate of Public Works said. "I think there were good facts there. I liked his vision. Good look into the future."

Army recruiting for physician assistants

By ANN ERICKSON
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army is short about 100 physician assistants and is stepping up attempts to recruit both civilians and Soldiers to do the job.

This is the first time that the Army Medical Department, or AMEDD, has recruited certified civilian physician assistants to join the Army, said Capt. James Jones, Interservice Physician Assistant Program manager. He said the Army's modularity and high operations tempo contributed to this change.

"We have a recruiting mission to obtain 20 civilian physician assistants this year, but this is likely to rise to 60," he said.

The Army offers qualified officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers an educational opportunity to become a physician assistant through the IPAP located at the AMEDD Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Army trains alongside candidates from the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard and U.S. Public Health Service.

"The Army plans on filling the shortages by increasing the number of students in the IPAP — this year we are training 92 Army students versus 60," Jones said.

Upon completion of the program, graduates earn a master's degree from the University of Nebraska and receive a commission in the Army Medical Specialist Corps as a second lieutenant. Officer students receive constructive credit for their commissioned service in accordance with DoD Instruction 6000.13.

Graduates must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam before they can provide health care to Soldiers, AMEDD officials said.

There is also a new program called the Requirements Completion Course that is designed to help Soldiers complete the program's prerequisite courses.

"This is another way that we are working to reduce the shortages while still maintaining the highest quality medical provider possible," Jones said.

Army physician assistants are frontline medical responders.

"They are usually the first medical care that Soldiers receive before being transported to a hospital," Jones said. "They are a critical component of the Army."

Applications for the IPAP must be sent by March 1 to the program manager at: HQ, USAREC; RCHS-SVD-PA; 1307 Third Ave.; Fort Knox, KY 40121-2726.

Editor's note: This article was initially

released stating civilians could apply for the IPAP and they cannot. Certified civilian physician assistants are being recruited to join the Army.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Open again

Gate 3 on Redstone Road has reopened after months of construction. Its hours are Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed on weekends and federal holidays.

An open lane random survey

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Wanda Harville
retiree

"I'm going to the Keith Urban concert."

Phyllis Gibat
Bicentennial Chapel

"I'm not sure what my plans are yet. Hopefully, it will be a nice dinner out with my husband."



James Owens
NASA

"It'll probably be a nice dinner. Generally, I like to surprise my wife with something."

Gary Corder
NASA

"My wife and I usually try to put it off for a couple days before we go out. That way the restaurants aren't so crowded."



Quote of the week

'Life is notes underneath our fingers. We just got to figure out which ones to play to make our music.'

— **Jamie Foxx**
comedian, actor, singer

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.

Letters to the Editor

Turned off by drivers in hurry

Trying to understand why Redstone Arsenal would go through all the expense of putting in a U-turn at Gate 9 (southbound), and then say it cannot be used from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. The most need for the U-turn is 6:30-9 a.m. when the most people will need to use it to get to work along Goss Road. Now those folks have to drive an additional mile down to the next U-turn and then back again.

Editorial comment: The one problem I see at the U-turn is those drivers who are in a hurry and consider themselves to be more important than the rest of us. We have all seen them and if you're one of them you need to get over it. They head for one of the security booths on the right side of the gate, which tend to get the fewest cars; and as soon as they get through, they immediately head for the left lane without any consideration for other drivers to their left. To those I say, you are not more important than the rest of us, and if you mess up you and/or

someone else may not get to work at all.

Richard R. Rice

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The Directorate of Emergency Services appreciates your concern regarding the U-turn at Gate 9.

"The decision was made to limit the use of the U-turn after conducting a thorough traffic survey. It was determined that approximately eight vehicles could utilize the turn lane at one time. The volume of traffic during the duty day would cause traffic to backup and would affect not only the turn lane but those continuing south on Rideout Road.

"For the safety of all who work and live on Redstone Arsenal, it was determined the U-turn would not be authorized from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. and that the short half-mile distance to the turnaround would be much safer and minimal inconvenience."

Concerned about treatment

My first occasion to bring a visitor on Redstone Arsenal in many years was Jan. 18, when my wife and I were invited to the Rustic Lodge for a retirement ceremony of a close friend. I previously read e-mails that indicated the visitor process was changing so I contacted our administrative office to gain additional information. I was told that if a visitor was a passenger in my vehicle they were not required to obtain a visitors badge. Since we do not live in close proximity to the Arsenal, I requested that my wife meet me at the new Gate 9 Visitors Center and we would proceed

together to the Rustic Lodge. My wife was waiting at 11:30 a.m. as planned and she joined me in my truck which has all the decals required for entrance. Exiting the parking lot, I entered the checkpoint line where a guard examined my badge and decals. He then asked if we had a vehicle parked in the lot. I responded that we did and he proceeded to tell me that it must be moved off post.

As I was about to depart the queued checkpoint and return to the parking lot to allow my wife to pick up her vehicle, I noticed a man in a vehicle a

See **Treatment** on page 3

Eruption in Middle East

We cruised past the heavily fortified American Consulate, a composed "Fort Apache" among the hustle and bustle of a busy Middle East metropolis. The serenity was dramatically different from the staccato "pop-pop" that caught our attention over a year ago.

It was a stunning morning, the sun bloomed with the crisp brightness typical of a fall day; the seaside was beautiful. The gunfire had erupted from across the street; the Jeddah Consulate's southwest wall. We looked; no reaction from the horde of cars around us; the local military guards passively posted at the wall facing us were not moving. Maybe it wasn't gunfire. Another burst followed accompanied by the high-pitched, surreal sound of ricochets. We looked at each other; it was time to go. We

erupted through the intersection as another burst followed. We left others to the chaos that would shortly explode.

Arriving at our compound we learned just how close we came to stumbling upon on "fifteen minutes of fame." I thought of this episode as I listened to the news of the HAMAS victory. How will things change in the world? Will it increase our risk? Or will the Palestinians and the Israeli's finally arrive at a watershed in their long struggle?

Americans will forever be blamed for the bad things in that part of the world; the struggle to safeguard our safety will persist. Let's hope the real world persists in remaining unaware — for as long as possible — of our gentle, Southern lives.

Christopher Chavez

Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Name: Fred Palmer

Job: Security officer, Alutiiq Wackenhut Services Inc.

Where do you call home?
Tuscaloosa

What do you like about your job?

The people. The people we meet, people I work with. I've met some really interesting — astronauts, generals, just all kinds of different people.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Read, hike, camp.

What are your goals?
Just have a long and fulfilling life.

What's your favorite type of music?
Zydeco



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&menupairid=pridz1870500

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The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

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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Annual fund-raiser represents work of art

Women's club plans art exhibition auction

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Soft impressionistic colors, bold strokes of contemporary images, seascapes in all their natural splendor and mystical African-American pieces – all will be part of a collection of art to be auctioned during the Officer and Civilian

Women's Club art exhibition.

The 34th annual art exhibition is part of a night of festivities being planned during the club's "Touch of Manhattan" social fund-raiser, set for Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Officers and Civilians Club.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with an art exhibition preview party, which includes a silent auction of local crafts and services. It continues at 7 with an art exhibition auction that will be both entertaining and educational.

"People enjoy an art auction because they can come in on a Saturday evening, have a glass of wine and be surrounded by

beautiful art," said Patti Fitzgerald, who is co-chairing the event with Lynn Carden.

"During the auction, the auctioneer will tell you things about the different pieces of art so you can learn a little about the different kinds of art. It's fun. It's entertaining. But it's also educational."

Door prizes will also be part of the evening's fun. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be served, including New York cheesecake. A cash bar will be open, with the main feature being Cosmopolitans and Manhattans.

"This event is open to the public," Carden said. "Guests can get on Redstone Arsenal by providing me with their name and I will get their name on the visitor's list. They will need to enter the Arsenal at Gate 9 and go through the Visitors Center."

This year, Ross Galleries of Holbrook,

N.Y., is providing the art for the auction. Their eclectic collection of 150 to 200 pieces may include art by Behrens, Chagall, Ebgi, Delacroix, Fauchere, Kinkade, Lena Liu, Max, Moses, Neiman, Orlando, Rockwell, Shaviko, Wooster Scott, Wyeth and many other nationally and internationally recognized artists as well as lesser-known artists.

The gallery will choose pieces based on interest forms returned by those who purchase tickets in advance of the event. The form, which also provides door prize information, asks for special requests along with interests in a variety of art subjects, such as Americana, African-American, Christian, landscape, still life, floral, traditional, and music, entertainment and sports memorabilia.

See Art on page 7



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FOR CHARITY'S SAKE— Becky Pillsbury, center, wife of post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, talks about the beauty of a still life with Patti Fitzgerald, left, and Lynn Carden, right, who are co-chairs of the "Touch of Manhattan" art exhibition and crafts and services auction, Feb. 25 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The event is a fund-raiser for Officer and Civilian Women's Club's Welfare Committee, which donates funds to community organizations and through merit college scholarships. Nearly 200 quality pieces of art by internationally known artists will be auctioned at the event, which is open to the public.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

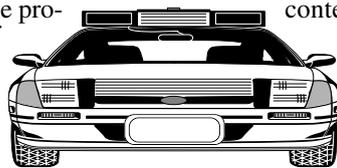
The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

Jan. 28: An individual reported that someone removed money from her coat. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 28: 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. 29: An individual attempted to enter Redstone Arsenal under false pretenses. He was processed and issued a DD Form 1805 for criminal trespassing and released.

Jan. 29: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol when he stopped at Gate 9. Further investigation revealed the passenger was in possession of Hydrocodone. 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. 29: 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 29: An individual reported that he was assaulted at an on-post location. The subject was apprehended and processed and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Traffic accidents reported: 10 without injuries, none with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 12 speeding, 3 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 driving under the influence of alcohol, 1 possession of a controlled substance, 5 parked in a no parking zone, 2 shoplifting, 1 improper backing, 1 criminal trespassing.

Driver disturbed by checkpoint incident

Treatment

continued from page 2

couple of lanes over yelling out his window. It seemed very important that he get our attention. Since he was parked to my right, I asked my wife to roll down her window such that I could attempt to communicate with this frantic individual. He was screaming at the top of his lungs. I did not understand the entire tirade; however he did ask whether I knew how to drive, whether I knew how to drive in a parking lot and if I thought I was Mario Andretti. I am not sure how he knew how fast I was driving since I did not see any type of velocity measuring device, much less how he was aware of any fantasies that I have about living my life as Mario Andretti, particularly since I was driving a four-cylinder Toyota pickup.

Once the pace of his rant slowed, I was able to ask him his name. He replied that he was (name withheld) from the Provost Marshal Office and that he was going to let me off with only a warning. (Name withheld) was driving a civilian vehicle, he did not wear a uniform and he did not show a badge. He only acknowledged his name and title after I inquired and only after his meltdown subsided. My wife was visibly upset so I returned her to her car and we left Redstone Arsenal property as quickly as possible. Later that evening my wife acknowledged how frightened she was by the incident and how vulnerable she felt being stuck in a line unable to go forward or backward surrounded by armed guards with a maniac screaming at us. She also stated that if she never returned to Redstone Arsenal it would be too soon.

I wonder if (name withheld's) job description includes cruising Redstone gates for visitors to harass and intimidate. I question if (name withheld) is brave enough to behave in this threatening manner in the absence of his armed guards. I imagine his demeanor turns timid and cowardly once he exits the friendly confines of Redstone Arsenal. In my 20 years as a federal civil servant, I do not recall witnessing such unprofessional conduct. This behavior is not

acceptable and should not be tolerated by any employee on Redstone Arsenal. Hopefully this incident is an aberration and does not indicate a systemic problem. However, it is concerning when superiors such as (name withheld) act this way; you wonder how subordinates are trained. Hopefully they are taught to always act professionally and to treat all visitors and Redstone employees with courtesy.

Steve Hammonds
RDEC

Editor's note: Darrell Brewer, deputy to the Garrison commander, provided the following response. "The Directorate of Emergency Services or DES (Police, Guards, Fire Departments and Police Investigations) is a directorate of the U.S. Army Garrison here at Redstone Arsenal. All Garrison employees are required to demonstrate courtesy and respect to all individuals — at all times. In that vein, courtesy and respectful treatment for all individuals entering Redstone Arsenal every day is not something we strive for — it is as I stated in the beginning sentence, something we demand from our DES employees. I have queried the police supervisor you refer to as well as the guards who were working at Gate 9 during the time of the incident you mention in your letter but, I was unable to confirm your accusations.

"We have over 30,000 vehicles that come through our gates onto Redstone Arsenal every workday and everyone entering our installation is due courtesy and respect from our police and guards. Our police and guards are human and as humans they are subject to emotions and yes, they can make mistakes but we receive less than one-half percent complaints from our drivers who travel through the gates. This would indicate success and we are very proud of our police and guards for what they have to deal with and for what they do every day but ... we do not want a single individual treated improperly. So, if you feel you were not treated with appropriate courtesy and respect then I invite you to come and visit me personally at our headquarters in building 4488 and I will be glad to discuss this with you."

Scott wins Drill Sergeant of Year competition

Bravo Company Soldier to represent brigade

By Spc. ELIAMAR TRAPP
Staff writer
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Drill sergeants are 10-feet-tall, bulletproof and larger than life to new Soldiers in the Army. They are the subject matter experts and the men and women who mold civilians into the warriors who keep this country free. From Jan. 30 through Friday, five drill sergeants from the 59th Ordnance Brigade competed against each other for the title of Drill Sergeant of the Year.

At 6-foot-1, Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Scott, drill sergeant of Bravo Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, 59th Ordnance Brigade, proved himself the closest match to the 10-foot-tall analogy by winning the title of the 59th Ordnance Brigade Drill Sergeant of the Year for 2006.

"I thought I had a good chance of winning because of the way I performed throughout the competition," Scott said. "I did my best and maxed most of the events, but there's always that little bit of doubt."

Throughout the weeklong competition, the drill sergeants were tested on their rifle marksmanship skills, physical fitness, land navigation and leadership skills; they appeared before a formal board and were evaluated on various training modules.

When welcoming new Soldiers, Scott said he doesn't try to be an intimidating figure.

"I talk to them man to man, or man to woman; like a drill sergeant to a private and like a noncommissioned officer who's taking care of his Soldier," he said.



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp
JUST DO IT— Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Scott completes the push-up part of his physical training test at the NCO Academy while Sgt. 1st Class Albert Rocker, PT test grader, keeps count.

"I let them know what they need to do to perform as professional Soldiers. The best way to do that is by setting the example."

Scott attributes his success to no one person alone. "I'm a military brat, so I owe a lot of my success to my parents for raising me with good values and discipline," he said.

He also thanks his very first squad leader in the Army for showing him the professionalism and leadership skills with which he conducts himself today.

"Most importantly though," he said, "I have my wife (Nannette) to thank, who's always been there for me and given me her constant support."

Scott will represent the 59th at the Training and Doctrine Command level competition for the title of TRADOC Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia A. Hughes, guest speaker at the Drill Sergeant of the Year luncheon Friday, said the transformation from volunteers into Soldiers is remarkable and it is all because of the



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp
WINNERS— Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Scott, right, took the title of Drill Sergeant of the Year for the 59th Ordnance Brigade Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club. Sgt. 1st Class Justin Hroblak, left, is the runner-up.

hard work, dedication, leadership and professionalism of drill sergeants.

Hughes quoted TRADOC Regulation 350-6. "An effective Soldierization program results from the IET Soldier's total immersion in a positive environment with active leadership," she said.

"Our drill sergeants do more than march Soldiers to and from school, they prepare Soldiers to fight and win the war on terror," said Hughes, command sergeant major of the 73rd Ordnance Battalion, Fort Gordon, Ga. "We no longer have the luxury of sending Soldiers to their

permanent-party units for additional training. The transition from the classroom to the combat zone is often just a few weeks."

The runner-up Drill Sergeant of the Year was Sgt. 1st Class Justin Hroblak, drill sergeant of C Company, 73rd Ordnance Battalion, 59th Ordnance Brigade, Fort Gordon. If Scott wins at the TRADOC level competition, Hroblak will take the title of Drill Sergeant of the Year for the brigade while Scott is moved to Fort Belvoir, Va., to represent all drill sergeants.

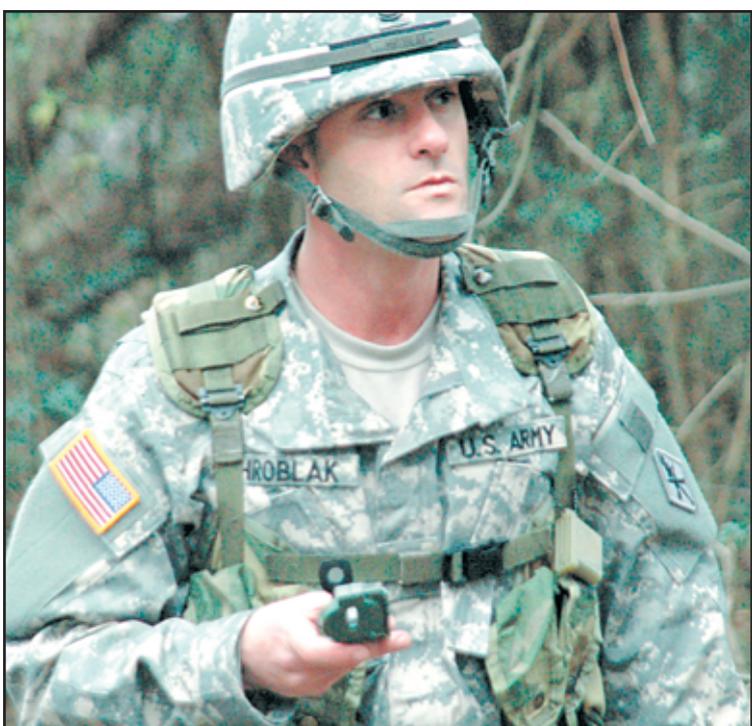


Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp
FINDING WAY— Sgt. 1st Class Justin Hroblak participates in the land navigation portion of the weeklong Drill Sergeant of the Year competition.



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp
AND THEY'RE OFF— The Drill Sergeant of the Year competition begins with a physical training test. From left are Staff Sgt. Scott Fuchs, Staff Sgt. LaQuaine Bess, Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Scott, Sgt. 1st Class Justin Hroblak and Sgt. 1st Class Joel Avila.

Command ready to save through improved processes

Readiness rates rise at Fort Rucker

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

When it comes to measuring success at AMCOM, readiness rates are the sine qua non.

O.V. Bonner Jr. of Integrated Materiel Management Center and Col. Richard Enderle, Aviation Center logistics commander at Fort Rucker, are working together to achieve significant increases in readiness rates and meet 'school-house' requirements.

Toward that end, the pair focus on Critical Operation Objectives to establish a basis for measurement. COOs are reported and tracked monthly against contractor performance, customer satisfaction and maintaining or reducing costs.

The Fleet Management Initiative formally began in February 2002 as a partnership between Army Materiel Command and the Training and Doctrine Command. The goal was to assess the feasibility of creating a partnership to transfer the TRADOC maintenance and supply mission at Fort Rucker to AMCOM. The initiative also sought to optimize aviation logistics core competencies, executing a mission transfer

that would allow TRADOC to focus on its primary training mission.

In October 2003, AMCOM awarded a 10-year \$2.7 billion Performance Based Logistics contract for aviation logistics support at Rucker to Army Fleet Support when Fort Rucker was recording an average readiness rate of 48 percent.

Since then, readiness rates have continued to increase to a level of 66 percent during the first quarter of this fiscal year.

"Success can be measured in several different forms with regards to the FMI effort," Bonner said. "The prime indicator is providing to our customer the necessary aircraft to meet their training schedule. With regards to customer satisfaction, we have continued to increase aircraft availability to where we are continually meeting 99 percent of their requirement as of the end of first quarter FY '06."

Based on the successes of the Fleet Management Pilot Programs at Forts Rucker and Knox, the commanders of TRADOC and AMC have reaffirmed this partnership. They have further agreed to expand this logistics support arrangement to improving the fleet readiness of the other training base fleets within TRADOC.



Photo by Mike Boecking

'CREEK' WORK— Fleet Management workers perform maintenance actions on a TH-67 at Fort Rucker.

"This arrangement capitalizes on AMC's core competencies as the Army's material provider," Bonner said. "By partnering branch specific training centers and schools, with the commodity oriented major subordinate commands of AMC, it is believed that these efforts will result in improved mission readiness across the training base fleets."

The training fleet at Fort Rucker operates in a robust environ-

ment. The aircraft fly two to three times the average monthly hours of aircraft in the field with the exception of those deployed to support the war effort. This is accomplished by initiating approximately 500 sorties daily while maintaining a 24/7 operational environment. The end result is that some of the oldest aircraft in the Army fly one-third of the active Army flight hours with one-fourth of the Army's aircraft.

FMI has impacted the repair and maintenance processes by optimizing repair/buy decisions based on triage review, improving time-on wing for repaired/overhaul components, reducing repetitive government/contractor inspections and increasing parts/components availability. Additionally, AMCOM has applied Lean analysis in order to effect as many process changes as possible to gain efficiency.

Enderle and his staff of about 100 employees – 45 civilian and 55 military – provide oversight and management to the aircraft maintenance mission, with 3,500 contractor members performing aircraft maintenance and providing supply support at Rucker's five airfields.

"By initiating Lean initiatives, identifying and removing barriers, coupled with the successful teaming of AMCOM and TRADOC, improved effectiveness and efficiencies have been gained in the aircraft maintenance mission," Bonner said.

Reductions have been experienced in maintenance back shop turnaround times, volume of work orders awaiting parts, ASL zero balance performance, and customer wait times. Thus far, TRADOC has reported a cost avoidance figure of \$40.2 million.

Art

continued from page 3

"Ross Galleries is offering us some artists that we haven't had at our art exhibitions in the past," Carden said. "They are anxious to show us what they have, they understand our market, and they offer good value, a fun night for our customers and a fund-raiser to raise money for our causes."

Tickets help

Bids will start at 50 percent less than what a piece would sell for at retail. Most starting bids range from \$50 to \$300, but collector works are higher. The pieces carry an exclusive lifetime exchange policy.

But guests don't necessarily have to buy art to support the club's fund-raising effort. They can make a contribution just by purchasing a ticket to the event.

"We have worked very hard to have something to suit everyone's tastes, from landscapes, seascapes, still life, contemporary and traditional artworks," Fitzgerald said.

"You will be able to buy quality art at substantial savings while helping to make our fund-raising event a great success. If it's not possible to make a pur-

chase, don't worry about buying the art. Just come have a great time with us and support OCWC welfare fund by being a part of our event."

Besides the art auction, there will also be a silent auction of various locally donated items. Guests can place silent auction bids during the preview party. Donations for the silent auction include two tickets to Classical 6 concert by the Huntsville Symphony of Art, four tickets to all three museums in the Earlyworks Museum complex, eight tickets to the Huntsville Stars, a porcelain doll from Young at Heart Dolls, candlesticks from Steinmart, an Ed Starnes print of the Harrison Brothers Hardware Store from Harrison Brothers, and two Howard Weeden prints from Burritt on the Mountain.

Directly at 7 p.m., the live auction will begin with the auctioning of four locally donated services. They are: a cocktail party for 20 at the home of post commander Maj. Gen. Jim and Becky Pillsbury, a dinner party at the home of Brig. Gen. Mike and Gabriel Cannon, a luau at Brig. Gen. Bill and Marilyn Phillips' home, and a two-hour yard consultation by the Botanical Garden's Harvey Cotten.

Then the art exhibition auction will begin.

Last year the event raised \$13,500, which was disbursed to various community organizations, and through merit college scholarships to high school students of military personnel, or to military spouses or Soldiers. This year, Carden and Fitzgerald hope the event will raise \$15,000.

"You always want to do better than the year before," Carden said. "It's a challenge to us, the volunteers, to make it an event that people want to attend."

Fund recipients

Organizations that received funds from last year's event included ACS Space Camp Scholarship Committee, ACS Total Tots, Alabama Center for Military History, Army Distaff Foundation, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Alabama, Blount House, CASA, Crisis Services of North Alabama-Hope Place, Fisher House of Keesler, Girl Scouts of North Alabama, Madison County Special Olympics, National Association of Mental Illness, United Cerebral Palsy, National Military Family Association and Redstone Chapel Holiday Food Sharing Program.

"The Welfare Committee reviews applications for funds," Carden said. "We try to support as many organizations as possible."

The committee also gives out several college merit scholarships each year.

The generosity of the Officer and Civilian Women's Club is not new to many of its local members. OCWCs at military posts around the world do similar fund-raisers to support their community. Carden's son, Philip, was a recipient of two OCWC merit scholarships — a \$1,000 scholarship from an Army OCWC and a \$500 scholarship from an Air Force OCWC — when he graduated from high school in Seoul, Korea in 1995. The family lived in Korea while Carden's husband, retired Col. Mike Carden, was stationed there.

Although the Army paid for Philip's travel to the U.S. to attend college, the Army didn't pay for his mother to accompany him on the trip. The merit scholarship helped in such a way that money was available in the family budget for Carden's trip.

Giving back

"I feel responsible now to give back. It's important to me that this legacy continues in this community," Carden said. "I

can't give that money back, but I can volunteer and give back in other ways. We try to do as much as we can for the community and military families as our fund-raising allows."

Special art

Carden, like many others who have purchased art at several of the club's art exhibitions, has filled her walls with art that is truly special to her. The art she bought last year, though, is now hanging in the first home purchased by her daughter and her husband, Amy and Jason Dilocker.

"You can buy art for your children or grandchildren. You may not have room for a new piece of art, but your children might," she said. "Or, you could make a purchase for your mountain retreat or beach cottage."

Tickets to "Touch of Manhattan" are \$10 each. They can be purchased at the door or in advance. To purchase a ticket, call Carden at 533-6368 or Fitzgerald at 797-6015. Ross Galleries can be reached through its web site at www.rossgalleries.com. Guests are also invited to dine at the Officers and Civilians Club prior to the art exhibition and auction. Dress for the event is business casual.

Veterinary clinic achieves certification



Photo by Lira Frye

THOROUGH EXAM— Capt. Robert Hawley examines Christine Webb's cat, Sandi, to see if she may be pregnant. Webb adopted Sandi, who was a stray in her neighborhood.

First in the Army to meet stringent requirements

By **LIRA FRYE**
For the Rocket

People love their pets. Redstone Arsenal Veterinary Services shares that feeling. So much so in fact that the clinic has become the only Army veterinary practice to be accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association.

For the clinic's clients, that means visiting a practice that according to the association has a commitment to the highest standards of veterinary care. That's exactly what veterinarian Capt. Robert Hawley said he hoped to accomplish by seeking the certification.

"The Army throws you out on your own right after school," he said. "I was looking for something to make me and the clinic better, and I thought of AAHA."

The clinic's road to certification meant meeting AAHA's extensive standards for patient care and practice services. The certification's more than 900 standards cover areas like anesthesiology, client services, exam facilities and surgery. The requirements within each standard range from having the proper equipment to staff training.

During the two-year process, the staff documented procedures, expanded training and added services. As they came across something in the requirements they weren't doing, they added it to their procedures. For instance, Hawley said during exams he wasn't evaluating the patient's pain level, but he is now. Adding to services helped the clinic exceed, not just meet, the requirements.

"Who wants to shoot for the minimum?" Hawley said. "I want to shoot for the 100 percent doctor."

He did just that. During cer-

tification, a trained AAHA practice consultant visited the clinic and evaluated its procedures against association standards.

"They inspect every aspect of the practice," Hawley said. "They come in and inspect every pill bottle and every drawer; they check records and see how you're storing stuff. We met almost 100 percent of every requirement they had."

Hawley and his staff take pride in the high standards practiced at their clinic.

"We have met very stringent requirements that very few want to submit themselves to," he said. "People who work at an AAHA clinic have a sense of pride. I like working for the best."

The American Animal Hospital Association of veterinary hospitals was founded in 1993. It's the only organization that provides accreditation for veterinary practices throughout the United States and Canada.

Wheels on the bus go round and round

School bus safety tips

By KIM HENRY

Staff writer

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Take the average vehicle, multiply the size by four and tack on an extra 30 passengers. That's what it's like to be a school bus driver.

Of all the obstacles on the road bus drivers face, other drivers are the biggest concern. "You have to drive defensive because you never know what the other person is going to do, same way when you are in your vehicle," Carl Pack, motor pool supervisor, said. "Our biggest concern is getting the students to school and back home safely."

Redstone has 15 school buses, 13 of which run different routes during the school week transporting 500 students daily. The military children going to school off post are transported on the yellow buses, while VIPs, DoD employees and on post military students are transported on the white buses. School buses run from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. and again at 1:30 to 4 p.m. depending on each school's schedule.

Pack, who has more than 40 years driving experience with large commercial vehicles, said his drivers are key to making the school transportation run smoothly. "My drivers are hand picked. I just

don't got out and hire someone because they have a commercial driver's license. We do a thorough background check and I pick the best and that is what we've got out here now is the best."

All school bus drivers must go through a 40 hour program for Alabama state certification and have to do a four hour program annually for recertification.

"You are required by law to abide by all the state rules just like when you are in a private vehicle," Pack said. "The school bus operators are state certified, have to have a state CDL, have to have a P endorsement for passengers."

To ensure quality transportation, the drivers are monitored. Pack along with Ray Boles, the contracting officer representative, a quality control representative and the military police monitor the drivers randomly during the week.

"We don't do it every day of the week, otherwise the drivers would get in a habit and know that I would be there," Pack said. "But they never know where I'm going to be, they never know where the QC is going to be, or the COR. Really, the best monitor I've got is the parents."

Pack encourages anyone who sees a bus driver doing something that concerns them to contact him. "All they have to do is call me and let me know I've got this problem and I can handle it. We have a quality control person who monitors operations. They got out and spot the buses and see what they're doing on their routes, stuff of this nature," he said. "Any time it's



Photo by Kim Henry

DAILY INSPECTION— Buses are inspected daily to make sure they are safe for the roads. Jim Bunch, radio tech 3, repairs an antenna for the bus's two-way radio.

brought to my attention it's taken care of right on the spot."

All the Redstone school buses are equipped with two-way radios and cameras. The cameras are used to monitor the bus driver and the children's behavior as well. All parents are issued the behavior policy approved by the Garrison commander for students to abide by while on the buses.

"This is for everyone's safety. I guarantee you, I've got children. The first thing a parent will tell you is my son or daughter wouldn't do that. I like to have that camera to show what actually happened," Pack said.

Many other steps are taken to ensure safety for both the driver and the child, some of which are listed as follows:

- Bus pickup: "The first thing we consider is the student's age and if they have to cross the street to get to the bus. We always prefer to have the stop on the right side to keep the child from crossing the street," Pack said. Sometimes, though, it cannot be helped due to kids living on both sides of the streets that the bus is traveling. Pack said the driver will also stop seven to eight times on one street according to distance if need be. A young child, like a kindergartner, should not have to walk three houses to a stop.

- Lights: The strobe light on top of the bus is used anytime the bus is in operation, especially when students are on the bus. It is either a clear or yellow blinking light to let you know the school bus is

coming. It is required when children are in the bus. Yellow lights on top of the front and rear of the bus signal that the bus is about to make a stop. The red stop lights and sign come on when the bus is stopped and are only to be used when students are loading and unloading the bus. All lanes of traffic must stop.

- Railroad crossing: Buses must stop at all railroad crossings. The driver must open the door and the driver's window and look both ways before proceeding. The bus will have its four-way flasher on, equivalent to private vehicles hazard lights, which indicates that the bus is moving slowly across the tracks.

- Backup: All buses are equipped with buzzers for when they back up, but school buses don't back up unless in an emergency or other extreme situations.

- Bus checkup: Drivers do a pre-trip inspection daily and the maintenance department does an inspection once a month to ensure the bus is safe for the roads.

Even with all of the precautions, all other drivers should do their part to ensure school buses' safe travel. "First rule of thumb, slow down when you see a school bus because they have the most precious cargo on them," Pack said.

All questions and concerns about school buses on post should be directed to Pack at 876-3938. When possible provide him with the date and approximate time of the incident and the bus's tag number or the school bus number, located on side and front of the bus.

Lean event achieves goal at Corpus Christi

Accessories Paint Shop improves workplace

By ANGELA GONZALEZ
CCAD Lean Office

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — The Corpus Christi Army Depot Manufacturing Lean Team held a 6S/Lean Event in the Directorate of Manufacturing/Process Production's Accessories Paint Shop.

The Accessories Paint Shop's function is supporting rotor wing remanufacturing excellence by processing aircraft parts, engine

components, subassemblies and completed transmissions. The process includes everything from cleaning to applying protective coatings for all aircraft worked at the depot.

The team's goal was to improve management visuals and organizational layout and enhance productivity in order to achieve an optimum workplace organization. The 6Ss are: sort out — get rid area of what is not needed; straighten — organize what belongs in the shop; scrub — clean up, see and solve problems; safety — see and fix unsafe conditions; standardize

— who does what to keep it up; sustain — be disciplined in keeping it organized.

The team used a 6S Audit sheet to identify discrepancies and assign a score. The audit sheet is evaluated among 25 items, with a possible score of 100 percent. The team began with a score of 12 percent and set a goal of 45 percent for the end of the event. After sorting, straightening, scrubbing, and standardizing, the team's score on the last day of the event was 72 percent; 27 higher than their goal.

The team broke up into nine smaller teams to apply the 6Ss in

different areas. The areas included safety issues, production control area, work cell layout, equipment orders, safety and cleaning chart (checklists), production control board, traveler control (label traveler slot board), red tag items, and the 6S Communication Board.

All nine teams accomplished their goals. They corrected 19 safety issues, improved the work cell layout, ordered various needed equipment, created and standardized checklists (housekeeping, safety and FOD), created a production control board, eliminated items no longer in use,

cleaned and organized the shop to improve management visuals and the organizational layout.

The production control's holding area benefited from the 6S/Lean event. With the exception of transmissions and rotor heads, all parts travel through this area. Due to the poor layout and disorder of the shop prior to the event, the holding area was filled to the maximum with parts waiting to be painted. The Manufacturing Lean Team inventoried the production control area before and after the 6S. All pieces/parts were encapsulated to the corresponding aircraft.

Online buyers alerted to ongoing scam

Car shoppers duped by escrow fraud

Better Business Bureaus have issued an international alert to warn about individuals misusing the BBB and BBBOnLine trademarks to extort money from online shoppers seeking to purchase automobiles.

The BBB received an inquiry from an online shopper who was searching for an automobile on cars.com. The shopper was sent an invoice by e-mail from someone posing as an escrow service that displayed a cars.com and BBBOnLine banner and listed several other BBB sites, including BBB Dispute Resolution, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Children's Advertising Review Unit, Council of Better Business Bureaus, National Advertising Division and National Advertising Review Council.

The fraudulent e-mail invoice contains claims that the Better Business Bureau and cars.com are trusted, neutral third parties. The e-mail goes on to say that, "With cars.com Security Center and Better Business Bureau you will receive your merchandise before the seller is paid." Buyers were encouraged to make their cash payments through Western Union to an address in Sweden.

"These scam artists are falsely using the BBB and BBBOnLine trademarks to inspire trust and confidence on the part of the buyer," said Michele McDaniel, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of North Alabama. "The BBB has taken steps to prevent others from being victimized by demanding that the individuals involved cease and desist from using the BBB and BBBOnLine trademarks to pursue their extortion schemes."

This e-mail is in no way affiliated with the Better Business Bureau, BBBOnLine or any other BBB entity, or with cars.com. BBB trademarks have been misused in the past in this same manner. It is important for the public to know that Better Business Bureaus do not provide escrow services or secure financial transactions. Cars.com does not provide escrow services, however, it does provide consumers access to reputable escrow services through its partnership with escrow.com.

Cars.com states on its web site that it is not involved in the transaction between buyers and sellers. In addition, the reference in the e-mail of a "cars.com security center" is not consistent with any messaging provided by cars.com or any of its affiliates.

"We advise consumers to make sure

they use a licensed, reputable escrow service and never blindly accept an escrow service proposed by a buyer," said Chris Long, cars.com's director of product management. "We also recommend that consumers use extreme caution when dealing with buyers or sellers who claim to do business overseas, as this is a high indicator of fraudulent activity."

The BBB advises consumers to:

- Always contact the BBB when

there are questions concerning the legitimacy of an offer or an unknown business entity;

- Always check with the BBB when its name is being used in an unusual or questionable fashion;

- "Click to check" BBBOnLine Reliability or BBBOnLine Privacy program seals displayed on merchant web sites or go to www.bbbonline.org for a list of merchants meeting BBBOnLine standards. (Better Business Bureau release)

'Caring about Soldiers and veterans is my life'

Retired colonel values military

BY KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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First, forget that Tom Brown is a retired Soldier. Forget that he's a Soldier of the Vietnam and Cold War eras. Don't even worry about recalling all the accomplishments of his 30-year military career.

The only thing you need to remember about retired Col. Tom Brown is that he is, first and foremost, a Soldier.

He no longer wears the uniform every day. Nor does he work long hours managing Army missile systems or implementing Army policies. But, Tom Brown remains a Soldier's Soldier.

His days are filled with activities supporting military troops and their families. He assists at local Soldier events, oftentimes re-enacting a military era as a member of the 19th Alabama Volunteer Infantry Division. He speaks to students about the sacrifices servicemembers have made for their country, and he works on the state and local level in the areas of emergency preparedness and the "War on Drugs."

For his efforts, Brown was recently named the 2005 Veteran of the Year by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

In some ways, looking back over a career that spanned from June 1962 to June 1992, Brown thinks he should give the Army and its supporting organizations an award of their own. He is a walking, talking testimony that the Army takes young men and shapes them into leaders by giv-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PART OF HISTORY— Retired Col. Tom Brown holds a complete high explosive round with its time fuse that was fired from the 105mm Howitzer, the light, towed M101A, used during Vietnam. As a member of the 319th Field Artillery Regiment, Brown was deployed to Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. The unit included batteries that fired the Howitzer. Brown was responsible for the development of targets and for determining the best method of attack. The Howitzer is on display at the Veterans Memorial Museum.

ing them opportunities, challenging them and holding them responsible.

"Given the choice, I'd still be wearing the uniform today," said the 67-year-old Brown. "I think being in the military is a fun thing to do. It's challenging, rewarding and honorable. I don't consider myself out of the Army, but rather on the retirement list."

Brown was only 16 and a half when his father told him to sign up for the National Guard. It was his father's thinking that the Guard could teach Brown about

leadership and help him form friendships that would serve him well during a promising career as a lawyer. But, Brown's father passed away before he graduated from the University of Cincinnati and, instead of going to law school, Brown chose to be a full-time Soldier.

Thirty years passed quickly for Brown. At the beginning of his military career, he served with the 319th Field Artillery, 173rd Airborne Brigade, during which he was part of airborne and air mobile operations in

Vietnam, heavy forces readiness in NATO, and deployment and support in Southwest Asia. His career went on to include a long list of assignments, including serving as command and staff instructor at the Army's Field Artillery School, designing force development and integration tests of laser guided weapons, serving as system coordinator for the M198 Howitzer, fielding the Limited Operational Capability for U.S. troops in Europe, commanding the nuclear weapons support unit in Korea and teaching at the Defense Systems Management College.

Brown came to Huntsville on assignment with the Army's Ballistic Defense Command. His work to integrate the Army's space programs, missile defense programs and Western test ranges into a "one stand alone" command is now known as the Space and Missile Defense Command. As project manager of the U.S. and German Pershing systems, Brown served as the technical support coordinator for the negotiations of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and was the Army's executive agent for treaty implementation.

"The Berlin Wall was still up. At the time, the words to describe Russia were 'the evil empire.' I was cantankerous with them," Brown recalled.

"But we successfully eliminated all their Soviet missiles. They didn't work anyway. They piled them up and exploded them. We strapped ours down and fired them, and they fired operationally and worked just the way they were supposed to. We wanted the Soviets to see our missile capability. Our systems could be operated by enlisted Soldiers, but theirs were so complicated they had to use officers

to operate them. The Soviets were big and strong and willing to take casualties, but they really weren't good."

But then the Berlin Wall fell. Brown was able to drive through towns that once were targets for Pershing missiles. He saw things that were once only dots on an intelligence map.

Brown went on to manage the U.S. and NATO partners' elimination of the Lance missile system, and established the Army's Reuse Program. His work in air defense and weapons fire control subsystems also supported law enforcement front-line efforts on the "War on Drugs."

His last assignment was as the Army Missile Command's weapon systems director during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, managing such systems as the Hawk, Chaparral, Improved TOW Vehicle and M551 Sheridan System.

"The first 10 years or so, I just felt good about going to work every day," Brown said of his Army career.

"I learned a lot about leadership during those years. I learned that a leader ain't worth nothing without followers. Those were building years when I met other Soldiers, learned how to lead them and gained experience that would help me through the rest of my service."

And though things at times were rough, Brown never looked back.

"I enjoyed working with wonderful people," he said. "I was doing something that needs to be done. It's meaningful. I fought alongside fine Soldiers who I was proud to be with. Every day was a wonderful opportunity. There were some 15 minutes that

Dedicated mentor says goodbye at Ordnance school



Courtesy photo

SO LONG— Bill Napier retires from OMEMS with more than 55 years government service, including 30 years as a Soldier.

Retirement ends 55 years service

By ERIKA READUS
For the Rocket

When Bill Napier came to Redstone in 1969, he had no idea he would be here for almost 30 years.

"I left the coal fields of West Virginia in May 1946 to enlist in the Army," Napier, a West Virginia native, said. "I retired as a sergeant major in July 1976 and took a break from the government and started selling cars."

Napier sold cars for a couple of years before returning to government service.

"Selling cars was at least a 60-hour-a-week job if you are any good at it and I was good," he said. "I made good money and actually took a pay cut to come back and work civil service but I have to admit, the hours were better in civil service. I came back to the Army in October

1980 to the field artillery branch. There I wrote lesson plans for the nuclear weapon's MOSs (specialties)."

Napier retired Jan. 27 from Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School as the deputy director of the Electronic Technology Training Department with more than 55 years of government service. He knows how he'll spend his time.

"I'm an avid motorcyclist and golfer although I'm not all that good. I also like fishing and hunting and I'm planning to do them along with honey-do's," he said. "I will miss training Soldiers the most. I've been with them over 55 years."

Napier will be missed.

ETTD director Lt. Col. Antoine Cheatham describes Napier as a man of varied and many accomplishments.

"Bill lives dedication and commitment. I don't think I've come across anyone that lives those two words in his very being like Bill does," Cheatham

said. "For a civilian guy to come into work at 5:30 a.m. and be the last guy to leave in the evening is outside of the norm. I initially wondered what this guy was doing but over time I have found that it's just Bill. He's been doing this for a long time and it's just normal for him.

"Bill is 77 and on the cutting edge of technology," Cheatham added. "He's always looking for ways to leverage technology into what we do here in the training department. I was pleasantly surprised, because you would think that he would be locked into his ways, that he would say 'we don't need to be able to do this or that' but he never has. His thing is, whatever we can do to make the training environment better for the students and the cadre members, let's execute. Let's make those things happen."

Napier is also a mentor.

Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Green, department sergeant major, said Napier is one of his mentors.

"I haven't found but one other person in my military career that I really considered a mentor until I got here," Green said. "Bill is a retired sergeant major, a Vietnam veteran; he's seen another part of life that many of us won't get a chance to experience.

"He gives a lot of good advice. One morning Bill came in my office and closed my door and said 'Sergeant major, you've got to learn to let this Army stuff go sometime, you have to make time for yourself.' It showed a whole lot of concern for me as an individual not as sergeant major. And from that point I saw Bill as a different person, as someone who cares about other people."

Napier, nominated for the Ordnance Hall of Fame, bid farewell at his retirement dinner party Jan. 27 at the Rustic Lodge.

Thirty-six Soldiers join units in January

The Garrison provided the following list of 36 Soldiers who arrived during January:

- 1st Lt. Richard Mansir, Aviation and Missile Command; 2nd Lt. Wayne Darrell Rogers Jr., Bravo Company; Col. Ray Woolery, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Capt. Daniel Sean Donahue, PEO Aviation; Capt. James Butler McLean, Aviation Support Activity; Capt. Phillip Damon Robinson, PEO Aviation; Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates, AMCOM; Chief Warrant Officer Scott Douglas Gruenke, AMCOM; Chief Warrant Officer Eduardo Antonio Hope, Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School; Maj. David Allen Edson, Corpus Christi Army

Depot, Texas; Maj. Michael Gregory Hicks, HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade; Maj. Andris Martins Ikstrums, Logistics Support Activity; Maj. Mark Ott, Aviation Support Activity

- Maj. Jimmy Lee Rivers, AMCOM; Master Sgt. Charles Wade Curtis Jr., AMCOM; Pfc. Sonny Jonathon Broadway, OMEMS; Pvt. Jason Omar Brown, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Paul Kniest, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Scott McRae, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. 1st Class Odrinette Muhammad, AMCOM; Sgt. 1st Class Steven Edward Newman, LOGSA; Sgt. 1st Class James William Nicholson, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. 1st

Class Randy Recardo Shoulders, Garrison; Sgt. 1st Class Steven Michael Walker, AMCOM; Sgt. Maj. Jerry Lee Butler, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. Gertrude Brown, AMCOM; Sgt. Billy Orlando Clark, Charlie Company; Sgt. Nanette Renee Clarkson, MEDDAC; Spc. Jonathon Edward Boman, HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade; Spc. Raymond Orlando Diaz, AMCOM; Spc. April Chyneena Dillard, AMCOM; Staff Sgt. Keven James Barnhouse, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Staff Sgt. Lyquinta Montz Bruno, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Staff Sgt. Delbert Francis, NCO Academy; Staff Sgt. Douglas Alberto Garcia, Headquarters & Alpha Company; and Staff Sgt. Mark Glenn Kemp, AMCOM.

All's fair for Redstone job seekers

Event offers chance to meet employers

By **KELLEY LANE**

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Finding a job can be a difficult and time consuming process. Many job seekers find themselves disheartened combing through classifieds and web sites. Those who attended the Job Fair on Jan. 31, however, had a chance for some one-stop job shopping.

The fifth annual job fair, held at the Challenger Activity building, hosted 41 different employers seeking to tap into the Redstone community's biggest resource – its people. Debra Jefferson, employment readiness program manager at Army Community Service and event co-host, said 273 job seekers attended. While it was geared toward military spouses, transitioning military and federal work force, retirees, Reserve and National Guard, the fair was open to all.

The job fair was a collaboration between ACS, the Transition Center of the Human Resources Directorate and the Association of the U.S. Army.

"We work very closely



Photo by Kelley Lane

RECRUITMENT AT WORK— Employers such as the Miltec Corporation used the job fair as an opportunity to recruit from Redstone's pool of job seekers.

together and our combined efforts have really been a benefit to our military community," Jefferson said.

It is an effort to help those in the community find the independence and pride that a successful job search brings while minimizing some of the stress involved.

"Each of our target populations faces unique job search

challenges. We want to help minimize those challenges by offering a venue to meet with various employers in one location for possible career opportunities," Jefferson said. "Our job candidates represent a wide variety of occupations ranging from professional to blue collar and can be a valuable asset to any of our local companies."

By providing local employ-

ers, the event helps keep workers and their skills close to the surrounding community.

"The majority of them remain in the Huntsville area spending money, paying taxes, etc., which also adds to the local economy," Jefferson said.

While the fair's benefit for potential employees is obvious, it's also a win-win situation for the businesses looking to hire them.

"The job market is so competitive now, especially the Huntsville market. We're always looking at different avenues to recruit people," David Paul, of Frito Lay Inc., said. "It's our first time out here. Sometimes you never know how job fairs are going to go, but so far I've been pleased. We've had good people coming through and hopefully we'll land a few candidates."

The quality of candidates keeps some employers coming back.

"This time we brought two groups," Terra Thornton, Jacobs Sverdrup recruiter, said. "It really increases our data base of qualified candidates."

The job fair has grown every year, according to ACS director Sue Paddock.

"It was a great turnout," Paddock said. "I want to applaud

Debra Jefferson and Tanzella Jackson for putting it together. Every year it gets better and better. It's a service to the community that fills a real need. With BRAC (base realignment and closure) coming in and people relocating, it will be more and more important."

It has grown so much, in fact, that it is being forced to relocate. An additional fair for 2006 is also in the works.

"This year we were at our full capacity. As a result, we have already started making plans to move our next job fair to the Officers and Civilians Club," Jefferson said. "Our next job fair is scheduled for Sept. 6, 2006. We plan to offer preparation workshops during the summer to allow candidates adequate time to prepare their resumes and enhance their interviewing skills."

For many attending January's event, the search will soon be over. Others may expand their search into industries and fields they might not have considered before meeting representatives from those fields at the job fair. Jefferson called the event a success.

"We are optimistic that many of our job seekers will be contacted for interviews within the next month," she said.

Fighter jet bears name of Redstone worker



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HONORED BY SQUADRON— MWR employee Brian Marbrey may not be a fighter pilot, but that hasn't kept his name off the side of an F-14A Tomcat attack fighter. Navy members from the Jolly Rogers squadron based at the Naval Air Station in Oceana, Va., added Marbrey's name to an F-14A that they painted as their squadron's "show-bird." The jet is used as a teaching tool at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Aviation Challenge.

Navy squadron's aircraft becomes teaching tool

By KARI HAWKINS

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Among the names of a Navy pilot and two commanders lining the bottom of the F-14A Tomcat's canopy is a name that, at first glance, may seem surprising.

Next to the name of Navy pilot Ensign Jack "Bones" Ernie and on the opposite side of the canopy from the names of commanding officer Cmdr. "Bear" Koehr and executive officer Cmdr. "Tip" Odowb is a name that belongs to one of Redstone Arsenal's Morale Welfare and Recreation employees.

Thanks to the efforts of three members of the Navy's Jolly Rogers squadron based at the Naval Air Station in Oceana, Va., Brian Marbrey's name is now emblazoned on a Tomcat that sits just inside the gate at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Aviation Challenge.

His name (along with the nickname "Oompa" once given to him by an Army drill sergeant) has been painted in a place of honor by servicemembers who wanted to thank Marbrey for this support of their squadron. In 2003, the squadron's commanding officer made Marbrey an honorary member.

"It really is cool to have my name on this plane," Marbrey says. "This is like the American muscle car of fighter jets. It's big, it's loud and it's mean. It's a showcase of fighter aircraft."

Marbrey's connection with the Jolly Rogers began in 2002 when he built and painted an F-14 model to raise funds for one of the squadron's junior officers who suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease. The model was auctioned during the squadron's Mediterranean cruise.

His connection with Aviation Challenge goes back even further than that. For the past 10 years, Marbrey has built and painted models of aircraft used at Aviation Challenge to teach aerospace and aerodynamics.

"What Brian does isn't like a teenager building a model," says John Raiford, director of Aerospace Operation at the Space & Rocket Center/Aviation Challenge.

"When Brian builds a model it looks like the real thing, all the way down to the maintenance crew's boot prints on the wing studs. These are competition grade models. Besides the models, Brian has donated photographs, posters and all kinds of aviation memorabilia to the program."

When Marbrey contacted the Jolly Rogers squadron, its maintenance control officer was looking for a jet that the squadron could paint with its markings and then have on display.

"To put markings on an aircraft at the Naval Air Station, a squadron has to maintain over 90 percent combat readiness at all times," Marbrey says.

"That means nine out of 10 aircraft have to be available at all times. The F-14 can't do that anymore, but the Super Hornets can, so the Super Hornet squadrons end up marking the aircraft at the base."

Although the Tomcat is being phased out of Navy use and being replaced by the Boeing F-18 E&F Super Hornet, the stealth of the aircraft will always be popular with Navy members and Marbrey.

"The F-14 can go two or two-and-a-half hours without refueling," Marbrey says. "The Super Hornet has short legs."

First flown in a mission in 1972, the F-14A "Aviator" Tomcat is one of three Northrop Grumman attack fighters used by the Navy to attack and destroy enemy aircraft at night and in all weather conditions. Later models were called the F-14B "Bravo" and the F-14D "Delta."

When it was developed, the F-14 Tomcat was the world's premiere air defense fighter. It was designed to track up to 24 targets simultaneously with its advanced weapons control system and attack six with Phoenix AIM-54A missiles while continuing to scan the airspace.

See Aircraft on page 17

Acquisition work force get leadership opportunity

Corporate university adds course offerings

Defense Acquisition University is expanding its leadership curriculum.

DAU, the corporate university for the Department of Defense acquisition, technology and logistics work force, is developing three new 400-level courses.

The first course coming out later this year is called Acquisition 450 – Leading in the Acquisition Environment. This course is designed for acquisition work force members GS-13/major and above and already Level III certified in any acquisition career field.

This three and a half day course is designed to strengthen leadership and decision making skills for these students. Students will work in teams in which they examine leadership challenges and develop action plans to solve those challenges. Each student will participate in a 360 Survey instrument in which they, their peers and their supervisors will assess the student's leadership effectiveness.

Each student will also develop an action plan on how they will work to improve their leadership effectiveness.

Other courses coming out later this year include Acquisition 451 – “Integrated Acquisition for Decision-Makers” and Acquisition 452 – “Forging Stakeholder Relationships.” These

courses are both three days long. The initial pilot course for Acquisition 450 will be held at the DAU South campus in Huntsville from May 9-12. If you are interested in attending this course and assisting DAU with the pilot, call Jeff Patten, professor of acquisition management, at 722-1040, or e-mail him at jeff.patten@dau.mil.

DAU's South region campus is located just outside Redstone Arsenal Gate 9 at 6767 Old Madison Pike, building No. 7. The 30,000 square foot facility has classrooms with state-of-the-art equipment.

“(The facility is) a dramatic step for transformation of the DoD acquisition work force,” Jim McCullough, dean of DAU South, said. “It is a combination of re-engineering of our courses and influx of over 50 percent of the work force over the next five years. DAU South region campus will be on the leading edge of that transformation.”

The faculty and staff members focus on spanning the DAU-wide Performance Learning Model with teaching, research and performance support (targeted training, consulting and partnering with customer agencies). Their agenda includes working with local offices and staying current on major issues and needs of the acquisition, technology and logistics work force throughout the region. *(Defense Acquisition University release)*

■ U.S. Space & Rocket Center uses jet for Aviation Challenge

Aircraft

continued from page 16

“It is an airplane that was specially designed with an air-to-air missile interception platform,” Marbre says.

“It carries the AIM-54A Phoenix missile used against the huge Russian bear bombers. It was specially designed to be a dog fighter. It had an 80 percent success rate. But in later years, it was forced out because it had less than a 40 percent success rate. The missiles just got old and the mission changed.”

Over the years, there were many upgrades. In late 1995, the F-14 Tomcat took on a new combat mission as part of Operation Deliberate Force in Bosnia. Nicknamed “Bombcats,” they delivered laser-guided bombs while other aircraft painted the targets with lasers.

Of the 24 F-14 squadrons in service, only 10 remained in 1997. The Navy retired the F-14A force in 2003-04 and plans to retire the F-14B by 2007 and the F-14D by 2008.

Last summer, three Jolly Rogers members – AM3 Eichmann, AO3 Ramirez and AMAN Cochran — spent about two weeks sanding the F-14 at Aviation Challenge and then painting it in a three-tone tactical paint scheme. The plane carries the squadron's skull and crossbones symbol on its back wing. Its identifying numbers were painted by Marbre.

“This is now their showbird,” Marbre says. “They painted the jet in their show colors. It is a statement for their squadron and the Navy.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

JOLLY GOOD— Brian Marbre's nickname, “Oompa,” was once given to him by an Army drill sergeant.

The F-14 is one of 10 aircraft on display at Aviation Challenge. The aircraft came to Aviation Challenge after being retired by the Navy in 1994 because of stress cracks. The plane is especially popular with students because it appeared in the movie “Top Gun.”

But before Marbre got involved in getting the aircraft repainted, it wasn't much to look at. It was in “pretty rough shape,” Raiford says, until the Jolly Rogers made it their showbird.

“Now, it is a tremendous hands-on teaching tool,” Raiford says. “Thousands and thousands of kids get to use it to learn about aerodynamics and aeronautics. It has a lot of cutting edge technology for its time. The aerodynamics, aeronautics and science behind it make it a wonderful, practical teaching tool.”

Young Marines make a difference

Boot camp begins for local chapter

By **KIM HENRY**
Staff writer
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There are a few local youth who have a lot to be proud of. But don't confuse them with the few, the proud – Marines. They are the Young Marines of North Alabama.

"The program really stresses self-reliance and teamwork," said Master Sgt. Richard Nyman, North Alabama Young Marines commanding officer. "When they're in the program it is not just a free ride for them to come in every week and have a good time. We really stress self-improvement, self-reliance and these guys can progress as far in the program as they want to put out the effort. And when you challenge a child like that they'll perform and really put forth effort into it."

The local Young Marines was founded in 1995 at the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center on South Memorial Parkway, where K Battery is located. The group, aimed at girls and boys ages 8 to 17, meets there weekly.

Nyman, an ammunition instructor at Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School, has worked with the group for more than a year and has noticed a difference in his son Dillon, 12, a lance corporal.

"I have noticed that he is more confident, more self-reliant and more willing to take responsibility for his own actions



Courtesy photo

TEN HUT— Young Marines 1st Sgt. Houston Gentry conducts formation prior to dismissal. Formations are conducted prior to and at the completion of training.

whether good or bad," Nyman said. "I used to have to tell him to do his chores. I used to have to tell him to get up, clean your room, do this, or do that. Now he gets up, he takes care of all his chores, he shows initiative by looking for other things to do. He's very self-reliant."

Chuck Gentry, a retired MICOM employee and former Marine, is the staff adviser for the Young Marines. He became

involved with the group when his son, Houston, started in 2001. Gentry said his son is more mature because of the program; and his commanding officer agrees.

"When I first met him I thought he was 18 years old," Nyman said of 16-year-old Houston. "He is a very mature kid. I keep finding myself tasking him to do things like he's one of the adult staff and he's just always up for a challenge, goes and does it."

Houston is the first sergeant of the local chapter and is also on the special skills team for Grissom High School's Junior ROTC.

Both Nyman and Gentry said that parents comment on the progress in their children as well. Most notably they said manners and grades improve.

"Their grades tend to go up a little bit because we emphasize the parents, the school and the program all work together," Nyman said. All Young Marines are required to bring in report cards. "If they're having problems at school then we sit down with them and through a mentoring process we find out what's going on in their lives. We're not just there to drill them and march them around, we're also there as a support for the kids."

Though the program develops good behavior, Gentry emphasized that they are not a reform school. "We do not want children who have discipline problems. We take good kids and make them better," he said.

All who wish to participate in Young Marines must first go through a boot camp. "It's just like the military — you have to go through boot camp in order to become a Young Marine," Nyman said. "It's an earned title. So until they complete training they just remain recruits. Once they graduate they actually become Young Marines,

wear the Young Marine uniform, which is camouflage utility with young Marine badges and patches, and they pick up rank just like an active duty Marine would."

Boot camp is two hours a week for 13 weeks. The process involves physical training, instruction drill, discipline and values. As Nyman put it, anything you would normally do at a normal Marine boot camp outside of shooting rifles.

"I tell all of them to give it a couple of weeks and they'll start to see the difference in themselves, in the way they carry themselves, how much more confident they are. Their peers and their parents see the difference too and that's what keeps them coming back to complete the boot camp," Nyman said. "When they sign up for boot camp it is a commitment that they are making, they can't just decide they don't want to do it anymore."

The boot camp also places emphasis on the Marines core values: honor, courage and commitment. The organization also stresses drug prevention. Nationally, the Young Marines is a two-time recipient of the Department of Defense's Fulcrum Shield Award of Excellence in Youth Anti-Drug Programs. They are the focal point for the Marine Corps' Youth Drug Demand Reduction Program.

"If they look around at their peers right now, a lot of them are setting real bad examples. Kids today are not bad kids. They just need someone to show them the right direction and once you put them on that path and they will realize that they can be self-motivated and they are responsible for what they do," Nyman said.

A big piece to the program is recognition and promotion. "One thing about our program — we reward them with ribbon decorations for things that they accomplish. Some of them have a chest full of ribbons for all the things they have accomplished," Gentry said.

Though the group is a lot like its military counterpart, Nyman stressed that they are not one in the same. "We're not set up to recruit these guys into the military services, that is not what the Young Marines is based on. It's more using military values, Marine Corps values: honor, courage, commitment and drug reduction. We're just trying to get these kids a good foundation to be good citizens. Not actively recruiting for the Marine Corps."

Currently the Young Marines has 13 active members and nine recruits in boot camp. Dues are \$5 per month and an annual \$20 insurance fee that covers the Young Marine at official functions. The organization is non-profit and all donations are tax deductible.

The active duty meet every week on Mondays after school and emphasize on drill and ceremony, field trips, camping and other community based activities. Periodically, they run a boot camp as needed — a Spring Boot Camp began Monday — but they can accept more recruits for this camp. For more information, Gentry at 882-0848.

Program executive officer tours Letterkenny depot

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. – From recapitalization to foreign military sales, Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon got a full view of Letterkenny Army Depot's capabilities during his Jan. 18 visit.

Cannon is program executive officer for missiles and space at Redstone.

Beginning with an overview of the depot offered by depot commander Col. Bob Swenson, Cannon, accompanied by Col. John Vaughn, program manager of the Lower Tier Project Office, toured the Letterkenny Tactical Missile Center after being briefed by Jack Yurko of LTPO about Patriot missile systems.

Cannon viewed the recapitalization of major end items, Patriot radar antenna and launcher, learned about Lean processes and learned about the Javelin joint venture with Lockheed Martin, forward deployments and foreign military sales.

They visited the radar test site and then viewed work on Humvees, BIDS shelters and GMVs during a visit to building 350.

After a tour of the Cable and Harness facility, they were briefed about Letterkenny Munitions Center by director Ed Averill during a working lunch that also included discussion on future missile workload. *(Letterkenny release)*

Huntsville Center awards contract for munitions clearance program

The Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, on Jan. 25, awarded a task order potentially worth more than \$413 million to provide engineering, management and logistics support to multiple military munitions contractors in Huntsville, Iraq and Kuwait.

Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group Inc., of Pasadena, Calif., will provide engineering, management and logistics support to the contractors conducting coalition munitions clearance and depot management and operations in Iraq. Logistics support includes, but is not limited to,

life support (food, lodging and medical), equipment (supply, maintenance and repair), supplies, transportation, communication requirements, and property control and management functions including purchasing, receipt and issue.

The task order award was made subject to the availability of funds; however, if all options are exercised, an estimated total amount of \$413,413,140 is possible for 36 months of performance.

Huntsville Center is a Corps of Engineers Center of Expertise for Military Munitions Response action cleanups. *(Corps of Engineers release)*

■ A Soldier's Soldier continues service Veteran

continued from page 12

were gut wrenching. But to be a part of the Army was important to me."

Brown has received several awards for his service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and Army Commendation Medal. He has also received several foreign military awards.

Brown volunteers on behalf of Soldiers and their families because he still cares about the men and women who make up today's military.

"The people I worked with were people I cared about for 30 years," he said. "How can I retire and the next day not care about them? Part of command is the welfare of the Soldier. I was retired, but I was never released from the sacred oath. Caring about Soldiers and veterans is my life."

In the course of his volunteer work, Brown does talk to young people about his military experiences. But when asked if the military is for them, he says each young person must consider such a career path for themselves.

"How does it fit them?" he said.

"If you are medical doctor and you truly want a practice, become a military doctor and help Soldiers. If you don't know where you want to go or what you want to do, the military will give you an opportunity to grow up a little bit. If you can't afford to skydive, but you really want to do it, then go into the military. If you need to learn to be responsible for

yourself, the military will help you. The military gave me lots of experiences that I didn't even know I had stumbled into."

Brown's two sons didn't enter the military. But they are heroes in their own ways. His oldest son, Mark, is an emergency medical technician in Madison County while his younger son, Richard, is a deputy sheriff. Brown's wife, Patricia, volunteers as a domestic violence first responder with the Crisis Center of North Alabama. They have eight grandchildren.



Harold Garner/Photo Lab

Employee recognition

Security specialist Bonnie Fuqua is recognized as Employee of the Quarter in G-2 Intelligence and Security. G-2 Keith Ryan presents her the rising star award for the fourth quarter.

10th Mountain team scrimmages on opening night

New Yorkers enjoy warmer weather

By SKIP VAUGHN

*Rocket editor
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The 10th Mountain Division had an easy debut last week in unit level basketball at

Pagano Gym.

The Soldiers from Fort Drum, N.Y., won by forfeit Feb. 1 because HHC 59th didn't have enough players. Of course the true test would come the following night against preseason champion 326th Chemical Company; and the 10th Mountain lost 52-21.

"We're just out here to have

fun," 10th Mountain player/coach Greg Brandt said. "That's about it. And get some exercise."

Brandt, 26, from Boston, plays guard on the seven-member team. Eighteen Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion are here for three months of training on unmanned aerial vehicles.

"It's nice," Brandt said of

Redstone. "It's warmer, it's a lot warmer."

Clay Engle, 32, of Watertown, N.Y., is getting used to training duty. "I just got out of school that was seven months long and then I came here," said Engle, who plays guard.

Substitute guard Steven Hernandez was joking about his ability before the team's opening night scrimmage.

"I'm going to be the guy falling down a lot because I'm a football player, not a basketball player," quipped the 24-year-old from Queens, N.Y. "So I'm here for the comic relief."

The other players include guard Patrick Adams, 20, from Amite, La.; center Arkadius Nowak, 21, from New York City; forward Glenn Gottschalk, 19,

from East Greenbush, N.Y.; and forward Richard Cain, 22, from Conneaut, Ohio.

In the season opener Feb. 1, MEDDAC beat the Marines 59-46 behind 19 points by Matthew Alekseiuinas. Tommie Brooks and Eric James added 11 apiece for the preseason runner-up medics.

Marines forward Damian Cason scored a game-high 28 points and small forward Brian Walker had 10. MEDDAC led 27-24 at halftime.

Defending champion Charlie beat Bravo 52-49 in the opening nightcap. In games Feb. 2, NCO Academy def. Headquarters & Alpha 49-39, Charlie def. Marines 50-41 and 326th Chemical def. 10th Mountain 52-21.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WARMING UP— 10th Mountain Division players are from left Clay Engle (22), Glenn Gottschalk (4), Richard Cain (20), Steven Hernandez (40), Arkadius Nowak (14), Patrick Adams (5) with ball, and Greg Brandt (3).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

STOUT DEFENSE— MEDDAC's Tommie Brooks goes up against 326th Chemical defenders Miguel Smith (15) and Michael Gola (23) in the preseason final Jan. 30 at Pagano Gym. The 326th won 56-39 and 64-48.

Army to ensure reserve components fully manned

By DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As current recruiting successes continue, the Army will ensure the reserve-component force gets the full funding it requires, Army leaders told Pentagon reporters Feb. 2.

“To be clear, we have no intention of cutting the number of Guard or Reserve brigades, reducing the number of Guard or Reserve soldiers or cutting the level of Guard or Reserve funding,” Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, said.

Rather, Schoomaker said, the Army is intent on building reserve-component units that, like their active-duty counterparts, are fully manned, trained, equipped and led for the missions they’ll face in the 21st century.

Widespread media reporting that the president and Defense Department are planning to cut the National Guard and its budget are flat-out wrong, Schoomaker said.

These reports stem from a Jan. 18 news conference in which Army Secretary Francis J. Har-



Photo by R. D. Ward

MEET THE PRESS— Army chief of staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker briefs reporters on the Army reorganization initiative during a Pentagon press briefing Feb. 2.

vey described plans in the soon-to-be-released Quadrennial Defense Review to transform the Army National Guard.

Initial plans had called for increasing the number of brigade combat teams in the Guard from 15 to 34, Harvey told reporters. But while the National Guard will continue to maintain 106

brigades, as planned, the breakdown will now be 28, not 34, brigade combat teams and 78 support brigades.

The change is designed to make the Guard better able to carry out not just its overseas operational missions, but also its critical homeland defense missions, Harvey explained.

The combat support units to be added to the Guard include military police, engineer, chemical, air defense and civil affairs units, all important to homeland defense missions.

“Contrary to what some have heard, we are not cutting the number of brigades,” Schoomaker reiterated Feb. 2. The Guard will remain at 106 brigades, 28 brigade combat teams and 78 support brigades of varying types, he said. The Army Reserve will retain 58 supporting brigades.

“The only thing that will change is the mix of these components and the mix of units,” Schoomaker said.

Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, agreed that the restructuring plan will help make the Army more ready and

responsive to the threats it will face through the century. He emphasized that “bigger is not better,” and that capability will be the critical factor that enables the Army to keep its edge.

To ensure proper funding of this rebalanced force, the Army will fund the National Guard and Reserve to their actual strength but will increase this funding as required as the force grows to its full congressionally mandated strength, Schoomaker explained.

The Army National Guard has 333,000 members on the rolls, but is authorized by law to reach 350,000 Soldiers, Schoomaker said. The Army Reserve has 188,000 members but can recruit up to 205,000 Soldiers.

“Although our budget has programmed funding for soldiers in uniform, we have committed to funding the Guard and Reserve to the level to which they can recruit up to their congressionally mandated end strengths,” Schoomaker said. “From a management perspective, this only makes sense.”

Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn, director of the Army National

Guard, expressed little doubt that the Guard can reach its strength goals. “I can tell you, we’re setting all kinds of records right now,” he said of the Guard’s recruiting effort.

A properly balanced, properly funded reserve-component force will ensure that the Army is prepared to face the challenges ahead, both overseas and at home, Schoomaker said.

It will also ensure continued modernization of the force, he said. The National Guard alone has budgeted \$21 billion for equipment modernization from 2001 to 2005 - a fourfold increase from the 1999 period, he said.

Schoomaker praised the role the reserve components are playing in the war on terror and emphasized that the Guard and Reserve will continue to play a critical role in national defense. “The Army Reserve and National Guard are no longer a strategic reserve with months to prepare its people and equipment for deployment,” he said. Today, he said, they must be ready to react quickly for wartime deployments and immediately to domestic missions.

Black History Month: Many made history outside spotlight

By Spc. CHRIS STEPHENS
Army News Service

CAMP STANLEY, Korea — We have all heard the stories of Martin Luther King Jr., Jackie Robinson, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and Booker T. Washington.

No doubt each of these people deserves a place in history. They each fought for a cause and ultimately changed the face of our nation.

But, I want to take a look at some African-Americans who don’t receive headlines like those above. These people have also made an important contribution to history. They’re just not as widely known as they should be.

Medal of Honor

Sgt. William H. Carney was the first African-American to receive the Medal of Honor. He was awarded it for his actions on July 18, 1863 at Fort Wagner, S.C., while he was a member of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment in the Civil War.

During the battle, Carney noticed that the man carrying the American flag was wounded. So Carney bravely rescued the flag and carried it for him.

He delivered it safely to his regiment and reportedly shouted, “Boys, the old flag never touched the ground.”

The movie *Glory* depicts the struggles and hardships members of the 54th endured during the Civil War.

Although it doesn’t exactly point Carney out, it depicts the battle at Fort Wagner and shows the sacrifices the men of the 54th made for freedom.

Pioneer for pilots

Next is Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who was shunned at West Point for four years. Other cadets would only speak to him for



U.S. Air Force photo

FATHER TO SON— Gen. Benjamin O. Davis pins the Distinguished Flying Cross on his son, Lt. Col. Benjamin Davis Jr.

official reasons. He had no roommate and ate his meals in silence. Those who caused this shunning had hoped to drive Davis from the academy, but their actions only made him more determined to succeed.

He graduated 35th out of 276 in the class of 1936. Upon graduating, he became one of only two African-American line officers in the U.S. Army at the time - the other was his father, Benjamin O. Davis Sr., who was also the first African-American to attain the rank of general.

The younger Davis was one of the first five African-Americans to graduate from

training at Tuskegee Institute, Ala., and become pilots in the Army Air Corps. He later commanded the 332nd Fighter Group during World War II.

While based in Italy, the group flew over 200 bomber escort missions. Through all of the missions, the 332nd never lost one bomber to enemy fire.

Open-heart surgery

Daniel Hale Williams is another African-American who made history.

On July 9, 1893, James Cornish was injured in a bar fight, stabbed in the chest with a knife.

By the time he was transported to

Provident Hospital (which Williams established two years earlier) he was getting closer and closer to death, having lost a great deal of blood and having gone into shock.

Williams was faced with the choice of opening the man’s chest and possibly operating internally, which was almost unheard of in that day in age.

Internal operations were unheard of because any entrance into the chest or abdomen of a patient would almost surely bring with it resulting infection and therefore death.

Williams made the decision to operate and opened the man’s chest. He saw the damage to his pericardium (sac surrounding the heart) and sutured it, then applied antiseptic procedures before closing his chest.

Fifty-one days later, James Cornish walked out of Provident Hospital completely recovered and would go on to live for another 50 years.

Other famous firsts

These are only three of a handful of African-Americans who created history in our country. There are so many more people who completed famous firsts.

For instance, Vanessa Williams became the first African-American Miss America in 1984; Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American to receive an Oscar for her supporting role in *Gone With the Wind*; and Thurgood Marshall was the first African-American to sit on the Supreme Court.

Many more made contributions that have helped make our country what it is today.

Editor’s note: Spc. Chris Stephens edits the Indianhead newspaper for the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea.

Brothers share promotion to lieutenant colonel

Fulfill parents' dream by becoming officers

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Brian Tachias could have become a lieutenant colonel two months ago but had a good reason for waiting.

He wanted to get promoted with his older brother, Michael Tachias, who was selected for lieutenant colonel in February. They were promoted together to the same rank in a ceremony Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"This is exciting," said Michael, a reservist who traveled from Albuquerque, N.M. "This is a great honor to both of us and our families."

"It's a big honor for me to be promoted with my big brother," said Brian, assistant product manager for Kiowa Warrior in the Scout Attack Product Office, Program Executive Office for Aviation. "As you can see by the gray hair, he's six years older than me and he's inspired me and I've looked up to him. And it's definitely an honor for me to share the ceremony with him."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

IN THE BLOOD— Michael and Brian Tachias attend a rehearsal for their joint promotion ceremony to lieutenant colonel.

It was also an honor to their parents, retired Sgt. 1st Class Roy and Romacita Tachias of Albuquerque, who traveled here for the ceremony. Roy had 20 years of service beginning in 1947 with the occupation force in Japan and including combat in the Korean War and three tours in Vietnam. He earned the Silver

Star, Bronze Star for valor and three Purple Hearts in Korea.

So his two sons were following in his footsteps when they joined the Army.

"And it was a dream of both of my parents for both of us to become officers," Michael said. "So it's kind of ironic we're both being promoted at the same time

now at this event."

They were both deployed in theater in 2004-05 with Brian in Iraq and Michael in Afghanistan. They tried to link up together over there but missed that opportunity because of a flight delay. "We were actually in the same part of the planet," Brian said.

Michael, 46, served with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) from June 2004 to June 2005 in Afghanistan. He's getting ready to return to Afghanistan in May. The reservist works with the U.S. Department of Energy at Sandia National Labs at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque where his job is team leader for a special weapons and tactics team.

Brian, 40, was in Iraq from December 2004 to April 2005 with the Theater Aviation Single Management Office which supports aircraft in Iraq, Afghanistan and Horn of Africa. He was on the promotion list in December but decided to wait for his brother.

"So the government's paying me as a lieutenant colonel but I'm wearing the major's rank so I could have this joint ceremony with my big brother," he said the day before the ceremony.

Both graduated from Estancia

High School in New Mexico. Brian has a bachelor's degree from the College of Santa Fe and a master's from Central Michigan University. Michael has a bachelor's from American University.

Brian and his wife, Judy, reside on Redstone Arsenal with their sons, Brian Jr., 10, and Nicholas, 9. With 17 years service, he has been with PEO Aviation for two and a half years. Brig. Gen. Bill Phillips, the deputy PEO, conducted the joint promotion ceremony.

Michael and his wife, Rowena, have three children – daughters Shannon, 19, and Cheyenne, 8, and son, Chez, 9. He has 26 years service, including six years enlisted time from 1979-84. He was deployed in Bosnia from 2002-03.

"It's definitely an honor and a privilege to serve during wartime," Brian said.

"We both love the military," Michael said. "We grew up in it as Army brats. We love the adventure and the challenges and we're looking forward to continuing to serve back overseas again, whether it's Afghanistan or Iraq."

Huntsville Center renovates barracks at Fort Bragg

Work under way during deployments

By DEBRA VALINE
For the Rocket

While Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division are deployed fighting the Global War on Terrorism, the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is busy renovating their living quarters back at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Barracks Triage Program is an Armywide effort to improve the living conditions of Soldiers. Partnering with Huntsville Center in this effort are Savannah District, the Fort Bragg Directorate of Public Works and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.

At Fort Bragg, work is being done in three phases, four barracks at a time.

"I saw these barracks for myself back in 2003," said Kent Criswell, the project manager. "They would open the Soldier's rooms and ceiling tiles would fall out."

Initially, Fort Bragg contacted the Savannah District Corps of Engineers with the project. Savannah District con-

tacted Huntsville Center. The Facility Repair and Renewal Program is repairing 13 barracks at a cost of approximately \$1 million each.

"We have turned over the first phase," Criswell said. "We are 80 percent finished with the second phase. The third phase will depend on barracks swing space availability. We are doing the job faster, safer and cheaper than the Air Force proposed."

"The Resident Office Team led by Nat Hermann and the Huntsville Center has done a terrific job of executing this critical program under very tight timelines," said Judith Hudson, deputy director, Directorate of Public Works, at Fort Bragg. "The results are dramatically improved living conditions for Fort Bragg Soldiers."

The contractor executing the project is Vanguard Contractors Inc. Vanguard won a safety award for this project in November 2005.

"Bragg may go back to Savannah or they may work directly with us for future projects," Criswell said. "Savannah has a resident engineer on this project and we have a good relationship. Things are going really well right now."



Joe Ramirez/Photo Lab

Top Gun award

Aviation and Missile Command and Team Redstone received the Top Gun award from the United Way of Madison County for contributing \$734,485 to the 2005 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign at the Community-wide Campaign Celebration on Feb. 2. From left are Rosa Kilpatrick, Local Federal Coordinating Committee member; Donna Johnson, chairman of the committee; Col Bob English, AMCOM chief of staff; Linda Readus, committee member; and Melinda Seigler, CFC director for United Way of Madison County.



Sports & Recreation

Boating course

The Redstone Flotilla boating skills and seamanship safety course is 6:30-8:30 p.m. each Thursday night from Thursday 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 Saturday and Sunday 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.

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

Havoc hockey night

The Huntsville Havoc is sponsoring a Military Appreciation Night on Feb. 18 at 7:35 p.m. at the Von Braun Center for its game against the Pee Dee Cyclones in the Southern Professional Hockey League. Tickets are available through Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker of HHC Garrison Operations 876-2819 or Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Henderson of OMEMS/59th Ordnance Brigade 876-5431. Tickets are free to all retired military, DoD civilians,

active military (all branches), Reserves and National Guard. "Come out to enjoy military static displays, support our troops and the Huntsville Havoc," a prepared release said.

Bicycle safety course

The classroom portion of the Road 1 course, from the League of American Bicyclists, will be held Feb. 18 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Safety City, 2221 Drake Ave. This course is recommended for adults and for children 14 and up. Registration deadline is Saturday; and the \$20 course fee is due at signup. For information call league cycling instructor David L. Stone 348-6414.

Babe Ruth baseball

Huntsville Babe Ruth League will be holding registrations for the 2006 Summer Season on March 4, 11 and 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of April 30, 2006 are invited; and 12-year-olds are eligible to sign up as well. Registration forms will be accepted after March 18 on an individual basis. HBRL boundaries are the Huntsville city limits and players may choose the park they want to play in. The registration fee is \$70, and a birth certificate is required for all players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. Contact your park representative for registration location. The Babe Ruth parks and their primary contacts are: Central Division (Braham Springs), Bud Gambrell 564-5612; Northern Division (Mastin Lake), Dewayne Friend 830-7077; Southern Division (Sandhurst), Tim Harrison 544-3180; and Eastern Division (Optimist Park), Ken Farnell kfarnell@knology.net.

Little league

Youth Sports is registering youth ages 5-12 for little league baseball until March 3. The \$45 registration fee includes the uniform, plus the \$18 central registration fee if not already paid. To register stop by Child and Youth Services' Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road with a copy of the child's birth certificate and a current sports physical if not already on file. For more information, call 313-2177 or 876-3704.

Golf tournament

Redstone is hosting a Valentines Couples' 18-Hole Golf Tournament, Sunday with a noon start. This is a two-person scramble with a 25 percent combined handicap. The fee is \$20 per person which does not include greens fees or cart. There will be closest-to-the-pin prizes, door prizes and more. This tournament is open to the entire Redstone community. For more information, call 883-7977.



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.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 16 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Officers and Civilians Club, Regimental Room. The Sergeants Major Association is open to membership for all E-9s from all services, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guards and Reserves. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight 876-8036.

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 Thursday 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 Thursday 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.

Retired employees

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10. Gloria Goldman is to present a program on elder care initiatives and services offered by Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments. For more information, call 881-4944 or 882-2406.

Women accountants

American Society of Women Accountants

meets Feb. 14 at Holiday Inn-Williams Avenue (formerly Huntsville Hilton), Sun Room of Lofton's. Christie Jordan and Regina Rose of the Chattanooga ASWA Chapter are to speak on "Male/Female Communication: Building Collaborative Relationships." Cost is \$16.50 members, \$17.50 non-members and \$10 full-time undergraduate students. For reservations call 830-0377 by Friday.



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.

Veterinary clinic

The Veterinary Treatment Facility will conduct evening clinics Feb. 23 from 4-7 p.m. Authorized patrons will be seen on a walk in basis for routine vaccinations. Heartworm, feline leukemia tests and microchip identification will also be available for pets. If you have any questions, call the facility 876-2441.

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. Go to www.gsaauctions.gov, search by State of Alabama; and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-4667.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-4 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. The shop is accepting winter clothing/items through Feb. 16. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 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.

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 Comptrollers 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.

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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 at 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, operates from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Its new phone number is 876-7738.

Welfare fund requests

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

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>.

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.

Professional development

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter, American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its annual mini-Professional Development Institute on Feb. 28 and March 1 in Bob Jones Auditorium. This year's program is "To Boldly Go Where Few Have Ever Gone Before: Leadership Skills for the 21st Century and Beyond," which will be presented by Janie Walters of Champion Communications from Madison, Miss. The program covers leadership, negative attitudes, communication, humor, praise and vision. Students have the choice of

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attending either the Tuesday or Wednesday sessions. Registration begins at 7 a.m. each day with the program from 8 and until 4 p.m. Lunch at Trinity Spiritual Center on Airport Road and lunchtime entertainment is included in the training day; bus transportation to and from the luncheon is provided. Cost of the program is \$75 for ASMC members and \$85 for non-members, and can be charged to a government IMPAC card. Registration in TIPS is catalog F62MPDI. For registration call Cody Swinford 876-4283, Debbie O'Neal 876-2671, Linda Caswell 955-0702, Kim Jean 876-3033 or Theresa McBride 842-9272.

Business expo

A retail franchise expo, co-sponsored by FranNet Alabama and the Madison Chamber of Commerce, will be held Friday 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.

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 Saturday 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.

Musical arts

Lee High School Lyric Theatre is presenting Rogers and Hammerstein's musical "South Pacific." Evening performances are Feb. 10-11 and 16-18 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 drive

A blood drive will be held Feb. 16 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5435. For an appointment, call Joyce Thompson 842-7710.

Science for children

Sci-Quest will have "Parents' Night Out" Friday from 6-9 p.m. "Parents with children ages 4-12 are invited to take this opportunity to spend a Friday night on their terms while children enjoy dinner, age-appropriate science activities and time with our hands-on exhibits," a pre-

pared release said. The cost of Parents' Night Out is \$22 for the first child and \$16 for each additional child in the same family. Sci-Quest members receive a 10 percent discount. Reservations are required; call Cortney Hardiman 837-0606. Parents' Night Out is sponsored by Valley Pizza.

Johnson High reunion

Plans are under way for Johnson High School's Class of 1976, 30-year reunion. The scheduled dates are June 30 to July 2. If you are interested in attending the class reunion, visit the web site <http://www.joj76.org> for more information.

AER campaign

2006 AER campaign key representative training will take place Feb. 9 from 9-10 a.m. in building 3338, conference room; Feb. 14 from 10-11 a.m. in building 5300, room 5140; Feb. 16 from 2-3 p.m. in building 5300, room 5140; and Feb. 23 from 1-2 p.m. in building 3338, conference room. All organizational key representatives are requested to attend one of these training sessions. For more information, call AER officer Kristi Foster 876-5397.

Chapter social

The Project Management Institute, North Alabama Chapter will hold its annual social from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Holiday Inn Select, 401 Williams Ave., downtown Huntsville. The social is free, with complimentary hor d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Institute seminar

"Time-to-Profit Project Management," a daylong seminar, will be sponsored by the Project Management Institute, North Alabama Chapter from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at the UAH Beville Center. The presenter, Ed Fern, has written two books on project management and is working on his third. Cost of the seminar is \$150. You can register at <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaID=103680>. For more information, visit <http://www.northalabamapmi.org/> or e-mail info@NorthAlabamaPMI.org.

LCMC prayer breakfast

The next LCMC Nondenominational Prayer Breakfast will be Feb. 16 at 7:30 a.m. in Sparkman Center building 5308, room 8124 (conference room). No food or drink will be served, but you may bring your own. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Richard Doty 313-1537 or Sharon Board 876-0194.

Latin dance

SaborLatino invites you to "The Latin Valentine Dance" on Saturday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Club Ozz, 1204 Posey St. Cost is \$8 for ages 21 and up, \$10 for ages 19-20, and \$15 for couples. For more information, call hostess SaborLatino 783-5756.

National prayer breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast is Feb. 22 at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club with speaker Col. John Olshefski, Garrison commander. For tickets call Chaplain Byrd or Staff Sgt. Traylor 842-2965/2176. Suggested donation is \$3.

