

Redstone Rocket

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Airfield construction lifting off

Aviation test center due from Rucker

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Redstone Airfield will look different within the next decade.

Base realignment and closure is bringing the Aviation Technical Test Center from Fort Rucker, which does aviation testing. This requires new construction for the airfield.

ATTC is bringing 38 aircraft, mainly helicopters but also including small fixed-wing Cessna-type craft.

"We're going to build them a facility, a rotary wing center," engineer John Green of the Garrison's Master Planning Office said.

This \$67 million facility will encompass 161,000 square feet and include a hangar, lab space, machine shops, computer rooms and administrative space. It will accommodate 240 people. A 25,000 square foot, secure storage facility near the hangar will store materials, parts and a paint-spray booth. A 22,000 square yard hardstand, next to the hangar, will have space for four aircraft. And a 36,000 square yard parking apron north of the hardstand will have space for 15 aircraft. The hangar itself will accommodate up to eight aircraft. The airfield's fire station is to be upgraded to increase crash and rescue capability.

Near the airfield will be an unmanned aerial vehicle runway, a tethered hover pad,

an explosive cargo apron, and a stage field. The UAV runway will extend 100 feet wide by 1,600 feet long and include a 5,000 square foot fixed-wing hangar. The tethered hover pad, at Test Area 6, will sustain up to 55,000 pounds of lift. The stage field, south of Buxton Road, will represent a 100-acre site for low altitude flight testing of rotary wing aircraft and include a 100-by-1,500-foot concrete pad and a 1,200 square foot storage facility. A \$5.7 million explosive cargo apron, to unload explosive

cargo, is planned for the west side of the airfield.

"I'm very impressed with the construction plans on the airfield," John Burkhead, the airfield manager, said. "I work pretty much on a daily basis with the DPW (Directorate of Public Works) and master planning and ATTC on the projects. And I think we've come up with a very good plan to support the move up here."

See **Airfield** on page 7



Photo by Skip Vaughn

READY TO FLY— Construction is planned for the airfield with the scheduled arrival of the Aviation Technical Test Center from Fort Rucker and continuing needs for more space.

Tuition assistance process computerized

Procedure change begins in April

By LAURA PECK
Education services officer

The Army Continuing Education System is undergoing a revolutionary modernization and automated business process called Centralized Tuition Assistance Management.

This process entails centralizing tuition assistance functions through a portal, thereby streamlining processes so that Soldiers may be assisted more efficiently and effectively within a downsizing environment. The portal, www.GoArmyEd.com, will allow Soldiers, ACES coun-

selors, and academic institutions access to centralized support for all processes relevant to the Army Tuition Assistance Program.

The new process will have a direct impact on how Soldiers request and receive tuition assistance. In the past, Soldiers have been required to contact their local education center to request tuition assistance. Effective April 1, all Soldiers must begin requesting tuition assistance online through the Army portal, www.GoArmyEd.com, for all classes that begin May 1 and beyond.

The benefits for Soldiers are anytime, anywhere registration for courses regardless

See **Education** on page 7



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GOING ONLINE— Sitting in the computer lab at the Army Education Center are, from left, counselor aide Vanessa Flowers, Pvt. Alicia Koster and Pvt. Jennifer De La Cruz, both of Charlie Company, and education services officer Laura Peck.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: Chief Warrant Officer Alfred Kelly

Job: Division chief for admin and administration, Electronic Technology Training Department

Where do you call home?
Goodwater, Ala. (in Coosa County)

What do you like about your job?
The best thing about my job is training new Soldiers, training future leaders. Anything that's missile-related comes through us first.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

First I like to spend time with my wife, Kathleen Kelly; she's a captain (up for promotion), a lawyer in the Staff Judge Advocate. Restore classic cars, and golf.

What are your goals?

To retire from the military with 30 years, and work in corporate America, and finish my Ph.D. in organizational change.

What's your favorite type of music?

Rhythm and blues

Air defense artillery project plans aired

Association members hear from colonel

By KELLEY LANE
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

When people are in the same industry, it makes sense for them to get together and talk a little shop. It makes even more sense when they all serve the same customer – the Soldier. Throw in lunch and an informative presentation and you have the Air Defense Artillery Association luncheon Feb. 2 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

More than 180 members and guests filled the ballroom to share conversation, break bread and listen to guest speaker Col. Lloyd McDaniels talk about the future of air defense artillery and more specifically, his newest post.

“Col. McDaniels recently activated the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office,” ADAA vice president Tom Newberry said. “His project’s mission and its plans for the future are of great interest to the community at large and especially for the membership of the Air Defense Artillery Association.”

In an industry that is always looking forward, McDaniels’ presentation was received with rapt attention. Afterward he asked for questions from his audience. With a new project office, many things are being attempted for the first time – which doesn’t always allow for ready answers to specific questions about what lay down the road. McDaniels answered all questions put to him openly, candidly and with a sense of humor.

“We have some big challenges. How do we get through them? Well, we’re going to need your continued support,” McDaniels said. “Have I sufficiently avoided the question? Good!”

While the topic at hand may have



Photo by Kelley Lane

PROJECT MANAGER—Col. Lloyd McDaniels talks about the recently activated Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office.

been new, getting together to talk over current industry happenings is not, Newberry said.

“The ADA Association hosts routine luncheons to build camaraderie among the membership and to educate the membership on topics of interest to air defenders,” he said. “Attendees included a large portion of the individual members — active and retired military, active and retired civil servants, and industry leaders — and corporate members of the association. Visitors from the community were welcome and also attended. The mayor of Huntsville, Loretta Spencer, also attended.”

At the end, ADAA presented McDaniels with a certificate of appreciation and what Newberry described as the “highly coveted ADAA coffee mug.”

The Huntsville/Redstone chapter is celebrating its 27th anniversary today. That makes for nearly three decades of support for the Soldiers and retirees of the air defense artillery branch and their families.

For more information on ADAA, e-mail Woody Pettigrew at wpettigrew@westar.com.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Feb. 10: An individual reported that someone had illegally used her personal information to obtain credit. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Feb. 10: An individual was found to be operating a vehicle with a revoked license when he illegally parked in a no parking zone. He was issued two violation notices and released.

Feb. 10: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Feb. 11: An individual was found to be operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol when he stopped at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and detained in the detention cell until his blood alcohol reached an acceptable level.

Feb. 12: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Feb. 12: An individual reported that some-

one had removed their debit card and used it to take out cash and charge via the Internet. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

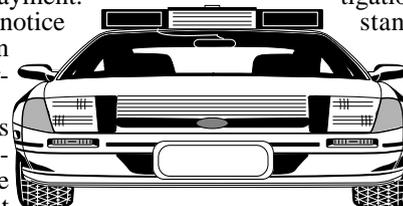
Feb. 13: An individual was observed selecting items in the Post Exchange and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Feb. 14: An individual was found to be operating a vehicle with a suspended license during an inspection at Gate 10. Further investigation revealed that he had an outstanding arrest warrant from Decatur. He was issued a violation notice and released to Decatur Police Department.

Feb. 15: An individual was found to be operating a vehicle with a suspended license during an inspection at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Traffic accidents reported: three without injuries, one with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 10 speeding, 3 driving with a suspended/revoked driver's license, 3 shoplifting, 1 expired tags, 1 failure to yield right of way, 1 illegal turn, 4 parked in a handicapped space, 5 parked in a no parking zone, 2 failure to obey traffic control device.



Leadership development training advances to new level at command

AMCOM G-1 (Human Resources) announces the Leader Investment for Tomorrow – Level II. This program reacquaints employees with the Army's values, mission priorities, and strategic direction.

The program emphasizes leadership roles in managing external environments, leading change, strategic communication, influencing and negotiating, decision making, ethical leadership and balanced lifestyle.

LIFT II offers the participants the opportunity to work in small groups to discuss real-time issues and situations, and apply knowledge and skills introduced during the program. Other program features include guest speakers, individual assessments, a group project, staff rides, networking and exposure to executive level leadership. At the conclusion of the program, participants will

understand their role in the broader context within the organization and community and be able to apply leadership competencies to daily situations.

The target audience for LIFT II is employees at the GS-14/15 level or equivalent. The application period will be Feb. 27 through March 10. For more information about this program, go to the G-1 web site at <https://hrd.redstone.army.mil> under Hot Topics or call LIFT II program administrator Jackie Timme at 876-6061 or as an alternate, Mike Davis, 876-6068.

Become a part of cutting edge leader development training, and develop your own leadership advantage. Talk with your supervisor today about what you can do to enhance and grow your career. LIFT II may be the ticket for you. (G-1 release)



Photo by Claus Martel/Historical Office

History on display

Command historian Mike Baker explains the Redstone history display outside his office to Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, and Linda Readus, secretary of the general staff.

Fourth annual program proves enriching

The fourth annual "Black History Month Enrichment and Enlightenment Program," Feb. 11 at Huntsville High, drew par-

ticipants from throughout the community.

"This event was a way to enlighten and enrich the commu-

nity on African-American culture," founder-organizer Rosie Douglas said. "All Americans, regardless of their heritage, can gain from studying and embracing the ways of our African-American ancestors. Also, we wanted to honor all our military Soldiers/families, hurricane evacuees, Breast Cancer Center-Huntsville Hospital and Neonatal Care Unit-Huntsville Hospital."

Mayor Loretta Spencer welcomed the crowd; Sherea Harris of WHNT-TV 19 was the mistress of ceremony; and Chelsea Felder sang the national anthem.

Other participants included youngster Amos Landrum, who gave a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech; Ivy Joe Milan and Leon German, who performed African drumming; and local choirs, dance groups and soloists.

"My goals are to continue to educate the community of the contributions and achievements that the African-Americans have made and will continue to make throughout the United States," Douglas, of the Civilian Personnel Operations Center, said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Residential outlook

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski explains the Residential Communities Initiative to Madison Mayor Sandy Kirkindall and Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer on Thursday at Garrison headquarters. Not pictured is Mike Gillespie, chairman of the Madison County Commission. By privatizing military housing at Redstone Arsenal, Soldiers and their families will be offered quality housing with updated amenities and a new community center.



Photo by Shelly Williams

ENLIGHTENMENT— Shelly Sidney, of Neema International Performing Arts, dances during the "Black History Month Enrichment and Enlightenment Program" Feb. 11. Other dance groups included the Academy for Academics and Arts, and Dance Theatre of Huntsville.

Black history part of nation's cultural fabric

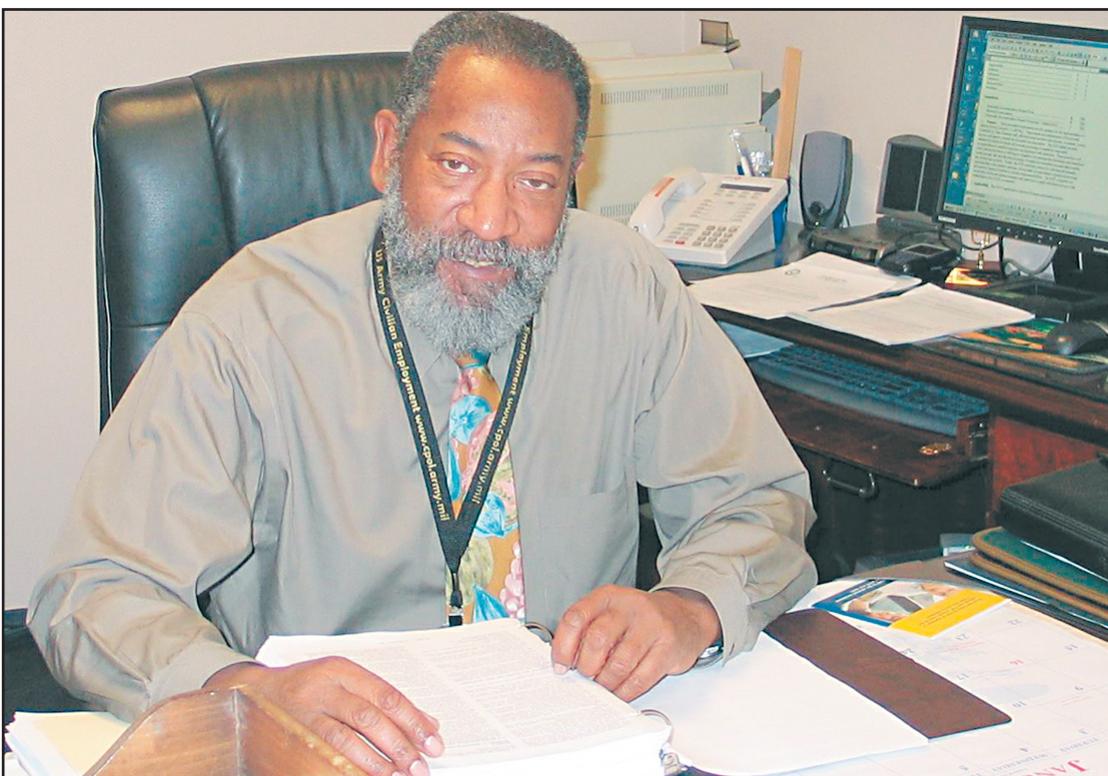


Photo by Erika Readus

EDUCATION KEY— Bobby Coney, chief of equal employment opportunity for the Aviation and Missile Command, sees educational value in Black History Month.

Equal opportunity advisers encourage learning from past

By ERIKA READUS
For the Rocket

February is Black History Month, but do you know how it originated?

Not many people do, according to Bridget Elmore, Equal Employment Opportunity specialist and Black Employment Program manager for the Garrison. "Few people know Carter G. Woodson initiated 'Negro History Week,'" she said.

Black History Month has been observed annually since 1926. Woodson, son of former slaves, enrolled in high school at age 20. He finished in two years and went on to earn a doctorate from Harvard. He later established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

He chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays fell within it, as they were two men who influenced black American society. In 1976 as part of the nation's bicentennial, February was established as Black History Month.

"We celebrate here at Redstone because it is important to recognize the history, celebrate it and learn from it," Elmore said. "It's not just a regulatory requirement. It's about education. We have a rich history and at times we limit it. Black history is so much more than music, dancing, banquets or celebration luncheons.

"For example, how many people know that Frederick McKinley Jones designed the portable

air conditioning unit used at military field hospitals in World War II?" she asked. "His accomplishment is a significant part of black history because it allowed the military to store perishable life-saving medicines and blood serum close to the battlefield."

Bobby Coney, EEO chief for the Aviation and Missile Command, also believes education is the key.

"There has been a concern in the Army and throughout DoD over the years that the focus of the various programs used to celebrate the diversity of the present work force has gotten lost," Coney said. "Many feel that the focus has been sidetracked with luncheons and cultural events that aren't relevant. The cultural events and luncheons are fine, as long as they educate. The intent has always been to educate and focus on the developmental and historical aspects of African-American history."

The program is part of a mission that strives to achieve a civilian work force where minorities and the disabled are represented in every major organizational element, occupational category, and grade level.

"The percentages have improved over the years as well as the overall organizational climate," Coney said.

"The EEO is here to identify barriers for blacks and other minorities and develop goals that enhance the opportunities," Elmore said. "The Black History Month observance is a part of that larger goal."

This year's theme is "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions." Team Redstone will celebrate Black History Month with a program Thursday at 10 a.m. in Morris Auditorium, building 4200 at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Program celebrates Black History Month

Team Redstone will mark Black History Month with a program Thursday at 10 a.m. in Morris Auditorium, building 4200 at Marshall Space Flight Center. This year's national theme is "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions."

Dr. Robert Jennings, president of Alabama A&M University, is scheduled speaker. The Alabama A&M University Choir and the a cappella musical group "Phenomenal" will perform.

The program commemorates

more than 100 years of service by black organizations and civic institutions. The program also will honor the 50th anniversary of the civil rights movement, the Montgomery bus boycotts and sit-ins, and the 40th anniversary of the Voter Rights Act.

During the program, plaques and trophies will be awarded to winners of the Team Redstone display and essay contests. Redstone personnel were asked in January to submit original works celebrating this year's Black History Month theme.



Courtesy photo

Dr. Robert Jennings

Ground-based team receives recognition

The Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Technology Assessment and Planning Team has been recognized by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) for outstanding accomplishments in transitioning technology solutions from small businesses into the Missile Defense Agency's Ballistic Missile Defense System.

The Director, Pete Cerny, received the Defense Certificate of Recognition for Acquisition Innovation. Team members in the Huntsville area include Aaron Corder, Teng Ooi, Kyle Haase, Bob

Brown, Rich Jones, Bonnie Pride, Kim Leggett, Elaine Little, Russ Alexander, Jack Boswell, David Hayes, Vicki Cody, Mike Murphy, Robert Franklin, Bernard Vatz, William McDonald, Angela Duran, Jeff Haight, Mike Legg, Mike Kelly, Bryan Hyde, Maurice Belrose, David Hatchett, Gary Mayes and Mike Gibbons.

The team was recognized for leveraging Small Business Innovation Research and other funding to avoid more costly solutions, and expediting insertion of state-of-the-art technology into the nation's defense.

Kansas firm receives engineering contract

The Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, has awarded a \$30 million contract to Black and Veatch Special Corporation. The company will perform architect-engineer services ranging from initial site investigation through engineering services during construction in support of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system.

Black and Veatch Special Corporation, a large business in Overland Park, Kan., was one of three proposals received. The award is for one base year with two option years with an award term of an

additional two years for a total of five years.

Projects under the contract may include design or rehabilitation of missile control buildings, industrial workshops, power plants, communications facilities, administration buildings, and various other facilities such as new and rehab road work, utility work, and building systems work.

Huntsville Center serves as the Army Corps of Engineers worldwide program manager for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense program. (*Huntsville Center release*)

Construction projects awaiting funding at airfield

Airfield

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These projects are contingent on funding. The Army is to have a project review board at the end of this month.

"Most likely we're looking at FY '08 or '09 but there's nothing really set on when they'll be done," Green said of the projects' schedule.

The Aviation Technical Test Center is to move here from Fort Rucker around 2009-10 but the schedule is uncertain because "the budget for the facilities we need hasn't been approved yet," said Larry Martin, director of test support for ATTC.

"We're the developmental aviation tester for the Army," Martin said.

Other future plans for the airfield include a military systems test and integration facility, envisioned for fiscal 2010 as a 173,000 square foot, \$41 million project to provide more space for the Redstone Technical Test Center, Research Development and Engineering Center and Program Executive Office for Aviation personnel. A rotary-wing simulation center planned for fiscal 2011 will have 42,000 square feet and cost \$11 million.

"Right now our biggest problem is trying to get the Army to bless these projects," Green said. "We've got more folks that want to be at the airfield than we have space.

"The airfield is really going to be different with all these buildings. I think as we continue to build facilities, it's going to bring more work in."

Soldiers to request tuition assistance online

Education

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of location, fewer trips to the Army Education Center, ability to view grades, degree plan, and other documents online, and 24/7 support from a centralized helpdesk.

Soldiers will be required to establish an account through the portal prior to requesting tuition assistance. ACES recommends that all Soldiers visit the web

site periodically for the latest updates so that they may address any questions related to the new procedures with their local education center personnel. Currently, the eArmyU homepage appears under the portal address but will change to www.GoArmyEd.com on April 1. Counselors remain available at the education center to provide academic counseling, answer questions and assist in the transition process.

For more information, call 876-3465 or e-mail peck.laura@us.army.mil.

Author-publisher continues his journey

*Chasing life's dream
takes perseverance*

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

Writing an inspirational book presents a challenge itself. But try writing it, publishing it and promoting it on your own.

That's what Frank Chase Jr. has accomplished; and his journey isn't finished. Chase, writer for *PS Magazine* at the Logistics Support Activity, hopes to see his book "False Roads to Manhood" become a play and a movie.

"It may not be in my lifetime but I'm still pushing for that, aiming for that and I'm praying for that, too," he said. "I think the most rewarding experience is to see people come back and tell me how much the book changed their lives. If I had not followed the direction of the Lord, then I would not see the results I'm seeing today."

His book was first printed in 2004 and had a makeover in January 2005. He originally directed the book toward men – to describe the pitfalls they can fall into along life's road – but found that women also benefited from its message. So, he changed the book's subtitle from "Breaking free from the false traditions of men" to a more-universal "What women need to know, what men need to understand."

The book's cover was also changed. Designed in New York by Marion Designs, the cover depicts a man walking on a road. Discussion questions were added to the book; and the interior was reformatted. The book's layout was done by Lisa Gibson-Wilson of the Renaissance Studio of Design in New York.

Chase's publishing company, FC Publishing LLC, has the slogan "Where words from the heart become books forever."

"And that's our mission," the Baltimore, Md., native said. "Our mission is to publish books that will be insightful, encouraging and beneficial to men and women and youth."

Some 2,500 copies have been ordered for the latest printing. The promotional materials include 5,000 book marks and 5,000 palm cards. About two months ago, the book became available at amazon.com. It's also available at the publishing web site, www.fcpublishing.com, and at the Family Christian Bookstore on University

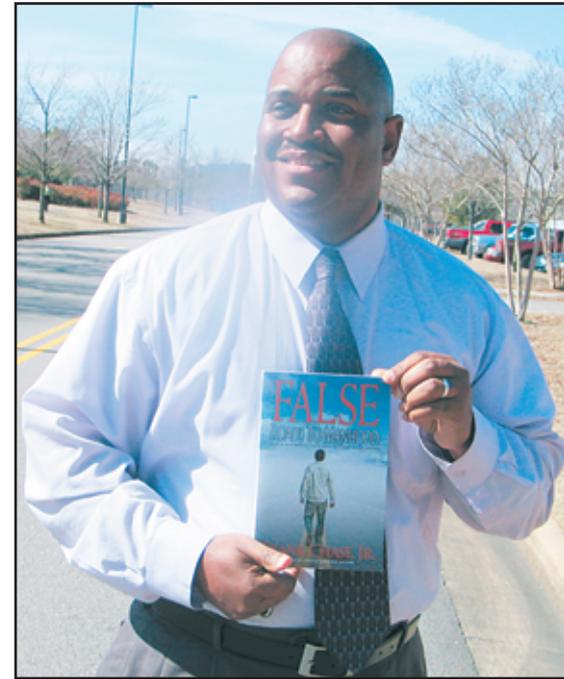


Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON RIGHT ROAD— Frank Chase Jr., of Logistics Support Activity, has self-published his inspirational book which was first printed in 2004.

Drive.

"I've learned that perseverance is the key," Chase said, "because the publishing world is a tough business."

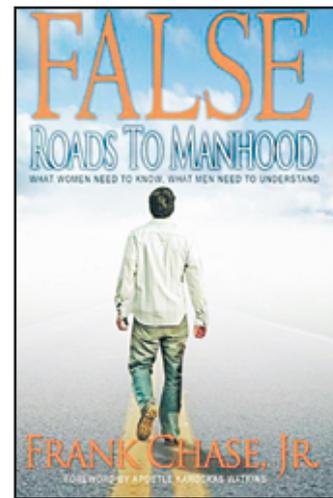
There have been "pit experiences," he said, but the bad have turned out good in the end. "So I've had a positive journey."

He expressed his appreciation to all the people involved with him in this journey including the men who shared their stories in his book; his wife, Teresa; his pastor, Karockas Watkins of Emmanuel Church International in Decatur, and his fellow church members for their continued support. The Madison resident serves as editor of the church's monthly newsletter, "The Flame," and is being trained as a minister.

Besides seeing his book someday evolve into a play and a movie, he hopes to become a full-time publisher.

"I would describe the process of publishing this book as challenging," Chase, 46, said. "You have to do your homework. If you don't do your homework, you'll make mistakes. With anything you'll make mistakes but you don't let those things stop you from moving forward. I'm learning more and more everyday about the publishing business."

And he's drawing more and more satisfaction from readers like Brittney Ryce, 16, of Madison, who wrote him a letter last December asking his advice on becoming an author.



Courtesy photo

NEW LOOK— This newly-designed book cover is among the changes to Frank Chase's work since January 2005.

Engineer serves as new face of Huntsville Center

National newspaper selects Adams for ad

By BECKY PROAPS
For the Rocket

A Huntsville Center engineer represented the Corps of Engineers and the Huntsville Center in a national advertisement that appeared in the *USA Today* newspaper Feb. 15.

Jason Adams, an industrial engineer in the Engineering Directorate, Cost Engineering, was one of 16 New Faces of Engineering featured in the advertisement. Adams appeared with 15 other engineering professionals from around the country. He is also featured on the National Engineers Week 2006 New Faces of Engineering web site with all 64 nominations at <http://www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/newfaces2006/index.shtml>.

New Faces of Engineering is a recognition program that highlights the interesting and unique work of young engineers who work in critical areas, have been out of school two to five years and are age 30 or younger.

The Huntsville Center's Directorate of Engineering nominated Adams, cost engineering team leader for the Military Munitions Center of Expertise, because of his outstanding engineering accomplishments so early in his career and specifically for his cost estimating work for the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate. His work was critical in conveying to Congress the magnitude of the problem of



Courtesy photo

HEAD'S UP— Jason Adams, an industrial engineer with the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center, holds the Feb. 15 edition of the USA Today that has the New Faces of Engineering advertisement with him in it. He is among 16 young engineers selected for this honor.

Military Munitions and Chemical Warfare Materials at sites once used by the Department of Defense, or Formerly Used Defense Sites. He assisted in the development of more than 1,000 cost-to-complete estimates for the Military Munitions Response Program. The estimated remediation cost for the program is about \$10.7 billion.

"We've done a lot of work with the cost-to-complete efforts for the FUDS program," Adams said. "Over the last five years or so, there has been a strong effort toward achieving audit ability.

"The environmental program throughout the Army had major issues several

years ago. We, being the Army, went through a Department of Defense Inspector General Audit on reporting environmental liabilities and failed the audit. After that, there was a great emphasis put on getting ready for future audits. The Chemical Warfare Materials program, at that time, had over \$1 billion worth of estimated liabilities, and there was no real understanding of where the costs were coming from or how they were developed," he said. "With audits, you have to have a good understanding of what you are estimating, why you're estimating it and a good document trail."

One of Adams' responsibilities is helping USACE District personnel and USACE contractors in developing methods and processes for getting estimates prepared, ensuring there is solid documentation for the estimate and an understanding of what is being estimated so that an auditor or future project manager can review the estimate and develop an understanding of what the estimate is for and how it was developed. Because of Adams' contributions, the FUDS CWM program was able to develop formal, complete and auditable estimates, which are required by the Financial Officers Act of 1990 for reporting environmental liabilities.

"We developed these estimates, and we were able to cut the projected costs that were over \$1 billion down to \$147 million," Adams said.

Adams received his bachelor's degree in industrial and systems engineering from the University of Alabama-

Huntsville. His industrial engineering background helped him understand cost estimating but it was his time spent as a co-op and student hire in the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate at the Huntsville Center that gave him the understanding of the Corps' FUDS MMRP program.

"I've been with the Corps for 10 years — for five years as a student and co-op in the Military Munitions Design Center, and it prepared me for when I moved to the cost estimating area," he said. "My expertise was in that, so I was able to take hold of that and move forward with it."

Adams recently obtained his Professional Engineering license and is an active member of the Institute of Industrial Engineers and the Society of American Military Engineers. He has served two consecutive terms as president and also is a board member of the Huntsville chapter of IIE.

The notification saying he had been selected was in Adams' e-mail inbox for several days before he had the time to read it. When he finally read it, he was surprised.

"I am so honored; I didn't think I'd get it. Typically I would have deleted that e-mail because it didn't have a familiar name on it. It just said EWeek. But I clicked on it, read the message and was so surprised."

Adams is deployed to New Orleans as a quality assurance supervisor and office engineer in support of the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

Serving to live and living to serve

Fifty-year career and counting

By JULIE FREDERICK
For the Rocket

Val Harvey has spent the last 50 years of his life serving the Army, and he doesn't intend to stop his journey.

Harvey, of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, says he's proud of the life he has lived and particularly the time he has given to the Army. With combined military and civilian service of 50 years and retirement from active duty already under his belt, he plans to keep working.

"I know (retirement's) going to have to happen one day," Harvey said. "But it's not something that I am looking forward to. I love what I do."

When he signed up to serve, he signed on for life.

"I have really had a great time working with and for some really great people and that includes the Soldiers we all serve. It's been great. I don't think it could get much better than what I've been able to do throughout my career," he said.

Since leaving the military, Harvey has worked with several organizations in logistics. He has worked with Modular Multi-Media Communications Systems as a military instructor and technical writer and AMCOM Maintenance Engineering and Publications. He is a logistics management specialist with the Integrated Materiel Management Center where he works for the Air Defense Directorate for Patriot missiles. He considers his work in logistics part of what inspired him to join the Army.

"Even though I'm retired military, working in logistics still lets me be face-to-face with Soldiers. That is my driving force, talking to them every day. I feel as though I have a hand in helping make sure they do the best job they can, just like I did when I was serving with them."

He enlisted 50 years ago as a young man in Goldsboro, N.C.

"I lived near Fort Bragg," Harvey said. "And being a part of the military was just a way of life for my community ... That's what I decided I wanted to do. I wanted a



Courtesy photo

WITH GRATITUDE— Post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury thanks Val Harvey for his 50 years of service to the Army during a recognition ceremony.

pair of those shiny boots they wore."

The impulse of a 16-year-old turned into a lifelong career. His first assignment was as a radar repairman in the Detroit area. From there he moved from post to post and spent time in Germany, Korea, Ethiopia, Iraq and Turkey.

His favorite job during his military career was his last as a platoon sergeant with 4th of the 4th Ordnance Command in Germany.

"That post left me with such a favorable feeling and attitude that at the time I knew it was time to retire," Harvey said. "I wanted to go out on a positive experience."

In February 1976 he retired from active duty and began the second leg of his career as a civilian at Redstone.

He chose this post for the career opportunities and for the surrounding community. He liked the area and he had a girlfriend from here, Mabel. She is now his wife of 34 years, and encourages him to keep working because she knows how much his continued service means to him.

As far as he is concerned, it has been a great 50 years of service.

"They haven't run me off yet, so they must be satisfied with me," he said. "And I am satisfied with staying here."

Benefits seen from Army family conferences

Post gets ready for local event

By ERIKA READUS
For the Rocket

"It's all about improving the quality of life starting at the grassroots level."

That was Capt. Rob Dewberry's observation from serving as Redstone's representative at the 2006 worldwide Army Family Action Plan

conference held recently in Alexandria, Va. Dewberry was one of three Redstone delegates at the conference which included delegates from every command throughout the Army. The other Redstone delegates were Becky Pillsbury, wife of post commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury; and Phyllis Cox, volunteer coordinator at ACS and Army spouse.

"The conference is organized to address quality of life issues submitted to the Department of Army level from the Army's major commands," Pillsbury said. "The process really starts at the local Army Family Action Plan conferences that take place on Army installations. The next Redstone conference is scheduled for Feb 28 to March 1."

Issues that can't be resolved locally or issues that affect more than a particular installation are addressed at higher head-



Photo by Mary Breeden

QUALITY FORUM— Reviewing the results from this year's worldwide Army Family Action Plan conference are, from left, Becky Pillsbury, Capt. Rob Dewberry, Phyllis Cox and Larry Leggett.

quarters, where the issues are resolved or elevated to the Department of Army level.

The conference process focused on organization and structure.

"At this year's worldwide AFAP conference the delegates divided into seven groups: child and youth, force support, family support, entitlements, employment, OCONUS (outside U.S.), medical and dental," Cox said. "From there we were instructed to come up with three issues per group. Some groups thought that one issue was important enough to stand alone while others chose three. Next, we presented the list to the entire group. Then the delegates vote and prioritize the issues."

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Shelby expands on Redstone's future growth

Senator delivers positive forecast

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Sen. Richard Shelby is "bullish" on Redstone Arsenal.

In words spoken with excitement and enthusiasm to a crowd of nearly 1,000 business and community leaders attending a Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Washington Update Breakfast on Feb. 13 at the Von Braun Center, Shelby said Huntsville needs to be prepared for an influx of military might at Redstone Arsenal.

"We're going to profit greatly, I believe from BRAC," he said, referring to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision to move military agencies and about 4,700 jobs to Redstone Arsenal.

"During the next five, six, seven, eight years there is going to be an influx of jobs like you haven't seen for years and years and years, and you've got to be ready for them."

He described "hundreds of millions of dollars" being appropriated for "bricks and mortar" at Redstone Arsenal to build new facilities for military programs and employees.

Shelby is also expecting growth at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and the addition of other federal agencies to Arsenal property, thanks to the efforts of North Alabama's powerful congressional delegation, which includes Shelby, Congressman Bud Cramer and Sen. Jeff Sessions.

"We're continuing to work together to build a larger presence of FBI and the future ATF right here at Redstone Arsenal," he said.

The American economy is good, he said, citing a 4.7 percent national unemployment rate and a low 3.4 percent Alabama unemployment rate. In Huntsville, the unemployment rate is even lower.

"You're open for business and you're economy is good, and it's going to get better," he said.

Yet, Shelby cautioned his audience that there will continue to be, from time to time, "bad news" coming out of Washington, D.C., in regard to Redstone Arsenal. He cited the recent announcement of a future loss of about 400 Missile Defense Agency jobs as an example.

Even though BRAC is set to bring jobs to Huntsville, business and community leaders "should stay alert on every issue, alert to every nuance," he said. "You don't know what's going to come out of Washington."

Shelby and Cramer will be meeting with Lt. Gen. Henry Obering about the MDA job cuts.

"We will do everything to stop the bleeding from coming this way ... Gener-

al Obering has been really helpful in the past and I hope he will continue to be ... We will try to get him to explain in our terms what this announcement means because if you are laid off that's not good news," Shelby said.

Continuing to address military issues, Shelby said he doesn't know how long Americans will be fighting the war in Iraq or what will eventually be accomplished there.

"We cannot cut and run. We can't do that," he said. "We should decide, in a measured way, when our Soldiers will come home as we build up Iraqi security forces."

Even though there has been significant improvement in Iraqi conditions, the conflicts between Shiite, Kurd and Sunni groups keep the country in turmoil.

"But, I'd rather fight there instead of here," Shelby said. "This war against terrorism is probably going to go on for a hundred years or so. There is such a cultural and religious divide."

Shelby, who was involved in some of the writing of the first Patriot Act, said he will support the act's renewal.

"There are a lot of people genuinely concerned at times about your constitutional rights and you should be," he said. "But, I believe the security of this nation is the number one thing we can do for the American people. I believe that is paramount."

Receiving applause from the audience for his comments, Shelby went on to say President Bush claims he has the power to intercept and tape questionable international calls while others say that is not allowed under the Fourth Amendment Right of Privacy.

"I would err on the side of security," Shelby said.

"Ultimately, the Supreme Court will have to decide. It is a constitutional question. But, security is important to me and I hope it is important to you."

Shelby also commented on the recent Supreme Court appointments, saying they have shown that the court is in the center "of a fight all over America, a fight over ideology."

He believes the appointments of Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito are good additions to the court. "They are qualified, experienced and have a lot of energy," he said, adding that President Bush will probably make one more appointment to the court before his term is completed.

In answering questions from the audience, Shelby addressed the Southern Bypass, which is a \$500 million, 13-mile shortcut from Research Park Boulevard through Redstone Arsenal to South Memorial Parkway, and the Memphis-to-Atlanta interstate.

He described the Southern Bypass as "a high priority here," and went on to say



Photo by Kari Hawkins

MAKING POINT— Sen. Richard Shelby addresses about 1,000 business and community leaders Feb. 13 during the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Washington Update Breakfast at the Von Braun Center.

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Blue Star banners show family pride

Relatives of deployed servicemembers receive symbols of appreciation

Story and photos by KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Around her neck, Ann Cryer wears a necklace on which hangs a miniature family portrait on a dog tag, a silver St. Michael's charm from Iraq inscribed on the back with "Pray for Us" and her husband's wedding ring.

Ann Cryer has been married to Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Cryer for 18 years. During that time, Shannon Cryer's National Guard service with the 4th Alabama A Company 1-167th Infantry has included deployment to Desert Storm, to Redstone Arsenal during Operation Enduring Freedom and to Gulf Shores/Florida following Hurricane Ivan. Now, he and other Soldiers from his

unit are serving a year in Iraq.

While he's gone, Ann Cryer keeps the "home fires burning" with her six children at their family farm in the Woodville/Grant area. She gave birth to their oldest child, 15-year-old Cody, while Shannon was serving in Desert Storm. She gave birth to their youngest, 8-month-old Eli, after Shannon left for Iraq. In between his deployments, their other children - 13-year-old Jake, 11-year-old Shelby, 9-year-old Dakota and 2 1/2-year-old Nicci - were born.

Shannon Cryer comes from a long family tradition of military service with the 1-167th. His grandfather, several uncles and many other relatives have served in the unit as well as his wife's father.

"He's been a good example to us," said his son, Cody, who

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TEARS IN THEIR EYES— It was hard to keep the tears from falling during the Blue Star Service Banner ceremony honoring deployed Soldiers and their families. During the ceremony at Army Community Service, each family was presented with a banner representing the deployment of their Soldier. With garrison commander Col. John Olshefski and Joe Fitzgerald, president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, is the family of Sgt. Antonio Ragland of the 17th Field Artillery Brigade. They are, from left, mom Loretta Ragland, sister Jonnaya Ragland and dad Edward Ragland. Sgt. Ragland is serving in Iraq.



MUTUAL SUPPORT— Wives of Soldiers deployed from the 1-167th have formed a supportive network while they wait for their husbands to return in May from Iraq. Here, Ronda Rusk, wife of Staff Sgt. Johnny Rusk; and Brenda Freeman, wife of Spc. Eric Freeman, show their support with a big hug for each other.

■ Waiting families receive Blue Star Service Banners in ceremony

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plans to continue the family tradition with the National Guard. His brother, Jake, also plans to serve in the military.

"I'm proud of him," Ann Cryer said of her husband.



A SMILE FOR DADDY— Sisters 21-month-old Brenna and 3 1/2-year-old Holly, and their mom, Pamela Powell, smile when they think about their Soldier — Maj. Shawn Powell of PEO Aviation, who is serving a six-month task in Afghanistan. Powell will return to his family in June. They attended the Blue Star Service Banner ceremony.

"He does this for the kids."

Now, Ann Cryer and several other waiting family members from the North Alabama area have Blue Star Service Banners to hang in their front windows in anticipation of the return of their deployed Soldier. The banners are a symbol of pride, hope, patriotism and sacrifice.

The families were presented with banners during a Feb. 11 ceremony co-sponsored by Army Community Service, the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, the Association of the U.S. Army and the Cahaba Shriners.

Since 1917, the Blue Star Service Banner "has been a profound reminder of individuals serving their country overseas and their family members waiting at home," said Joe Fitzgerald, president of the coalition.

Though the tradition died out after World Wars I and II, the coalition is helping to rekindle the program in North Alabama through a movement started nationwide by the American Legion.

"You deserve to be proud of what your servicemember is doing for you and your country," Fitzgerald said.

Addressing the families, Garrison commander Col.

John Olshefski said not every American has the privilege of knowing a Soldier who is serving their country.

"It's powerful to come here today and be with you all," he said, looking around a room filled with wives, fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and children of deployed Soldiers. He told them of a deputy in his office who was spit on when he returned from Vietnam in 1968.

"Today, Soldiers are not getting spit on anymore," he

said. "Our Vietnam vets are the reason our Soldiers aren't getting spit on when they come home."

Recalling his last trip to Iraq and Afghanistan, Olshefski described for the audience what it is like to see the might of the American Soldier at war.

"Even though we've lost some, they are fighting for something that's right," he said. "We are doing everything we can to make sure your loved ones are being

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UNWAVERING PATRIOTISM— Terri Long and daughter, 7-year-old Rachel, wave flags during the closing of the Blue Star Service Banner ceremony. Terri and Rachel are keeping the "home fires burning" for their Soldier, Chief Warrant Officer Craig Long of B Company 501st FSB, who is serving in Iraq.

Roll call for star servicemembers

The families of the following Soldiers were honored with Blue Star Service Banners at an Army Community Service program Feb. 11:

1-167th Infantry, 4th Alabama —
Spc. Robert L. Calloway
Sgt. 1st Class Shannon E. Cryer
Staff Sgt. James R. Enlow
Spc. Eric Freeman
Spc. Michael S. Hardy
Cpl./Spc. Matthew S. Johnson
Sgt. Harvey DWayne Pinson
Staff Sgt. Johnny W. Rusk
Spc. Kelly E. Young

PEO Aviation —
Maj. Shawn B. Powell

1/101st AVN REG —
Sgt. Kevin E. Andries

501st FSB —
Chief Warrant Officer Craig A. Long

167 INF/108 AR/48th BCT/C.Co. —
Sgt. Joshua C. Belcher

17th Field Artillery Brigade —
Sgt. Antonio Ragland

988th MP Company —
Spc. Daniel R. Stimpson

World War I began banner tradition

The first Blue Star Service Banner was designed in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry, according to the American Legion web site.

Queissner had two sons serving on the front line. His patented design for the banner quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

On Sept. 24, 1917, an Ohio congressman read the following into the Congressional Record: "...The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty. The dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother — their children."

Hanging a Blue Star Service Banner in the front window of a Soldier's family home is a tradition that continued through World War II. The Department of War issued specifications on the manufacture of the flag as well as guidelines indicating when and by whom the service flag could be flown or the service lapel button could be worn. The Department of Defense updated the guidelines on Dec. 1, 1967, with DoD

Directive 1348.1, which implemented an Act of Congress authorizing a service flag and a service lapel button (U.S.C. 179-182).

The Blue Star Service Banner typically displayed in windows is an 8.5 by 14-inch white field with a blue star(s) sewn onto a red banner. The blue star represents one family member serving in the armed forces. A banner can have up to five stars, signifying that five members of that family are currently in military uniform on active duty. The size of the banner may vary but should be in proportion to the size of the U.S. flag.

Today, Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serving in the armed forces including the National Guard and Reserves of all military departments. The banner displayed in the front window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much.

If the individual symbolized is killed or dies while serving, the star representing

that individual will have superimposed on it a gold star of smaller size so that the blue forms a border. On flags displaying multiple stars, including gold stars, when the flags are suspended as against a wall, the gold star(s) will be to the right of, or above the blue star(s), a place of honor nearest the staff.

Blue Star Service Banners, while widely used across America during World Wars I and II, were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with nearly the same enthusiasm.

The American Legion and other organizations across the nation are rekindling the spirit of pride in military men and women following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, through the distribution of Blue Star banners.

The North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition has been distributing Blue Star banners to the families of deployed North Alabama Soldiers since July 14, 2003. The coalition also distributes Blue Star Banner corporate flags for government and corporate America to show their support for employees called to active duty in the war against

Comedy Club show lands on post

Redstone community invited March 24

Picture the serious side of life as a plate glass window. Now, imagine a cement truck barreling toward it at 100 mph. The maniac behind the wheel? Derek Richards.

"The only thing surprising about Derek is that he's not bigger," says Florida News Times Magazine. As a comedian, Richards leaves fellow cynics screaming for more. And as a cancer survivor, he proves that a full-throttle sense of humor can make even the direst days a laughing matter. Whether to a packed house of hundreds or a handful in a hospital ward, Richards brings the funny with tales about his Detroit, blue-collar upbringing, his mom's dog, the holidays and dating an exotic dancer.

His act is fast, fresh, and, at times, fanatical — often described as a politically incorrect discussion amongst friends at a bar. A veteran of several USO tours, Richards was chosen as one of the first performers at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba after the base began guarding jailed Al-Qaeda terrorists. The comedy tour earned national coverage in Newsweek. He also has performed at U.S. base camps in seven countries, including

Iraq and Afghanistan. Listen to Richards at www.derekrichards.com (warning: there may be adult language).

You can see Richards along with Jason Benci, and Russ Brown at the Officers and Civilians Club ballroom March 24. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at the Sparkman Center Cafeteria, the Officers and Civilians Club, Redstone Lanes and the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. This show contains adult humor and is not intended for all audiences; patrons under age 18 will not be admitted. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. This event is open



Courtesy photo

Derek Richards

to the entire Redstone community — active/retired/Reserve/National Guard military members, civilians, contractors and family members. Call 830-2582 for tickets or details.

Would you like to attend this comedy night, but can't find a babysitter? Child and Youth Services' monthly Parents' Night Out has been moved to Friday night, March 24, so parents can enjoy the Comedy Club show. Drop your children off at the Child Development Center. Call 876-3704 for Parents' Night Out registration. (*Morale Welfare and Recreation release*)

■ Banners serve as reminders of sacrifice

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taken care of ... Your family members are in the best condition, are the best trained, and have the best uniforms, best weapons and best leaders that we've ever had."

Although most of the country's support efforts are focused on the Soldiers in the Middle East, Olshefski said we shouldn't forget those deployed in Korea. "There's a war there, too, that's been going on for 53 years," he said.

He told the families that they are the most important source of support for the Soldiers in the field.

"Thank you for being tough, for having tears in your eyes, for being emotional, for being passionate," he said.

After presenting the families with a Blue Star Service Banner and other gifts, Fitzgerald and Olshefski asked the family members if there was anything they needed. One family member — Brenda Freeman, wife of Spc. Eric Freeman — asked if there was any financial support available to pay for a military ball tentatively planned for August to celebrate the return of the deployed husbands of the 1-167th, who are scheduled to return in May. Fitzgerald committed the coalition to finding a sponsor for the Soldiers' event.

"This was wonderful," said Pamela

Powell, wife of Maj. Shawn Powell, who brought her two daughters — 3 1/2 year-old Holly and 21-month-old Brenna — to the ceremony.

"It was really nice that the girls got to participate in something like this."

The parents and sister of Sgt. Antonio Ragland of Huntsville attended the ceremony, even though their Soldier is currently on his two weeks leave home from Iraq.

"He's home just in time for his son's first year birthday and first haircut," said mom Loretta Ragland. "He's serving his second tour in Iraq. He's awesome and we're very proud of him."

Seven-year-old Auston Rusk gladly helped his mom, Ronda, and his aunt, Regina Branham, accept the banner in honor of his father, Staff Sgt. Johnny Rusk, who is deployed with the 1-167th in Iraq.

Rusk is serving his second tour in Iraq. The first time he volunteered with the 877th Engineering Battalion out of Hamilton. This time, he's with his own 1-167th.

"He does this because he's a Soldier and that's what a Soldier does," Ronda Rusk said. "Johnny loves doing this for his country and for the guys in his unit."

During her husband's first tour in Iraq, waiting on the homefront was more difficult because Ronda didn't have the support of other wives whose husbands were in Iraq. This time is different because Johnny Rusk is serving with his own unit, and the wives of the unit have come together to form their own support group.

"We have each other," she said, hugging Brenda Freeman, who is the unoffi-

cial organizer of the wives of the 1-167th.

"That's how we get through it. The first time, I didn't have the support I have this time."

Johnny Rusk will get plenty of hugs from his family when he returns. But his son Auston only has one thing in mind for his dad's homecoming — "playing video games with him."

This has been the first overseas deployment for Sgt. James Enlow of the 1-167th, whose wife of 20 years, Lisa, wears his wedding ring on her thumb. It's also the first deployment for Spc. Daniel Stimpson of the 988th MP Company, whose wife, Christina, brought their 11-month-old daughter Hayleigh and her mom, Melody McCulley, and grandmother, Mildred Lancaster (who works at the Redstone Flying Activity), to the ceremony.

"He just left Dec. 19 on a 12-month tour in Iraq," Stimpson said. "He'll get two weeks R&R the last of this month or first of March. We're excited. He's supposed to call Monday and give us a date."

Stimpson is keeping herself busy taking care of their daughter and finishing her last year as a business administration major at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

"It's not as bad as I thought because he calls home more frequently than I thought he would," she said. "We are not as cut off as I thought we would be."

Despite that frequent contact, having Spc. Stimpson deployed in Iraq makes the entire family feel as though they, too, are fighting the war against terrorism, his mother-in-law, Melody McCulley, said.

"We're all there with him," she said.

Corpus Christi conducts asbestos removal

By JAMEY GIDDENS
CCAD publicist

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – About 20 Corpus Christi Army Depot employees from the first two floors of Building 8 sat in on a “Right to Know” meeting Feb. 9 concerning an upcoming asbestos abatement project to remove asbestos-containing exterior window caulking from the second floor windows.

“We’re basically removing asbestos caulking from the perimeter of the window right in between the window and the exterior wall,” said Rogert Ceballos, asbestos management program specialist support-

ing the Facilities Engineering Management Division.

A licensed abatement contractor will be removing the caulking using procedures approved by CCAD and the Corps of Engineers.

“In accordance with OSHA standard 29 CFR 1926.1101 we presented the ‘Right to Know’ meeting to let those employees who work in the area know that we are in the process of removing asbestos and that all the proper care and consideration for their safety are being taken.” Ceballos said.

During the asbestos abatement process, scheduled from Feb. 15 to March 11, a regulated area is established in front of the

work area to prevent pedestrian traffic near the abatement area.

“During the asbestos removal process, plastic sheeting will cover the entire window to prevent any debris from coming in contact with CCAD workers,” Ceballos said. “And as an extra precaution we will have an air monitoring technician onsite to collect air samples and debris samples on the abatement contractor, who will be wearing OSHA approved protective equipment during the abatement.”

A second asbestos abatement project is scheduled Feb. 13 through March 25 to remove exterior transite siding from the exterior wall of Building 8, doors 107-102.



Photo by Leo Gonzales

DEPOT CLEANUP— Ongoing construction on the front entrance of Building 8 at Corpus Christi Army Depot includes asbestos abatement.



Letterkenny Army Depot workers earn prize honor

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — Congressman Bill Shuster was joined by high level Army leaders to recognize and congratulate the Letterkenny work force for winning the Shingo Prize last

fall.

Letterkenny was awarded the Shingo Prize Public Sector Silver Recipient Award for “demonstrated achievement in implementing Lean systems in support of the maintenance, repair and overhaul of the Patriot missile air defense system.”

The prize was awarded Oct. 6 during a ceremony at Portsmouth, Va., by Dr. Rob Robson, executive director of the Shingo Prize for excellence in man-

ufacturing.

Shuster accepted the prize from Robson and immediately saluted the Letterkenny work force by symbolically turning over the plaque to Col. Bob Swenson, the depot commander. Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, deputy commander of Army Materiel Command, and Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of Aviation and Missile Command, were on hand to commend the work force. (*Letterkenny release*)

Courtesy photo

CONGRATULATIONS— Lt. Gen. William Mortensen, Dr. Ross Robson, Congressman Bill Shuster, Col. Bob Swenson and Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury recognize the Letterkenny work force.

Bikers try to break cycle of child abuse

Former Marine steers chapter

By KARI HAWKINS
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Greg Scheppe was only a Marine for two years, serving in 1983-85 at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

But when he left the Marines, he took with him more than the rank of lance corporal. He also took a new sense of direction for his life.

"I learned about discipline, integrity and to always be faithful," he said. "I still hold those dear today. The Marines got my life going in the right direction."

Scheppe's life has taken many turns since his Marine stint. He's worked as a financial consultant and in construction. He's lived several places, including Wisconsin, before settling in Owens Cross Roads to be closer to his two children.

Through the years, Scheppe, 47, has carried a childhood memory that today fuels his passion as an advocate for children. The violence in the home he shared with his mother and stepfather still shadows his life, and has led him to become involved in an uncon-

ventional national intervention program designed to empower and protect children from physical and sexual abuse.

Scheppe, known as "Schep" to his biker friends, is the founder of the Heart of Dixie/Alabama Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse. With more than 50 chapters nationwide, BACA is known for using the tough, strong "Hell's Angels" image of bikers to stop child abuse at its source.

The local group's eight members, who all must undergo FBI background checks before becoming full members, provide emotional support to children who must stand up to their abuser in court. They break the chain of abuse by providing long-term support to victims and their families as they rebuild their lives after abuse.

"My childhood is why I'm doing this," said Scheppe, whose Harley-Davidson and black leather jacket are emblazoned with BACA insignia. "I had a violent upbringing. There was a lot of violence in my childhood mainly from my stepfather."

Scheppe first learned about BACA on the highways of Wisconsin. There he saw another biker with the BACA insignia.

"I basically hounded him and became his right-hand man," Scheppe said of the BACA biker. "He saw how committed I was to the cause."

In 2003, Scheppe moved to the Huntsville area to be closer to his two children. He started a temporary BACA chapter here in May 2004 and it became a full chapter in November 2004. It is the only chapter in Alabama. There are no chapters in Tennessee, Mississippi or Georgia.

"I would love to get more chapters started because it is hard for us to help a child who is six or eight hours away," Scheppe said. "But, still, our main focus is helping kids."

Scheppe and BACA members have a "zero tolerance for those who abuse children and take their childhood away," he said. "The way we look may intimidate adults, but we've never had a child afraid of us. They say 'Wow' or 'cool' when they see us and our bikes. If we looked like Mr. Rogers, then this wouldn't work."

The intimidating "look" of BACA members is meant to look like a threat to abusers. For Scheppe, that means dressing in a black T-shirt and blue jeans, and wearing a leather vest covered in patch-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

BIKING FOR KIDS— Former Marine Greg Scheppe rides a Harley-Davidson during poker runs against child abuse and to child abuse interventions as the founder and president of the Heart of Dixie/Alabama Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse.

es and chain necklaces. The tattoos running up and down his arms may add to the intimidation factor, but they are also a testimony to the good things in his life. There's a Marine "Semper Paratus" tattoo along with tattoos of his children's names, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Joe "Cool Dude," and roses.

Though BACA is an unconventional group, their access to abused children must begin through conventional channels. And that is where Scheppe's group faces its greatest roadblock.

"Before we can arrange a meeting with the family, there has to be some sort of documentation, either through the police department or the National Children's Advocacy Center or DHR," Scheppe said.

"There's always two sides to every story and, unfortunately, the kids get caught in the middle of that. We have to make sure the claim presented is valid."

Once the abuse has been verified, BACA can come to the aid of the child and their family. But, BACA cannot come into the situ-

ation unless they are first requested.

"We are having a hard time letting people know we are here to help," Scheppe said.

"These kinds of situations are hush-hush. There's intimidation by the perpetrator and the pressure not to talk about what happened. There are so many kids being abused, it's pathetic. But most violence is shoved under the carpet because of the stigma associated with it."

With about 1,500 child abuse cases reported in Madison County each year, Scheppe knows there is a need for BACA's services.

Scheppe has seen for himself the dramatic effect BACA can have on a child. When they are called into a situation, a group of 10 to 30 bikers will travel to the victim's home. During this Level 1 intervention, they will befriend the child, talking to them about biking, giving them gifts and letting the child know they can call on them at any time for help. They assess the situation and assign two members to be in regular contact

with the child. The child gets to sit on a bike and, if their guardian approves, they are taken for a ride.

"We adopt the child into our biker family," Scheppe said. "We will be a friend to that child as long as they need us."

Through a series of carefully planned interventions, BACA members might organize drive-bys where they ride through the child's neighborhood, camp out at the child's home, and even visit the abuser's geographical area. Members are not allowed to contact the abuser, but there have been times when abusers have confronted them.

"I've come close to a volatile situation," Scheppe said, adding that child abusers are usually cowards when faced by an adult.

One case Scheppe's group was involved in helped a 14-year-old girl in Iuka, Miss., muster the strength to testify against her abuser — a stepgrandparent.

"She wouldn't talk to anyone about it for two years," Scheppe said. "She hadn't hugged her dad in two years. Thirty minutes after we met her, she was telling us what happened. We were able to break the cycle. She was able to testify in court."

Yet, another case the group got involved in became a frustrating dead-end. It involved a Gadsden family that tried to use BACA to mediate problems beyond the group's scope.

"We are here to empower the children and bring an end to abuse," Scheppe said. "We are friends to children who need friends. We can't get involved, though, in conflicts between two sides of a family."

To join BACA, members must attend chapter meetings for a year and pass an FBI background check before they can represent the group to abused children.

Besides helping children, BACA also sponsors poker runs in the riding season to fund its activities, raise money for children advocacy groups and raise awareness of its purpose. The first run of the season is in April, which is National Child Abuse Month.

Editor's note: The Heart of Dixie/Alabama Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse meets every second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at the Benchwarmer on University Drive. For more information, call 417-2522 or e-mail alabama@bacausa.com. The national organization's web site is www.bacausa.com.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

BACK LEATHER— The BACA patch has been designed with a lot of symbolism. The white background represents the innocence of children, the red represents the blood of children that has been spilled, the fist represents opposition to child abuse, the skull and crossbones are a warning to the child abuser and the chains represent the chains of abuse that BACA is breaking. BACA members wear patches with the insignia on their biker vests and jackets, and they place BACA stickers on their bikes.

Smith ignites 326th Chemical Company

Forward scores 31 points in big win over Charlie

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Swish — nothing but net. Swish — another 3-pointer by Miguel Smith of 326th Chemical Company.

The 326th raced to a 13-0 lead against Charlie Company in a battle of the only unbeaten troop basketball teams. Charlie trailed 27-19 at halftime but was no match for Smith and company on this night.

Smith finished with 31 points, nine rebounds, three steals and a block as the 326th beat Charlie 55-39 on Feb. 15 at Pagano Gym. The 326th improved to 4-0 while the Wolfpack fell to 4-1.

“Probably because we spread the floor out,” Smith said, in explaining his team’s good night.

The 6-foot-2 forward nearly outscored Charlie by himself and matched the Wolfpack’s five 3-pointers. Michael Gola added 11 points.

“We basically outthrustled Charlie Company,” 326th player-coach Eddie Bryan said.

Bryan does see room for improvement from his preseason champions who have breezed through the season so far. He’d



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GOOD NIGHT— Savoring the 326th’s win over Charlie Company are, from left, Michael Gola, Miguel Smith and player-coach Eddie Bryan.

like to see his players shoot better from the foul line and get their big man, 6-4 center Larry Thraps, more involved in the game.

“On a scale from 1-to-10, I’d say we played a 6 tonight,” Bryan said.

That was enough this time against Charlie, the defending post champion. Sylvester Clark scored 11 for the Wolfpack.

“All our starters weren’t here,” Charlie player-coach Chelsie Stokes said. “We were missing two key players. We never could get into a rhythm because we didn’t have all our starters here.”

Last week’s results included:

Feb. 13 — Charlie def. HHC 59th 35-31, Headquarters & Alpha def. Marines 57-22 and MEDDAC def. 10th Mountain

Army robots help secure Super Bowl XL event

By ASHLEY JOHN
Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — With thousands of fanatic football fans flocking to Detroit to experience the excitement of Super Bowl XL, security had to be stepped up more than a few notches for the big game so the Army answered the call.

To help support heightened security efforts, the Army deployed several Omni-Directional Inspection System robots during the week-long event which were developed by the Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center in Warren, Mich., and built by Kuchera Defense Systems in Windber, Pa.

ODIS is a robotic system that assists in under-vehicle inspections at military and other security checkpoints. Currently used by Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, ODIS provides users with a highly mobile platform that can be controlled from a safe standoff position, putting the user out of harm’s way while giving them enhanced visibility and sensor placement capability for inspections.

FirstLink, a Department of Defense Center for National Excellence located at the University of Pittsburgh, facilitated the introduction of TARDEC and Kuchera to the NFL Security Office which ultimately led to ODIS’ involve-

ment in Super Bowl security activities.

While ODIS has been used in other prominent civilian settings, Super Bowl XL was the largest civilian event at which it has been deployed. Airmen from the 110th Fighter Wing Security Forces Squadron of the Michigan Air National Guard had the opportunity to operate ODIS at various checkpoints in Detroit.

ODIS allows the user to search under long trucks, the middle, underside of vehicles and cars that are lower to the pavement than normal — much better than the conventional mirror on a stick. It also provided 24-hour security inspections for NFL headquarters at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center and operational security at the 15th annual America Online NFL Experience at Cobo center.

Given the increased importance of unmanned robotic vehicles for both military and civilian operations that present high risk to personnel, the future of ODIS is expected to be a bright one. Future adaptations of ODIS technology will eventually see it involved in survivor missions and in the detection of chemical/biological hazards in contaminated areas.

Editor’s note: Ashley John serves with the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, Warren, Mich.

Division 36-26.

Feb. 15 — MEDDAC def. NCO Academy 53-36, 326th Chemical def. Charlie 55-39 and Bravo def. HHC 59th 44-39.

Feb. 16 — 326th Chemical def. Bravo 59-41, Charlie def. 10th Mountain Division 47-19 and Marines def. HHC 59th 38-36.

League standings entering this week were: **Eastern Conference** — Charlie (5-1), MEDDAC (4-2), Headquarters & Alpha (3-2) and HHC 59th (0-6). **Western Conference** — 326th Chemical (5-0), NCO Academy (2-3), Marines (2-3), 10th Mountain Division (1-4) and Bravo (1-4).

Conference

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From there the delegates created several lists that range from issues like "top five mobilization/deployment and family challenges" to "top four most valuable services." But before new issues are worked on, issues that remain unresolved from previous years are tackled. The general-officer steering committee determines if critical issues from previous years have been addressed. If not, those issues become the top critical active issues.

Redstone submitted the No. 3 concern on the list "Family Member Eyeglass Coverage."

"This step is very important because the Army continues to work issues until they are resolved," Pillsbury said. "They aren't forgotten about after the conference. Next, the top five AFAP 2005 conference issues are decided upon. We had the No. 3 concern on that list, advanced life support services on CONUS Army installations."

The current force draws most attention. "This year's conference issues really spoke to the current situation in the Army," Larry Leggett, Army family action plan manager at Army Community Service, said.

"There were more issues that pertained to Guard and Reserve families because we have to take into consideration the world situation and those families need more support," Pillsbury added.

"Real changes come from AFAP issues," Cox said.

Over the years numerous issues, raised by delegates and worked by the Army staff and Congress, have resulted in service-members' group life insurance increases from \$50,000 to \$250,000, a DoD Reserve component family member ID card being established, Family Support Groups institutionalized, programs like Army Family Team Building and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers being created.

"Redstone has had one of the top five issues for the past two years, survivor benefit provision and military spousal preference," Pillsbury said.

Army effort is unique

"The Army is the only branch of DoD that has a program like AFAP and many of the AFAP improvements impact the quality of life for all services," Dewberry said. "We work Army issues and that spills over. In my opinion it is the best representation of all the groups that make up the Army, the real Army of One is there."

The delegates included Soldiers, spouses, teens, retirees, the National Guard, and the Reserves throughout the Army. "There is no rank, no uniform, everyone has a voice and everybody you can think of is there," Pillsbury said.

Leggett is gearing up for the local annual conference.

"The Redstone community is loyal and committed to the betterment of the quality of life for the Army, their families and the community," Leggett said. "I just have to say thank you to the people who work with this program. There are too many to name names because it really is a community effort."

■ Future of Redstone includes new agencies, programs, employees

Shelby

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the area's congressional delegation has worked to double federal highway dollars coming into Alabama.

"Your governor and your state senate have a lot of input on how money will be spent once it gets to Montgomery," he said. "The state can build that bypass, make no mistake about it ... The question, again, is of priority, and that priority is made at the legislative, state transportation department and governor level. You can get that built."

Shelby is also working to gain support for the Memphis-to-Atlanta interstate, adding that Congress is working to make

improvements on the nation's infrastructure.

In other issues, Shelby said the nation should drill more oil out of Alaska and Mobile Bay, and build more oil refineries to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

"We are importing over 60 percent of our oil," he said. "If we don't come up with additional sources of oil and gas soon, and build additional refineries, and come up with alternative sources of energy then we will continue to export our wealth to Venezuela, Angola, Russia and the Persian Gulf."

Saying that the nation doesn't have a "meaningful energy policy," Shelby said he will vote for more drilling in Alaska and offshore, and for streamlining the process of building nuclear power plants.



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, call Ron Rohan 722-0874 or e-mail rawhide@knology.net.

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.

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 (Brahan Springs), Bud Gambrell 564-5612; Northern Division (Mastin Lake), Dwayne 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.

Ladies golf association

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association will have a Welcome Coffee on March 1 at 9 a.m. at the Redstone Golf Course. Ladies meet on Wednesday mornings at the golf course from March through October to play golf. There are also tournaments sponsored by the golf association that members are eligible to compete in. All women ages 17 and over who meet the eligibility requirements for the use of the Redstone Golf Course as defined by current Army and post regulations may apply for membership in the association. If you need more information or plan to attend, call 883-1843.



Toastmasters

Tennessee Valley Toastmasters meets the first and third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Radisson Inn, 8721 Highway 20 West, Madison. For information call 876-8706 or e-mail amy.donlin@us.army.mil.

Enlisted spouses

Enlisted Spouses Club meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center. New members are always welcome. Child care reimbursement is available to members. For more information, call Jean Mulcahy 881-7024.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 in the Officers and Civilians Club. Retired Lt. Col. Bill Anderson is to discuss investments and trusts. For more information, call retired Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323. The chapter will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Café, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest.

Parents committee

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Committee will meet Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. in the Redstone Room at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 (phone 876-7952). All parents are encouraged to attend the PAC meetings. Parent participation points are awarded for atten-

dance - 5 points equals a 10 percent discount on child-care fees. "Please join us to learn what is happening at the Redstone Child and Youth Services facilities and to provide your ideas, opinions or concerns," a prepared release said.

Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society) will meet March 2 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Gregory H. Allison, space systems engineer and executive vice president of the National Space Society, is to speak on "Human Destiny - Space or Extinction." This meeting is free and open to the public. A social at Shoney's restaurant will follow. For more information, e-mail europa59@hotmail.com.



Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt. 1st Class Harold Cook 876-8710 or Chief Warrant Officer Robert Smith 955-9722.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by

AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-4 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. "The Thrift Shop is currently accepting spring clothing/items; please, no sleeveless or shorts," a prepared release said. "During the week of March 7-9, all profits from TSP tickets will be given to Army Emergency Relief. So come in, find some bargains and help AER." Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

Welfare requests

The Thrift Shop is accepting written requests for donations. It can only accept requests from charitable organizations that have a federal tax exemption number. Please include your federal tax exemption number, point of contact, telephone number, the amount requested and the specific use of this donation. The deadline for requests is March 31. Requests can be delivered or mailed to: Thrift Shop, Attn: Mary McCarthy, welfare chairperson; building 3209, Hercules Road; Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

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.

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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 Debbie 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.

AER scholarships

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

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

Child and Youth Services' monthly Parents' Night Out has been moved to Friday night, March 24, so parents can attend Comedy Club at the Officers and Civilians Club. "Drop off your kids at a well staffed, accredited, affordable (as low as \$10 per child for lower enlisted military) MWR child care center during the show," a prepared release said. Call 876-3704 for Parents' Night Out registration.

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 Saturday 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.

Visitor center

The Joint Visitor Control Center on Rideout Road, north of Gate 9, operates from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Its phone number is 876-7738.

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 should be available 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>.

Black history celebration

Team Redstone will hold a Black History Month observance Thursday at 10 a.m. at

NASA's Morris Auditorium, building 4200 on Rideout Road. For more information, call Master Sgt. Tuynuykua 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 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.

Johnson High reunion

Plans are under way for Johnson High School's Class of 1976, 30-year reunion.

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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.

Veterinary clinic

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



Courtesy photo

Take me home

How can you resist this small, terrier mix? About 6 months old, he's looking for a home and is described as energetic and playful. For more information, call the Veterinary Treatment Facility at 876-2441.

Car wash benefit

The Grissom Track Boosters are selling car wash tickets as a fund-raiser. Cost is \$8 in advance (\$4.95 off the regular price \$12.95) at Lee's Magic Tunnel on South Memorial Parkway. The car wash is March 5 from 12:30-5 p.m. If interested call Skip Vaughn 876-1500 by Friday.

Scholarship awards

The 100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter Inc. announces its 2006 scholarship award program for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year. Scholarships will be awarded to students based on merit and/or need regardless of race, sex, creed or religious preferences. The scholarship for \$1,000 each will be awarded to 10 students to attend the institution of their choice. Students desiring to submit an application for scholarship must ensure that their application is received/postmarked by March 1. Applicants can mail their application to: 100 BMOA GHC Inc., Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 5194, Huntsville, AL 35814. Scholarship application can be obtained from your local High School Senior Counselor, or by calling the scholarship chairperson 722-1074.

Alcorn scholarship

The Tennessee Valley Alumni Chapter of Alcorn State University announces its 2006 William E. James Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship award will be for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year. The TVA-ASU William E. James Scholarship

will be awarded to a student based on merit and/or need regardless of race, sex, creed or religious preferences. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a prospective Alcorn State University student. Application for scholarship must arrive at the following address by March 14: Tennessee Valley Alumni-Alcorn State University, Attn: Scholarship committee, P.O. Box 5413, Huntsville, AL 35814. Scholarship applications can be obtained from your local high school senior counselor, your local church youth ministry program coordinator, or by calling Sam King 722-1074 or Melvin Mayo 721-9336.

Soul food dinner

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks in Government will have a potluck soul food dinner for its ongoing celebration of Black History Month at 6 p.m. Thursday at the District 6 county headquarters at 3210 S. HiLo Circle. For reservations call Arlene Erskine 876-1101 or 955-6094 or call 837-



Photo by Steve Grzedzinski

Logisticians visit

Tobiyanna Army Depot, Pa., commander Col. Tracy Ellis, left, briefs Jack Bell, deputy under secretary of defense for logistics and materiel readiness, while touring the Tactical Missile Division. Also participating in the orientation tour are Frank Zardecki, second from left, deputy commander; Dave Pauling, assistant deputy under secretary of defense for materiel readiness and maintenance policy; George Bellas, command, control and computer systems-avionics director, and Wayne Watkins, electronics mechanic supervisor, tactical missile division, C3-Avionics Directorate. The visitors receive a command overview briefing, tour depot operations and get a briefing at the Defense Distribution Depot Tobiyanna.

1482 by Feb. 21. Dress is casual and there is no charge. However, please bring your favorite soul food dish.

AER book sale

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief is April 24-28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Sparkman Center building 5300, on the first floor in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. Donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes are welcome through April 26. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-5743 to arrange delivery and pickup of those items.

Quarterly retirements

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is March 23 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate. If you would like to participate, call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-2819. Deadline for signing up is March 3. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled June 22.

Garden plots

All personnel desiring garden plots for the 2006 planting season should contact the Family Housing office, building 3207 on Hercules Road, during a prescribed schedule. Priorities have been established to better serve all interested personnel. The procedures for requesting and assigning garden plots are as follows: First priority - Active duty military must request their plots through March 6. Second priority - Retired military must request their plots March 1-15. Third priority - DoD civilians must make their request March 16-31. If there are plots left over, assignments will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. The 2006 planting season must be utilized at Vincent Drive (Area 1) and Wesson Circle (Area 2). There are 54 garden plots available at Vincent and 58 plots available at Wesson. Due to the limited number of plots available, only one plot will be assigned per family until March 31. For more information, call Ms. Scott 876-7144 or Mr. Pearson 876-6666.

Mini-storage opening

Outdoor Recreation announces the grand opening of its new Storage units Feb. 27 at 2:30 p.m. These units will be available to the entire Redstone community. For

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