

Redstone Rocket

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March 22, 2006

Just for kids



Military children honored in April
Page 8

Family focus

Tradition points to military service
Page 10



Helping hands

Quilts given for healing
Page 12



Over there

Team training Afghan army
Page 14



Win or lose



Tournament highlights
Page 20

Ringling up drivers on cell phones

Redstone police issuing tickets

By SKIP VAUGHN
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A top Redstone official pulled up to a traffic light and waited. And waited. The light turned green but he had to wait until the driver of the vehicle in front of him finished talking on a cell phone. He was not pleased.

Talking on a cell phone while driving is more than just an inconvenience. It can endanger the distracted driver and others.

"The biggest thing is distraction," Ken Daniels, chief of Garrison Safety, said. "It distracts from operating the vehicle. It's just like putting on lipstick or drinking coffee or any of those things people do while driving — you know, eating a hamburger. So that's the biggest thing."

Accident prevention is a goal for the Defense Department's policy prohibiting talking on a cell phone while driving on defense installations. Redstone police are enforcing the directive implemented last year as a Garrison policy under AMCOM Regulation 210-2.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LICENSE, PLEASE— Redstone police officer Christopher Ragucci simulates a traffic stop.

Since September, at least 18 drivers at Redstone have received a DD Form 1408, an Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, for operating a motor vehicle while talking on a cell phone.

"All of our civilian police officers are charged with enforcing the cell phone policy," said Capt. Robert York, training officer in the Direc-

torate of Emergency Services, Provost Marshal Office. "The policy prohibits the use of cell phones while operating a motor vehicle, with the exception of hands-free devices. The only exception in the policy is for emergency first responders — that'll be law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services."

Alabama doesn't have a state law against this so, Redstone's policy applies to driving on post.

The traffic ticket goes through the violator's supervisory chain; and his or her supervisor is responsible for taking some sort of action and reporting back to the police.

"And that can be anywhere from an oral admonishment all the way up to a written reprimand," York said. "That's up to the supervisor's discretion. And we also assess on-post traffic points which could result in a suspension of on-post driving privileges. You're looking at no less than a six-month driving suspension on-post."

Drivers whose cell phone rings or who need to make a call are advised to find a safe location to pull over, finish their conversation and then continue on their way.

"If we see somebody talking on a cell phone (while driving), we can pull them over for that reason alone," York said.

Gate guards have seen approaching vehicles operated by drivers talking on cell phones.

"It really becomes a safety issue for those guys," York said. "We have had some close calls where people almost hit one of the guards out there."

Defense Department goes ahead with new personnel system

First phase affects 300 at Redstone

By GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department is preparing to implement the first phase of its new pay-for-performance civilian personnel system in late April, a senior official said here March 3.

At that time, about 11,000 DoD civilians will be enrolled into the National Security Personnel System, Patricia S. Bradshaw, deputy undersecretary of defense for civilian personnel policy said during an American Forces Press Service interview.

In the Army work force, NSPS Spiral 1.1 consists of Civilian Human Resources Agency non-bargaining employees. At Redstone Arsenal that includes the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations

Center and the Redstone Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; and this represents about 300 people total. The plan is to implement Spiral 1.1 on April 30, according to CPAC director Don Dixon. The revised dates and organizations to be included in future NSPS spirals has not yet been announced by the Defense Department and the Army.

Spiral 1.1 includes the Army's Civilian Human Resources Agency non-bargaining employees.

"It was always a passion for me that some day we would be able to do this," said Bradshaw, who'd been familiar with pilot civilian pay-for-performance programs conducted at two Navy installations in California a decade ago.

A senior civilian personnel expert with 27 years of DoD and Navy service, Brad-

shaw worked in the corporate world for six years after she retired from the government in 1999. She recently came back to DoD to help its work force become more capable and relevant in the post-Sept. 11 era.

DoD and the Office of Personnel Management have partnered to create the NSPS, a personnel management process that eventually will apply to more than 650,000 DoD civilian employees.

The Navy's civilian management pilot programs conducted at facilities at China Lake and San Diego proved to be forerunners of today's NSPS, Bradshaw said. Those early programs "simplified the job descriptions so they could move people around more easily," Bradshaw recalled. "But, at the end of the day it was the pay-for-performance piece and the desired end-state of retaining your top performers" that stood out.

See Spiral on page 3

An open lane random survey

What do you remember from your first date?

By KELLEY LANE
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Demy Robley
Retiree

"He was a captain in the Army and he had this weird laugh. I couldn't wait to get away from him and that awful laugh. It was embarrassing."



Pvt. Jesse Wilson
Marine Corps Detachment



"I was surprisingly relaxed. I had known the girl for a long time."

Jean Simon
Retiree spouse

"It was a harvest dance when I was a sophomore. I went with the boy who sat in front of me in math class."



Rickey Cook
Postal worker

"I met her at the placement center in Germany as she was coming into the Army. We went to a friend's house a couple of weeks later. We fell in love and have been in love ever since. I love her just as much now as I did back then."

Quote of the week

'The best teachers in anything are the most demanding.'

— Bobby Knight
basketball coach

Letters to the Editor

Road repair has holes

Understand that AMCOM has tight funding, but road repair remains one of the most important areas. Coming from Fowler Road, turning onto Toftoy Throughway and going over the First Martin Road overpass, there is a mess of potholes — enough to give a vehicle a fair amount of shaking. When will AMCOM fill these potholes in?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The Garrison Directorate of Public Works is aware that the wearing surface of the bridge deck is in poor condition and has developed a construction package to replace the deck. The previous Toftoy Road maintenance project did not include the repair of the deck for two reasons: one — a construction package had not yet been completed for replacement of the deck, and two — funding for deck replacement was not available. Therefore, DPW was forced to postpone the deck replacement project to FY '05 or FY '06 subject to availability of funds. Funds were not available at FY '05 year-end and have not been available thus far this FY '06.

"Our immediate solution is to keep the surface of the bridge cleared of loose material and patched as best as possible. DPW will continue to monitor the bridge's condition, making the necessary minor repairs until the replacement project is funded. The condition of the bridge's current wearing surface is not ideal (smooth), however, the bridges structural integrity and load capacity are intact.

"We in the Garrison appreciate your interest in helping us identify areas in need of attention, and will continue to seek funding to accomplish these type major repair projects."

Trying to go with flow

As all of us do, I sometimes feel I am in a "Dilbert" cartoon here at work. But for the first time I can remember, I am in a "Seinfeld" episode. It is the one where Jerry and Kramer meet in the hall between their apartments and both have flattened, stringy hair. Upon comparing experiences, they realize the culprits (no, not Newman) are the low flow showerheads the apartment manager installed. They can't rinse the conditioner out.

Well, the place where I work out (Civilian Wellness Center) has installed low-flow shower heads as a cost-saving measure; just like the "Seinfeld" episode, I find I cannot fully rinse my hair of conditioner. I can't decide if I look most like Jerry or Kramer! I do spend more time running the shower than I used to just to rinse so I don't know that there will be much savings from me.

The only saving graces are: 1. I can go to the Wellness Center to work out for free; and 2. the only time I see what low-flow shower heads hath wrought on me is when I look in a mirror. Pity my co-workers, they have to see my hair mess every time they look at me.

Althea J. Critchlow
budget analyst

Damaged by road spikes

On Aug. 26, 2005 at approximately 2 p.m., my 2004 Nissan Maxima was damaged by road spikes placed across Goss Road by the security guard at that guard post. Following the incident my husband filed a tort claim against the U.S. government for damages, claiming the U.S. government or its representative (security guard) was negligent in the performance of their duty, therefore, at fault. The claim, after six months, was ultimately denied.

The justification given for the denial was that it was my word against the security guard; moreover, as the claimant I failed to prove that damages was caused by negligence of the U.S. government representatives. Bottom line is that my statement supported that the security guard was negligent in her duties and placed spikes across an interior access road during the afternoon with no viable threat to compel such deployment and leaving the spikes unattended as she addressed the driver she was purportedly turning around. In order to do this I need persons who witnessed the incident to come forward and provide a statement. There were two vehicles present at the time of the incident, the one immediately following me when I drove over the spikes and the driver that the security guard was purportedly ordered to redirect back to the Visitors Center for further processing.

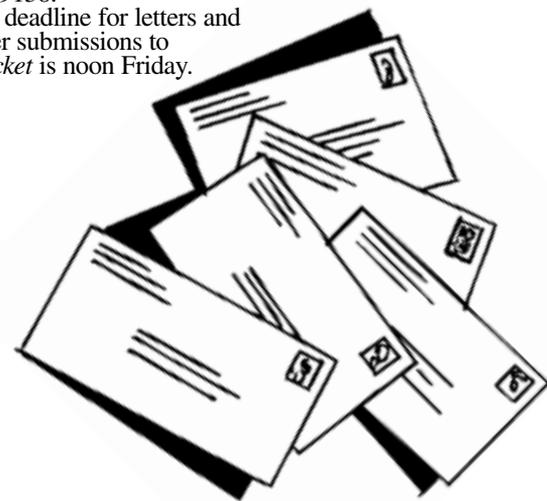
If you were at the Goss Road security post on Aug. 26, 2005 at approximately 2 p.m. and witnessed this incident, I would appreciate you contacting the Redstone Military Police Station to provide a statement as to what you witnessed that day.

Name withheld by request

Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 955-9138.

The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.



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Getting to know you

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

Name: Sarah Kilpatrick

Job: Contract specialist in training (co-op student), Acquisition Center

Where do you call home?
Gurley

What do you like about your job?

I get great experience with contracts. And you get to spend someone else's money. I like that.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to go to the movies. I like to go out to eat. I ballroom dance (at Redstone).

What are your goals?

Immediate goal is I want to graduate. I graduate in May from Athens State (with a bachelor's in business



management). And as soon as I graduate, I'll get into the intern program. I want to be an SES (senior executive); that's my long-term goal.

What's your favorite type of music?
Jazz

Program chief engineer becomes senior exec

Judd Carpenter, chief engineer for the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office, was inducted into the Senior Executive Service during a ceremony March 13. Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, director of the Missile Defense Agency, officiated at the ceremony, held at the Sparkman Center.

As chief engineer, Carpenter is responsible for system engineering, testing and quality for the GMD system. GMD is a part of MDA's layered Ballistic Missile Defense System that is being designed to protect the U.S., its deployed forces, allies and friends from hos-

tile ballistic missile attack.

Carpenter has more than 23 years experience in missile systems and came to his position with GMD from the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System, where he also served as chief engineer. During his tenure with THAAD he oversaw design, fabrication, manufacture and testing of the system.

Carpenter has a bachelor's in nuclear engineering from the University of Arizona and has completed electrical engineering degrees at the Fort Monmouth College, N.J., and at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.



Courtesy photo

TAKING OATH— Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, director of Missile Defense Agency, administers the oath of office to Judd Carpenter during Carpenter's Senior Executive Service induction ceremony.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

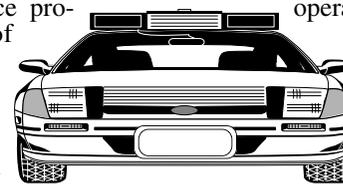
The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

March 13: An individual reported that she was raped at an on-post location. Investigation continues by Criminal Investigation Division.

March 13: An individual was charged with attempted suicide when he took approximately 40 pills of various kinds. He was transported to Crestwood Medical Center for evaluation.

March 13: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license when he was stopped for speeding. He was issued two violation notices and released.

March 15: An individual was found to be



operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during a vehicle inspection at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

March 15: Another individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during a vehicle inspection at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

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

Violation notices issued: 17 speeding, 3 driving with a suspended/revoked license, 1 parked in a no parking zone, 1 inattentive driving, 1 failure to maintain insurance, 1 expired tags.

Army interns recognized

The Integrated Materiel Management Center recognized its 2005 graduating Army interns March 14.

Certificates were presented to supply intern Alicia Stewart; maintenance interns Erick

Arnell, Shannon Bridges, Shara Ford, Monica Pearsall, Elizabeth Jones and Jenice Rozier; comptroller intern Connie Atchley; publications intern Rebecca Carnes; and ammunition intern Gerrard Dorsett.

■ DoD to enroll 11,000 civilians into new system

Spiral

continued from page 1

Under NSPS, "if you want to be a star performer, we're going to differentiate and we're going to pay you that way," Bradshaw said. That "is the underpinning theme," she said.

Bradshaw said the world has changed greatly since terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. Those attacks influenced Congress to give DoD the authority it needed to change the way it pays and manages its civilian work force, she said.

"The support we got for that on the Hill was as a result of the lessons learned from 9-11," Bradshaw explained. The war against terrorism also prompted DoD to adopt "a system that allows us to move individuals quickly and have a more agile way of assigning people, and more specifically, figuring out what competencies they have," she said.

One of the personnel management tenets contained within the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review is developing a competency-based personnel management infrastructure on both the military and civilian sides of the house, she said.

Bradshaw said DoD's old civilian personnel system hamstrung supervisors because its narrow job descriptions and associated paperwork worked against quickly assigning people to more urgent duties. "We really don't know what other capabilities you have or competencies you bring to the table," Bradshaw explained. "Maybe you were a contract specialist at one time."

The NSPS brings the ability to catalog and identify employees' skills so managers can access them quickly, Bradshaw said. This "allows us to make these movements and assignments in a much more agile way," she said.

The ability to quickly move civilians where they are needed most — including overseas — is a key desired benefit of adopting NSPS, Bradshaw said. "Right now we are able to do this through volunteers," she said. However, the war

against terrorism brings everyone "a lot closer to the front lines" than during the Cold War.

"It causes us to think again how we deploy civilians," Bradshaw said. "We are part of the total force." DoD must be more deliberate on developing its senior civilians, she said, so they acquire a joint view of the military and a better understanding of how it accomplishes its missions.

That kind of experience "can't be gained by staying in your own organization — in your own 'stovepipe' — year after year and then expecting to then leapfrog to a very senior position in the Department of Defense," Bradshaw said.

Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey recently announced a new policy that calls for senior civilians to be moved around to gain more experience rather than staying at the same organization, Bradshaw said. "It just hasn't happened in a very deliberate way in every service," she said.

In 2003, DoD began work to establish a new civilian personnel compensation and management process that rewards employees according to performance. Fifty-year-old civil service rules mostly tied employees' raises to an individual's length of service.

In February 2005, the American Federation of Government Employees and a dozen other labor unions filed a lawsuit against the Defense Department over the establishment of NSPS. U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan ruled Feb. 27 that proposed NSPS provisions would not protect civilian employees' ability to bargain collectively. DoD and OPM officials continue to work with the Department of Justice to determine the next steps relative to the ruling.

Meanwhile, the department is moving forward with implementing the performance management, compensation and classification, staffing, and work force shaping provisions of the new system, which is slated to occur in late April, according to a statement on the NSPS web site.

Managers to attend training to comply

By KARI HAWKINS
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In all its employment policies and procedures, the government strives to be the model employer, especially when it comes to employing America's disabled work force.

Toward that end, the Garrison's Equal Employment Opportunity office will conduct training sessions for AMCOM supervisors and managers to educate them on policies and procedures for accommodating employees and job applicants with disabilities.

"Supervisors and managers have to be able to comply with EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) guidelines as far as providing reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities," said Clarenza Clark, manager of the Garrison-Redstone EEO Individuals with Disabilities Program.

"It's a beautiful thing to have laws in place to protect people with disabilities so they, too, can live a joyful life in an employment environment that makes it possible for them to succeed at their job."

About 1,000 AMCOM supervisors and managers will be required to attend one of several two-hour disability accommodation training sessions tentatively scheduled for April 17-19 in Bob Jones Auditorium. Management will be notified of confirmed dates and times of the training sessions, which will be conducted by Ramon Suris-Fernandez, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for EEO and Civil Rights.

"Supervisors and managers will be trained on steps that need to be taken regarding requests for reasonable accommodation," Clark said.

"According to the law, a manager cannot deny a qualified person with a disability reasonable accommodation."

The law, known as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, requires federal agencies to provide reasonable accommodation to qualified employees or applicants, unless to do so would cause significant difficulty or expense. In general, an accommodation is a change in the work environment or in the way things are customarily done that would enable a disabled individual to enjoy equal employment opportunities.

In July 2000, President Bill Clinton signed an executive order requiring all federal agencies to establish written procedures for providing reasonable accommodation for disabled employees.

"It is important for the government to provide opportunities of employment for people with disabilities," Clark said. "The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 makes it illegal to discriminate against applicants or employees based on their disability."

Although Redstone Arsenal does have a policy and procedures in place to be in compliance with EEOC requirements, the Garrison EEO office is required to make sure all supervisors and managers are aware of the procedures and know how to implement them.

"Once they get done with the training, supervisors and managers will know how to comply with EEOC guidelines as far as providing reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with disabilities," Clark said.

"Employees will also be given information on how to go about asking for disabled accommodations and they will be made aware of what management can do to make that happen."

Disabilities can run the gamut from blindness, hearing impaired and paralysis to a broken leg, cancer, diabetes and epilepsy.

"The disability must involve the essential functions of a job to get accommodation," Clark said.

"Request for accommodation must go through the first-line supervisor. The supervisor may request medical documentation if the disability is not obvious. And, they are required to make accommodations if those accommodations are needed for the employee to do their job. Resources are available to assist with accommodations."

Requests for disability accommodation must be documented through the Garrison's EEO office. Supervisors and managers must make all reasonable attempts to accommodate disabled employees, and they must keep disabled employees informed about accommodations that are being made.

"Communication between the requestor and the management official is very important," Clark said. "Managers need to keep their disabled employees informed. They need to talk about accommodations and keep the employee apprised of progress that is being made."

If an accommodation request is denied by management, then the reasons for denial must be documented with the EEO office and a copy of that documentation must be given to the requesting employee.

"Employees must be provided their rights," Clark said. "If they feel discriminated against, then they have a right to use the EEO complaint process. Likewise, managers have the right to seek guidance from EEO in fulfilling their obligations of compliance with the Rehabilitation Act."

Sometimes, reasonable accommodations may be as simple as allowing a diabetic to check their blood sugar as required to maintain their health, providing documents in Braille for the blind or temporarily moving someone with a broken leg to a first-floor office in a building that doesn't have an elevator. Or they may be more complicated, such as obtaining electronic hearing devices for the hearing impaired or making sure a wheelchair-bound employee can move freely in their office.

"Supervisors and managers need to be able to respond when something occurs in an employee's life that causes them to require reasonable accommodation," Clark said. "We are all getting older, accidents can happen, we can have a long-term illness. Supervisors and managers need to recognize these conditions and respond to them according to the EEOC policy guidelines."

Those supervisors and managers with more questions, can call Clark at 313-2825.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WORK FORCE ADVOCATE— Clarenza Clark is manager of the Garrison-Redstone EEO Individuals with Disabilities Program.

Summer hire vacancies announced

Three Student Temporary Employment Program Summer Hire announcements opened March 20 and will close March 31.

These announcements will be used, along with referrals from the State Employment Service of Needy and Disadvantaged Youth, as sources of candidates to refer to selecting officials for Team Redstone summer hire positions. In addition, some part-time students may be converted to full-time, summer rehires (students who worked last year) may be brought back to work, and other students may be placed. These are the same sources that were used last year to fill summer positions.

The following announcements are listed on the Army civilian personnel web site at www.cpol.army.mil:

- SCBK060326SH1 — Office automation clerk, GS/DK-326, grades 1-4
 - SCBK060303SH1 — General clerk, GS/DK-303, grades 1-4
 - SCBK060802SH1 — Engineering aide/technician, GS/DE-802, grades 1-4
- The Civilian Personnel Advisory

Center has canvassed serviced organizations for their summer hire requirements, and anticipates about 50-100 Team Redstone summer hire positions may be filled this summer from these announcements. CPAC expects up to 1,000 students to apply for these positions. In order to be considered, applicants must be students who are currently enrolled in school.

Applications will only be accepted through the electronic Resumix system. To apply, students must complete an electronic resume that contains required information plus self-nominate for desired announcements.

CPAC expects most selections to be made in the April-May time frame. Students who are selected will be contacted by phone or e-mail. Those not selected will continue to be referred as summer vacancies are received.

Questions can be directed to your servicing CPAC civilian personnel specialists or to Linda Ware 842-8680, Glen Reese 876-7401, Brenda Jones 842-7776 and Dee Brown 313-0266. (Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release)

Missile Defense Agency plans moving ahead

Schedule for arrival depends on funding

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The move of headquarters Missile Defense Agency from Washington, D.C. to Huntsville has begun and will proceed as funds and facilities become available.

That was part of the message from MDA director Lt. Gen. Trey Obering during a briefing March 13 in Huntsville. Some 2,200 of the agency's positions are to move here under last year's base realignment and closure actions.

"I would guess, based on surveys, you're only going to get about 15 to 20 percent of the folks to move," Obering said in response to a question from the audience. He said the good news is that those who do move with their jobs will be energetic and ready to start anew.

The balance of the positions would be filled by hiring locally and nationally.

Obering gave a ballistic missile defense update and described his ongoing



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GENERAL MEETING— Missile Defense Agency director Lt. Gen. Trey Obering gives an update for Huntsville officials.

efforts to reorganize MDA. "I started the reengineering before BRAC ever happened," he said.

His agency has laid the foundation for an integrated ballistic missile defense system. "We're not just building individual programs," he said. "We are tying these programs together."

For all they do, month belongs to military kids

Month of Military Child celebrated in April

They typically move around the world with their parents every few years. They're the new kids on the block and learn to meet new friends as they change schools and neighborhoods.

They are the military children.

The Defense Department designates April as the Month of the Military Child; and installations throughout the nation will be celebrating. This is a time to recognize the needs of young children and thank educators and others involved in building better futures for all children.

"Research clearly shows early learning experiences are critical to the growth and development of young children," said Shellie McDonald, training and curriculum specialist at the Child Development Center, said.

Month of the Military Child is a chance to celebrate the unique needs of military children, families and communities. Military child care programs are deemed an essential service for families, especially in the stressful times in today's world. It's a time to remember that support for teachers and programs can help give youngsters a great start.

The Child Developmental Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The School Age Services Program is accredited by the National After School Association. The Defense Department is dedicated to improving quality for children by encouraging all military programs to obtain and maintain accreditation standards.

Child and Youth Services have planned many activities to celebrate the Month of the Military Child. The theme is, "Children and Youth are the Building Blocks of the Future."

Parents are encouraged to attend as many of the month's events as possible.

Scheduled activities include the following:

- April 3 — Kickoff Parade beginning at 10 a.m. at the Child Development Center. Children, staff, parents and offi-



Courtesy photo

PLAY TIME— From left are Kai Story, Lastassja Franklin, caregiver Rosie Cherry and Justin Alexander.

cialists will march around the chapel to Youth Services.

- April 8 — Annual Block Party from 1-4 p.m. at the Youth Center.

- April 13 — Child Development Center open house from 5-6 p.m. Child Development Center parents will be invited to tour the center and meet with the

staff.

- April 15 — Redstone community egg hunt at 10 a.m. Vincent Park.

- April 21 — Olympic Day at the soccer field on the corner of Hughes and Goss roads at 10 a.m. Child Development Center children will participate in a variety of games.

- April 21 — Outdoor Carnival from 3-5 p.m. at School Age Services. Parents are invited.

- April 28 — Barbecue from 4-6 p.m. at Youth Services. Parents are invited.

For more information on the Month of the Military Child events, call McDonald at 876-7952.

Marching on road to West Point

Retired colonel's grandson earns academy appointment

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
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These days, Michael Allen's friends jokingly call him "Mr. West Point."

But in all honesty, Allen is that and much more – he is a 17-year-old, high achieving, soon-to-be graduate of St. Clair County High School who is preparing to embark on a military and academic career at the prestigious U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Warren comes with impressive credentials, as does every West Point candidate. He has a 3.68 grade point average, he is a member of his high school's Science Club and Beta Club, and is president of the Student Government Association, he was a star defensive lineman on the St. Clair football team and is running track this spring, and he holds down a part-time job. He has the endorsements of Congressman Spencer Bachus, Gov. Bob Riley and St. Clair County school officials, and the support of his friends and family, including

mom and dad, Karen and Paul Allen, and sister Lauren.

And he also has the ever-lasting encouragement and support of his grandfather — Eddie Allen, a retired colonel who is a mobilization and plan specialist for AMCOM G-3, Current Operations.

"Many accolades and memorials have been written about the Long Grey Line from West Point," Eddie Allen said. "Michael's attendance and graduation from that great institution will be a strong influence on this family and many outside the family. He is the oldest grandson and everybody is watching. God is going to use Michael in a big way."

Michael first expressed an interest in West Point as a freshman in high school. Although he was too young to apply at that time, he did receive information from the elite military college on what the requirements were for a West Point candidate. He used that information to develop a checklist that he followed during his high school career.

"I always wanted to be in the military because it's a great job to serve one's country," Allen said. "But, I didn't want

See **Appointment** on page 11



Courtesy photo

ARMY'S PAST AND FUTURE— Retired Col. Eddie Allen, an AMCOM employee, spends time with this grandson, Michael Allen, following a familiarization course at West Point last summer. Allen has recently received an appointment to West Point, one of about 15 appointments received by Alabama high school graduates each year. He will report for basic training at West Point on June 26.

Appointment

continued from page 10

to give up a college education and I've always liked a challenge."

There are about 15 Alabamians accepted to West Point each year. Currently, there are 63 Alabama residents attending West Point.

"West Point is a beautiful place," said Allen, who visited the campus last summer for a familiarization course that included sleeping in the barracks.

"It's exactly like I imagined it would be. I knew it was definitely where I wanted to go when I first saw it."

During the application process, West Point officials consider a candidate in three areas — leadership, physical ability and mental ability.

"I'm just kind of average by West Point standards," Allen said. "But, I'm also not all built up in one area. I have equal strengths in all three areas."

The application process for West Point took about two years to complete. Allen is one of 200 West Point candidates who received an assurance letter, which guaranteed him an appointment to West Point before he went through the interview process.

"I was very honored by that," he said. "They really wanted me."

"It's been kind of funny because I will get things in the mail from West Point and my parents have to wait until I get home to open it so they can see what they've sent me. They're just about as proud as can be. I love my parents to death. They've been supportive all the way."

Allen also makes a call to his grandfather every time he receives mail from West Point.

"I have to keep him updated," he said. "I know he is really proud."

It is difficult for Eddie Allen to talk about his grandson, the oldest of 18 grandchildren, without getting emotional. As a child, Allen often heard his grandfather and his uncle, Scott Jamar, tell stories about their military service. Eddie Allen served 37 years in the Army, with two years in Vietnam, one year in Korea and three years in Germany. As a DoD civilian, he has also served in Iraq and Kuwait. Jamar, a chief warrant officer 2 and a Black Hawk pilot for the 3rd Infantry Division, died April 2, 2003, when his helicopter crashed in the attack on Baghdad.

"Michael was greatly influenced by this young man and his stories of Army life and flying helicopters at Fort Rucker, Korea and Iraq," Eddie Allen said. "Scott died in the service of his country and I'm sure that is a huge influence on Michael. I know it also weighs heavy on my son, Paul, who is Michael's dad and Scott's brother."

Eddie Allen has only been a little surprised by Michael's aspirations to attend West Point, which includes four years of tuition, and room and board plus a salary, an appointment valued at \$225,000.

"I remember being with Michael in an evangelism class at our church in 2000,"



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TRADITION OF SERVICE— Retired Col. Eddie Allen stands near his photo that is part of the "Tradition of Heroes" display in the Sparkman Center's building 5300. Besides serving 37 years in the military, Allen has supported troops as a DoD civilian in Iraq and Kuwait. His grandson, Michael Allen, will continue the family's military tradition by attending the U.S. Military Academy in West Point.

he said. "We would listen and participate in the class. Then, we would pray and go out to do our part in the Great Commission to 'go and make disciples of all Nations.' I thought then that Michael would do something special. We have an awesome God and he is doing something very special through Michael."

With a June 26 report date for basic training, Allen is doing things to make sure he is ready for West Point. He is running a lot to get in even better physical shape and he will be getting his wisdom teeth removed soon. He also will be purchasing a pair of combat boots that he can break in before basic training.

Allen will pursue a degree in chemical engineering while at West Point. After graduation, he will be a commissioned second lieutenant and be assigned to an Army branch. He will be required to serve in the active Army for five years and in the Reserves for three years. Allen doesn't know if he will continue to serve after he completes his obligation.

"I'm not sure yet if I want to pursue a career in the military or in engineering yet," he said. "I've always loved working with chemicals and chemistry. I'm real good in math and science. So, we'll see."

As the grandfather of a West Point candidate and a retired Soldier who has a strong faith, Eddie Allen is proud of all the servicemen and women who continue to serve their nation, despite the dangers and risks involved.

"It is a great honor and privilege to serve in the military of this 'One Nation Under God,' whether as a private fresh from basic training or as a four-star general from West Point," Eddie Allen said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

OFFERING COMFORT— Jo Reid, coordinator of the Alabama State Chapter of the Home of the Brave Quilt Project, holds a quilt that will go to an Eva family who recently lost their Soldier in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reid works with some 100 quilters in Alabama to make quilts that will go to the families of fallen Soldiers as a way to show appreciation and gratitude to the grieving family. Reid is the wife of retired Col. James Reid, a Vietnam era veteran.

Healing through the warmth of a quilt

Quilters' works given to survivors' families

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

One by one the quilt blocks arrive and Jo Reid makes a quilt. With each stitch, Reid sews together a homemade heirloom that she hopes will be a comfort to a family in grief, a symbol of compassion for a family who has lost a Soldier.

During the past year, Reid has been collecting quilt blocks and putting them in quilts with the help of about 100 quilters in Alabama. The finished quilts, each with 15 blocks and measuring 48 inches by 84 inches, are given freely to show appreciation, gratitude and honor to Alabama families who endure the loss of a Soldier.

“We want to give a quilt to the family of each Alabama Soldier who has died in service to our country during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom,” Reid says. “This is our way of letting the families know that the rest of the country is thinking about them.”

Reid is the coordinator of the Alabama State Chapter of the Home of the Brave Quilt Project, a national quilt program involving quilters in 22 states.

The program, started by Don Beld of the Citrus Belt Quilters Guild in California, has reinstated a Civil War-era tradition. An estimated 250,000 quilts were made by volunteers of the U.S. Sanitary Commission during the Civil War and given to Union Soldiers. Of those quilts, only five are known to exist and only one is publicly exhibited.

“A lot of those quilts were buried with Soldiers,” Reid says.

Since 2002, about 1,400 quilts have been given to the families of Soldiers who have been killed during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since becoming the Alabama coordinator, Reid, the wife of retired Col. James Reid, has had a hand in making and delivering five quilts to the families of fallen Alabama Soldiers. Currently, Reid has quilters finishing up 10 more quilts.

“We have a lot of different quilters who make the blocks,” Reid says. “I put the first quilts together, but now I’ve got some quilt groups who are making the blocks and putting the quilts together themselves. Not all the quilters making quilts are the wives of Soldiers. Quilters are a very generous group.”

See **Quilts** on page 13

■ Quilts show appreciation to families of fallen Soldiers

Quilts

continued from page 12

Reid has recruited quilters close to her Scottsboro home. Both the Piece by Piece Guild and Star Stitchers in Scottsboro are helping with the project as are quilters from Piece Makers of Athens and a group of quilters in Decatur.

In keeping with its historical connection, Home of the Brave quilts are made with Civil War-era reproduction fabrics. The quilt block is a simple design – known as the Cross X or Album Block – that includes a white square in the middle where the maker signs her name.

“We try to do the quilts in Civil War reproduction fabrics so they look closer to the time period when they were first made,” Reid says.

Each quilt has a muslin patch added to the back that reads “This replica of a Civil War U.S. Sanitary Commission quilt was given to the family of (Soldier’s name) who died from injuries received while on active duty in (Iraq or Afghanistan).” Another muslin patch indicates that the quilt is a U.S. Sanitary Commission Reproduction. Each quilt also comes with a special certificate honoring the fallen Soldier.

Reid became involved with the Home of the Brave Quilt Project when a friend living in Washington state asked her if she would make a quilt for the family of a fallen Soldier from Washington. It wasn’t long after she completed the quilt that she was asked to be the project’s Alabama coordinator.

“Being a military wife, how could I say ‘No’?” she says.

She soon discovered her volunteer job would involve more than making quilts and recruiting other quilters to make quilts. She has also spent countless hours on the Internet searching for the families of fallen Alabama Soldiers.

“There is a lady in Birmingham who was making quilts on her own for the families of Soldiers,” Reid says. “But she’s ill now and the only information I have been able to get was that the last Alabama Soldier she made a quilt for died in June 2003.”

Reid has compiled a list of 40 Alabama Soldiers who have been killed in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom since 2002. Although she has been able to locate the families of five Alabama Soldiers who have died recently in the War on Terrorism, Reid has had difficulty finding the families of Soldiers who were killed before 2005.

“Finding families back from that time period is really hard,” she says. “Some have moved and left no forwarding address. Wives have remarried. I can find a Soldier’s name listed by the military, but a contact name for the family is not and the military can’t give out that information. We’ll give the quilt to any family

member we can find – a daughter, a brother, a wife or a mom and dad.”

When she does find a family, Reid calls them and tells them about the quilt program. She mails some of the quilts, such as one that went to a Mobile family and another to a Birmingham family. But if the family is living

in North Alabama, she would try to personally deliver a quilt.

“It’s extremely hard to talk to these families because of what they have gone through,” Reid says. “I only stay a few minutes when I deliver a quilt because it is such a tear jerker. A quilt I delivered recently in Enterprise brought a lot of tears because the Soldier was killed only five months ago.”

Reid keeps an album of pictures of each of the quilts that have been made and delivered to families. She also keeps correspondence from the families, such as the thank you card she received from the mother of a fallen Soldier who wrote that her quilt brings her comfort and warmth every night.

Reid does accept donations for the Home of the Brave Quilt Project to help pay for mailing and materials. The Tennessee Valley Quilters Association has helped by donating batting and fabric.

There is always a need for donations and new quilters to join the effort, and for information on how to locate families of fallen Soldiers. Those who would like to help with this project or have information about a fallen Soldier’s family, can contact Reid at (256) 259-2442 or through e-mail at joreid@charter.net. Her address is 3985 Old Larkinsville Road, Scottsboro, AL 35768.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HISTORICAL KEEPSAKE— Each quilt made by the Home of the Brave Quilt Project is a reproduction of a Civil War-era quilt that was made by volunteers for the U.S. Sanitary Commission and given to a Union Soldier. On the back of the quilts is a muslin patch stating that it is a reproduction given in honor of a Soldier’s ultimate sacrifice.

Over there

Team training Afghan army in logistics

By Lt. Col. WILLIAM SINGER
For the Rocket

GARDEZ, Afghanistan — Eleven Army and Air Force logistics people arrived at Gardez in December to begin the next step in creating a sustainable and trained Afghanistan army.

These logistics people were sent to establish regional logistics operations, and then train and mentor Afghanistan army logistics personnel to do those functions. They are among the first joint Army/Air Force embedded tactical trainers to arrive in Afghanistan to teach logistics to the Afghanistan army, and they have successfully opened the first regional supply depot in the country. They are just one part of a larger Air Force and Army team which has been tasked with logistics training across Afghanistan.

Working with active and National Guard Army, Navy and Romanian personnel, the new logistics ETTs are filling the niche needed by the Afghanistan army – self-sustaining logistics.

Master Sgt. Melicio Campos, an

instructor at the Army's Basic Ammunition course at Redstone, teaches the fundamentals of ammunition handling, inventory, issue and transportation to Afghanistan army ammunition personnel. Campos' next mission is to build a Corps Ammunition Storage Point to provide ammo for combat and training missions across three provinces.

Additionally, while deployed to Afghanistan, Campos and the logistics ETTs at Gardez have participated in 15 humanitarian assistance operations to the multitude of returnees to this region of the country. The team has assisted in delivering hundreds of pounds of U.S. donated clothing items, food, helping to coordinate joint United Nations humanitarian operations, and bringing more than 500 toys to local children on Christmas.

Editor's note: Lt. Col. William "Tol" Singer, military bomber division chief with 76th AMXG, Oklahoma City ALC, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., is the senior mentor for the Forward Support Depot at Gardez, Afghanistan.



Courtesy photo

TAKING ACCOUNT— Master Sgt. Melicio Campos, deployed from Redstone Arsenal, conducts inventory of Afghan ammunition.

Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Fund-raising campaign goes through May 15

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- AER On-Line Auction, now through May 15, at www.aer-redstone.com.

Brought to you by PEO Aviation. For information call Maj. Mathew McCauley 313-4260.

- Chick-fil-A on South Memorial Parkway is contributing 15 percent of its lunchtime revenue to AER every Thursday until May 15.

- Cinnamon Roll Sale, today from 8 a.m. until all are sold, at Sparkman building 5302, second floor kitchen. Hosted by IMMC, Transportation Division and Supply Chain Executive Division. Call Aubrey Fencher 842-8485 and Austin Lundy 842-7853.

- Coupon books for sale at \$12 each from 9-11 a.m. March 28 at Security Assistance Management Directorate building 7612/7613 and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 29 at Sparkman Cafeteria.

- Barbecue Plate and Bake Sale, March 30, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., in front of building 5309. Hosted by IMMC, Lower Tier Sustainment Logistics Directorate. Call Roosevelt Pitts 313-1068, Dave Moudy 313-

1069, Pam Reyer 313-1077 and Patricia Cox 842-7904.

- Motorcycle Poker Run, April 9 (rain or shine) from noon to 3 p.m. CD's Pub and Grill, 107 Arlington Drive, Madison. Hosted by IMMC, Associate Directorate, Missiles and Space. Call Mitchell Novalis 876-3564.

- Fourth annual AER Charity Car "Show of Support," April 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain date April 22). Veterans Memorial Museum in Huntsville, 2060A Airport Road. Hosted by Fox Army Health Center and Vets with Vettes & Corvette Owners. Call Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Perkins 955-8888, ext. 1146.

- Scented Candles, April 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sparkman Cafeteria hallway. Sponsored by IMMC, Maintenance Directorate, OLR Branch. Call Teri Benson 842-7717.

- Ice Cream Social, April 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., building 5300 hallway between 5301 and 5302. Hosted by IMMC, Maintenance Directorate, OLR Branch. Call Amos Richardson 955-9395 and Danny Berger 955-6193.

- Homemade Chili and Bake Sale, April 20 from 11 a.m. until sold out, building 5300, first floor, between 5301 and 5302. Hosted by IMMC, Business Management Office. Call Scott Bryson 842-6677.

- Used Book Sale, April 24-28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sparkman Center first floor, building 5300, corridor between 5303 and 5304. Hosted by IMMC. 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.

- Garrison AER Fund-raising Day, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., building 4488. Call Cathy Hays 876-5041.

- "No-Tap" Bowling Tournament, May 4, noon to 3 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. Hosted by IMMC, Depot Maintenance Directorate. Tickets are \$10 and entitle you to three games. Call Don Slagle 876-3445, Lynn Moore 955-6001 and Sandra Swartz 842-6772.

- Barbecue Plate and Bake Sale, May 11 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., in front of building 5309. Hosted by IMMC, Lower Tier Sustainment Logistics Directorate.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BAKE SALE-- Mary Epps of the Integrated Materiel Management Center buys cookies from Ashley Johnson during the IMMC's Requirements Division bake sale for Army Emergency Relief on March 14 at the Sparkman Complex.

Call Roosevelt Pitts 313-1068, Dave Moudy 313-1069, Pam Reyer 313-1077 and Patricia Cox 842-7904.

- Scented Candles, May 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sparkman Cafeteria Hallway. Brought to you by IMMC, Maintenance Directorate, OLR Branch. Call Teri Benson 842-7717.



Photo by Spc. Barbara Ospina

JUST CHILLIN'— Zeko, an explosive detection canine, takes a breather, after his handler puts his specially made ballistic “doggles” on for his daily training at the newly built training course at Forward Operating Base McHenry, Iraq.

Base in Iraq benefits from ‘sniff support’

Battalion dog detects bombs

By Spc. BARBARA OSPINA
Army News Service

KIRKUK, Iraq — With a modified ballistic vest, a Screaming Eagle combat patch and a Combat Action Badge, Zeko still may not look like the average Soldier, but he has become a valuable asset to the troops of Forward Operating Base McHenry.

The explosive detection dog has found improvised bombs buried several feet in the hard desert ground.

Zeko has brought new meaning to the phrase “man’s best friend,” said Bastogne Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, stationed at FOB McHenry.

“He’s got a good rapport with the Soldiers,” said Staff Sgt. David Silberman, Zeko’s kennel master and partner for nearly two and a half years now.

“Our missions are really broad; we support everything,” Silberman reflected. “Every day we are learn-

ing something different for us to do.”

When it comes to his job, Zeko may be at the top of his game, but Silberman says he trains on a regular basis, just like Soldiers.

Silberman said it takes on average two and a half years to get an explosive dog certified, but it does not end there; each dog must also go through an annual certification. Each dog must have a minimum 95-percent success rate on explosive detection or the dog is decertified.

“Explosive dogs are trained in nine different explosive odors,” Silberman stated confidently, while petting his partner. “He’s got to find every single one; he can’t miss them.”

Although Zeko is currently tested at 98.7 percent, and trained in desert warfare, Silberman takes it upon himself to keep their team up to the task by training everyday.

Using a newly built training course, Zeko practices many different obstacles.

Zeko warms up, walking through a small jump, followed by stairs and tunnels.

The real workout starts when shouts echo through the air, fol-

lowed by yelping. Silberman holds Zeko tightly, while a volunteer Soldier wearing a protective sleeve runs. Then, at the right moment, Silberman releases the now vicious dog. Zeko sprints after the man, leaping into the air and locking his jaw on the Soldier’s protected arm.

Attempts to shake him off fail as Zeko just bites harder. Then with a single command from his handler, Zeko releases the Soldier and returns to sit next to Silberman. A few seconds later, Zeko is rewarded with playful hugs and praises.

Not only does this furry four-legged Soldier pull his weight in the fight against improvised explosive devices, he has become very protective of his new Bastogne comrades.

“We get to spend a lot of time with [Soldiers], he’s really close, and really protective of them,” Silberman said. “When we are taking rounds, he’s watching and really alert of his Soldiers, so he’s got a pretty good rapport with those guys.”

Editor’s note: Spc. Barbara Ospina serves with 1st BCT Public Affairs, 101st Airborne Division.

Management fellow finalist looks toward future

Focusing on challenges appeals to candidate

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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There are lots of kinds of fellows – my fellow Americans, fellow members of team Redstone and too many others to name. However, Gregory Walker is working on being a very special kind of fellow. He has made the finalists list for Presidential Management Fellow.

Walker, a logistics management specialist for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, is no stranger to ambition. As a young Soldier, he made the journey from private to staff sergeant in just six years. He served as both a noncommissioned officer and as a commissioned officer before a medical discharge put him back in civilian clothes after 12 years on active duty. He also managed to graduate magna cum laude with a bachelor's in sociology from Park University. He was the recipient of an Army Green to Gold Scholarship and a Meritorious Service Medal.

In the middle of all of that, he met and married his wife and fellow Soldier, Rosalind.



Photo by Kelley Lane

ON CALL— Gregory Walker, a logistics management specialist, is one busy fellow in his Sparkman Center office.

"She's working here at Redstone, too, in the PM also. She's just in a different location," he said. "She's proud of me. She's been there with me all along the way for nine years."

When a job opportunity at Redstone brought them here, Gregory went on with

business as usual – giving his best to get where he wanted to go. That included going back to school for his master's in management from the Florida Institute of Technology, which he is expected to receive with honors this May.

Six months ago he read an article about the PMF program and decided to give it a shot.

"I have applied for things like this in the past," he said. "I came in to federal service as a logistics management specialist intern. This is a lot different in that as an intern, you are guaranteed a job when you're done. With this, you are not done until you have the job. There are no guarantees."

The first step was to secure a nomination from the dean of Florida Tech. Having taken classes with the dean as an instructor, Walker knew he was familiar with him both personally and academically. After the nomination was written, Walker moved on to the application process. When the field was narrowed down, Walker was still on the list. He moved on to the next portion of the process, which included a lengthy test in Atlanta.

"It took about eight hours," Walker said. "A lot of it was geared toward problem solving applications. They put us in groups to see not only how we did indi-

vidually, but also how we worked as a team."

After numerous assessments and reviews, Walker's name remains on the list. As a finalist, he is now at the point where he is actually applying for positions. Walker said he is limiting his applications to the Department of Defense and Homeland Security agencies.

"With my background as a Soldier and here at Redstone, that's where my interest lies," he said.

Where it all goes from here is still up in the air for Walker. He's in the middle of the application process to go forward with the PMF program. The attraction and opportunities of Redstone aren't making it any easier to think above a prospective move.

"My family likes it here," he said. "I just received notification yesterday that I'm being promoted as well. We're just checking out our opportunities. If I can move up with all of this (PMF) then we'll do what's best for us. Right now we're just seeing where it goes. Ideally I would get something that would allow me to come back to Redstone."

Whatever move he decides to make, Walker is sure it will be an upward one.

"I've always been a driven person," he said. "I like to find challenges, focus on them and get the job done."

Letterkenny noted for Avenger reset

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — Letterkenny Army Depot is the only Avenger depot in the world. The Avenger is an air defense missile system consisting of a pedestal mounted Stinger missile battery that operates from a Humvee chassis. Avenger provides protection to rear echelon units and command posts against low-altitude and high-speed airplanes and helicopters.

Letterkenny resets Avengers to a Fully Mission Capable status after they return from the unit. The depot has worked with many units in performing reset: 3ID, 101st, 82nd, 4ID, 3ACR, National Guard units from Illinois and Ohio, 2nd LCR, 1CAV and 2-6ADA. It has completed 349 Avengers since program inception in fiscal 2004.

Reset involves working together. Let-

terkenny employees and the employees in support of the Project Manager, Cruise Missile Defense System work side-by-side in pre-inspection of the Avengers to agree on the requirement. Depot employees then perform the repairs conforming to reset standards. Once complete the project coordinator from AMCOM, along with Soldiers from the unit and Letterkenny employees, conduct an inspection prior to shipment.

Recently 6th ADA Brigade commander, Col. Kendal Cunningham and 2-6 ADA Battalion commander Lt. Col. Mike Carter from Fort Bliss, Texas, visited Letterkenny. Accompanying them on this visit were Capt. Stephen Miller, Chief Warrant Officer Joseph West, Chief Warrant Officer Steve Pawlicki, Staff Sgt. Jones and Pfc. Cory Morris. Letterkenny just completed resetting 10 Avengers for the Fort Bliss School to be used in their training and maneuvers.

"When it comes to rebuilding our Avengers, I've found Letterkenny to be reliable," Cunningham said. "The employees at LEAD can be counted on to provide a weapon system that is produced on time." (*Letterkenny Army Depot release*)



Courtesy photo

Broadway bound

Kirsten Marie King, a senior at Auburn University majoring in theatre performance, has made the dean's list with a 3.76 gpa. The 2002 Grissom High graduate is the daughter of Geneva and Samuel King. Her father teaches acquisition management at Defense Acquisition University.

Time to file taxes with assistance

Center provides free service for active and retired military

By Capt. DANIEL PAPAJCIK
Tax assistance officer

It is not too late to take advantage of the Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center. The center will be open until April 17 to prepare your tax returns for free. The center provides free tax preparation and filing to eligible clients, which include active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents.

This service is free and, based on the IRS's schedule for refunds, will have your refund to you within a week of electronic filing. The center has prepared more than 2,000 returns through March 16, netting over \$1.5 million in refunds. Its services saved clients more than \$225,000 in preparation fees paid to private preparers.

The center is located in building 3489, at the corner of Ajax and Zeus Roads. All tax assistance is strictly limited to personal tax returns. Soldiers and volunteer tax assisters provide both computer-assisted tax preparation and direct electronic filing of federal and state returns. Once again, all active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents are eligible for tax assistance. Reservists or National Guard members who are on active duty orders for more than 29 days (and their dependents) can also take advantage of this free service.

The services offered by the center provide eligible clients several distinct advantages over commercial tax preparers. First and foremost, the services are absolutely free. In contrast, the national average for commercial tax preparation and filing fees is well over \$100 per return. Second, the center is conveniently located on Redstone Arsenal. Finally, clients will not be confronted with the

temptation of refund anticipation loans. These costly loans are traditionally offered by commercial tax preparers and involve extremely high interest rates. Although clients can get money immediately with a refund anticipation loan, it will generally cost them a large portion of their refund; sometimes clients will forfeit up to 10 percent of their refund for a seven-day loan. By using the center, most clients will get the entire refund in approximately seven days.

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, with tax return preparation offered by appointment only. Extended hours for walk-ins are offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 until 7 to accommodate those in need of services after normal duty hours. For an appointment or more information, call the center at 842-1040.

Taxpayers should bring the following items to their appointment: all W2s, 1099s,

1098s and brokerage statements; Social Security cards for spouse and dependents; spouse (or a power of attorney that authorizes filing on his or her behalf) when filing a married filing jointly return; any receipts for deductible expenses; check showing bank account number and routing number; last year's tax return or other applicable years; dependent care provider's EIN, name, address, phone number and Social Security number; and advance child tax credit notice if received. Servicemembers can download their W2s from the myPay web site. Be sure to contact all past employers from 2005 to ensure corresponding W2s will be mailed to the correct address. The center has a dedicated computer to print W2s in the waiting room.

The center staff looks forward to serving the tax preparation needs of Redstone Arsenal. For more information, visit its web site at <http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/tax-center.html>.

Aircraft maintenance rises with new cleaning system

Corpus Christi Army Depot adds room for more aircraft

By JAMEY GIDDENS
CCAD publicist

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas — With the construction of one new Plastic Media Blast system complete and another tentatively set for completion by late spring, Corpus Christi's Airframe Cleaning Area is well on its way to drastically reducing travel time for cleaning and stripping of aircraft, as well as allowing for the increased capacity to handle more aircraft.

"Because of the Army recapitalization program, the requirement for aircraft paint stripping has increased," said Richard Medrano, an industrial engineer on the project. "The Recap program basically changed the way we strip aircrafts."

Recapitalization of an aircraft is defined as a major overhaul program to bring an airframe to "like new" condition.

Prior to implementation of the Recap program, aircraft with paint jobs that were flaking, cracked, crazed or otherwise deteriorated to the point it no longer per-

formed its functional requirements were stripped. Examples of these functional requirements include infrared hiding capability and protection of the aircraft's substrate from corrosion.

"Now with the Recap program, the stripping requirements have increased," Medrano said. "The Recap objectives include stripping of the interior of the aircraft, including the floorboards, to provide corrosion treatment and apply corrosion prevention barriers."

Medrano said having the additional responsibility of stripping the interiors of aircraft proved to be a burden for the Airframe Cleaning Shop.

"The Recap program, in addition to an increased workload, created a bottleneck at the PMB process," Medrano said. "At the time there was only one aging PMB booth on the depot to support the entire workload."

The Airframe Cleaning Shop supports the overhaul of the UH-60, CH-47, AH-64, UH-1N, AH-1N, SH-60 and HH-60 aircraft. "Due to the increased workload, the Airframe Cleaning Shop slipped its schedule on four CH-47 aircraft (at the time the Justification and Impact Study for the temporary PMB Booth was writ-

ten) which caused a delay in returning those aircrafts to service."

Medrano said it was former Corpus Christi chemical engineer Jim Holiday who got the process of acquiring new booths rolling.

"Jim (Holiday) wrote the initial Validation of Economic Analysis, and then I took the project over when he moved to AMRDEC," Medrano said.

Holiday's analysis requested \$2,080,363 for the construction of a Plastic Media Blast system to replace the aging PMB system in Hangar 44. Funding was provided via the Capital Investment Program. This booth will be larger than the PMB that Medrano released for production Sept. 30, 2005. The total cost for construction of the smaller PMB booth was approximately \$383,000.

"I wrote the Justification and Impact

Paper for the small booth and the UH-60 and CH-47 program managers were supportive of our needs," Medrano said. The program managers agreed to split the cost.

"The small booth was designed for stripping the interiors of aircraft, but has also proven to be very useful for stripping small parts. It allows us to strip any parts and components that come in with an aircraft, so we don't have to tie up the large booth which is used primarily for stripping the exteriors of aircraft," Medrano said. Another benefit of the two new PMB systems is that they will both be located in the Airframes Cleaning Area, which will make for a Lean process.

"Having the PMB system in the same hangar as the cleaning bays will increase production by reducing non-value added activities, such as moving aircraft across Ocean Drive," Medrano said.

326th Chemical makes first shot at goal

Dragons survive tourney opener

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Top-seeded 326th Chemical Company was missing one of its key players on opening night of the postseason basketball tournament.

Miguel Smith, the Dragons' leading scorer, was on temporary duty at Fort Riley, Kan., so the 326th had to face an improved HHC 59th team without him.

"He should be back (this) week," 326th player/coach Eddie Bryan said. "So we've got to keep on winning the games (until he returns)."

The 326th struggled but held off HHC 59th 44-34 on March 15 at Pagano Gym.

Michael Gola led the 326th (11-1) with 18 points and Derrick Davis had 16. The Dragons were up 21-17 at halftime.

HHC 59th (1-11) got 16 points from center Jeff Reuter.

"We forgot to go inside," 59th coach Jonathan McDougal said. "We've got to go to our inside shot. If we get the inside game, we'll loosen up our outside game. And we've got to rebound. We've got to put a body on a body. They got entirely too many chances — second-chance points."

MEDDAC 50, Bravo 47: Tommie Brooks hit three consecutive 3-pointers for a 46-45 lead with three minutes left as the medics won the tournament's second game.

Brooks, a small forward/shooting guard, sank two free throws with 25 seconds remaining to end the scoring. He finished with 17 points.

"Defense," MEDDAC coach Edmond Williams said of the key to the win. "And we had a hot hand in No. 20 (Brooks)."

Kenster Shannon and Eric James added 10 points apiece for MEDDAC (7-5). The score was tied 21-all at halftime.

Antonio Guenovski scored 17 points, Lawrence Scott had 11 and Roderick Brown 10 for the Bulldogs (6-6).

Headquarters & Alpha 48, Marines 37: Shooting guard Jerry Ingram poured in a game-high 24 points as the Gators won game three.

"It was ball movement and teamwork and defense," he said of the victory.

Santana Hawkins contributed 10 points. Headquarters & Alpha (8-4) overcame a 29-28 halftime deficit.

"It took a lot of work but we finally got it to work down into the post," Gators coach Chetoria Jackson said. "And once we started running the floor, they couldn't handle it."

Damian Cason had 18 for the Marines (5-7).

In games March 16, defending champion Charlie (9-3) won by forfeit over NCO Academy (3-9), 326th Chemical beat MEDDAC 52-45 and Bravo eliminated HHC 59th 47-38. The tournament final is Thursday night at 6 at Pagano Gym.

Regular season recap: On March 13, the final night of the regular season, Charlie won by forfeit over MEDDAC and the Marines beat 326th Chemical 54-51.

Final regular season standings were:
Eastern Conference — Charlie (8-3), Headquarters & Alpha (7-4), MEDDAC (6-5) and HHC 59th (1-10).
Western Conference — 326th Chemical (10-1), Bravo (6-5), Marines (5-6) and NCO Academy (3-8).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PLAYING CATCHUP— HHC 59th small forward Joel Carter dribbles up-court in the 44-34 loss to 326th Chemical in the postseason tournament opener.

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Amateur softball night

The Alabama Amateur Softball Association has formed a partnership with the Huntsville Stars, the Double-A affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers. June 16 has been designated as ASA Night. This special night is targeted at all ASA registered teams, adult and youth, in the area. The Huntsville Stars have set up a discount package for teams. This event will include an appearance by Kelly Kretschman, Olympic gold medalist in softball, as well as fireworks that will be held after the baseball game at Joe Davis Stadium.

Youth fitness

Youth Sports is conducting a fitness program for ages 12-18 from now through May 17 at the Youth Center. The program includes strength training, cardiovascular conditioning, flexibility and education. It meets Monday and Wednesday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. each week. There is no program fee, but central registration fee of \$18 will apply, if not already enrolled at CYS Central Registration. For more information, call 313-3699.

Golf bus trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring a golf trip to the Dancing Rabbit Golf Course at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw, Miss. This three-day trip will depart May 19 at around 6 a.m. and return May 21 about 8 p.m. There will be two 18-hole tournaments held on the two Dancing Rabbit courses (the Oaks and the Azaleas). The Callaway Handicap system will be used in each tournament to make the events competitive regardless of an individual's handicap. Cost for this trip is \$225 per person based upon double occupancy. Included in this rate is two nights stay at the Pearl River Resort, bus fare, green fees and shared cart for two rounds of golf, awards, and snacks and beverages on the bus. A non-golfing spouse fee is available at \$125. For reservations, e-mail Bob Olson at bob.olson@amrdec.army.mil. A \$125 per person deposit is due by March 31, and final payment will be due by May 12. Space is limited so make your reservation today.

Senior softball

The Huntsville Senior Softball league is seeking softball players who will be age 55 or older by Dec. 31. The slow-pitch

league consists of players of all skills and abilities. For information call Ray Beverly 859-7419 or Fred Garcia 883-1135.



Conferences & Meetings

Toastmasters

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

Enlisted spouses

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

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting March 29 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker Joe Massonelli is to discuss the past and future of Wal-Mart. For more information, call retired Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323.

Logistics workshop

The Logistics Support Activity's Worldwide Logistics Training Workshop is April 24-28 at the Sparkman Center. This workshop offers an opportunity for attendees, from strategic through tactical levels, to receive instruction and obtain a wide range of information on logistics systems, programs and initiatives. The theme for this year's workshop is "Delivering ACTIONABLE Logistics Information to the Warfighter." Soldiers, civilians and contractors can register online by completing the 2006 WLTW Registration Form at <https://www.logsa.army.mil>. Registration will be open through April 14. Questions concerning the workshop can be e-mailed to wltw@logsa.army.mil.

Fleet reserve branch

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will have its monthly meeting Saturday at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565, exit 3. For information call Gene Aittala 773-6283 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

Parents committee

The Child and Youth Services Parent

Advisory Committee will meet March 28 at 11 a.m. in the Redstone Room, Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 (phone 876-7952). All parents are encouraged to attend the PAC meetings. Parent Participation Points are awarded for attendance; five 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.

Technical communicators

Society for Technical Communication will have a joint meeting with Human Factors and Ergonomics Society on March 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lone Star Steakhouse, 5901 University Drive. For information e-mail bshardin_at_home@yahoo.com.

Contract seminar

National Contract Management Association presents an educational seminar, titled "The Service Contract Act, A Trap for Unsuspecting Contractors," March 30 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at BAE System Analytical Solutions Inc., 310 Voyager Drive. Cost is \$30 for NCMA members, \$40 for non-members. For more information, call Joey Strachan 713-5902.

Logistics society

The Logistics Data Standardization Seminar will be hosted by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics on May 2-4 at the Officers and Civilians Club. This seminar is to provide life cycle logistics professionals with the latest information on emerging logistics data standardization concepts/changes and the latest supportability tools, techniques and lessons learned in product data use. For more information, e-mail Randy Gibbs at randy.gibbs1@us.army.mil.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume

your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt. 1st Class Harold Cook 876-8710 or Chief Warrant Officer Robert Smith 955-9722.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-4 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. The Thrift Shop is accepting spring clothing and Easter items. On a trial basis, the shop will take early afternoon appointments. 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

See Announcements on page 23

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. 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.

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 center

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is accepting requests for tax appointments; call 842-1040. Federal and state returns are prepared and filed electronically for free. This service is for active duty and retired military and their family members. The center is open through April 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday by appointment only. Walk-ins are accepted from 5-7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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 this Friday night, 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.

Comedy club

The Officers and Civilians Club will hold its first Comedy Review on Friday 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 continues 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>.

Johnson High reunion

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

AER 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.

Aviation scholarships

Tennessee Valley Chapter, Army Aviation Association of America awards scholarships and interest-free loans annually to members of AAAA and their spouses, unmarried siblings, unmarried children, and unmarried grandchildren of current and deceased members. In 2005, 17 Scholarships worth \$29,500 were awarded based on Tennessee Valley participation, affiliation and matching fund activity. May 1 is the deadline for 2006 scholarship applications. The member's

See Announcements on page 25

effective date of AAAA membership must be on or before May 1, 2005 for 2006 applications unless the member is deceased. The one-year requirement for all uniformed active duty, Army Reserve and Army National Guard members is automatically waived. Some scholarships are specifically reserved for enlisted, warrant officer, company grade, and Army civilian members. The applicant must be attending an accredited college or university or selected for fall entry as an undergraduate or graduate. Applicants who will attend a service academy are ineligible for a grant or loan. No recipient can hold concurrent AAAA scholarships. For more information, see the AAAA web site <http://www.quad-a.org/>, Scholarship link, or call Tom Harrison, Tennessee Valley Chapter vice president for scholarships, 319-0100.

Warrant officer scholarship

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Warrant Officer Association will present its annual \$1,000 scholarship award for 2006. Applications will be accepted from the children (natural and adopted), dependent stepchildren under age 21 (seniors in high school or currently enrolled college freshmen), and spouses of members of the active, National Guard, Reserve, and retired military and DoD civilians/contractors in the Tennessee Valley. Deadline to submit packet is May 1. To download a packet and application form, visit www.redstonewarrants.com.

Test week 2006

The OSD Defense Test Resource Management Center, in cooperation with the International Test and Evaluation Association, announces Test Week 2006 will be held June 5-9 at the Von Braun Center. Keynote speakers, panel discussions, exhibit information and registration information can be found on the web site www.testweek.org. This conference is also listed in TIP, vendor: Westar Corporation. For information call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

Short courses

In conjunction with Test Week, two short courses, "Practical Applications of M&S to Transformation" and "Interoperability Certification and Training Process," will be taught June 5. Both courses are in TIP, vendor: Westar Corporation, or the registration information is on the web site www.testweek.org. For information call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

Dissertation award

The International Society of Logistics and the Logistics Education Foundation announce the 2006 Dissertation Proposal Award Competition for Promising Research in System Design for Reliability, Maintainability and Supportability; Logistics Systems and Maintenance; Business Logistics; and Supply Chain Management. The 2006 SOLE Dissertation Award provides a \$3,000 grant to a Ph.D. candidate and recognition by the society through publication of an article in the SOLE "Logistics Spectrum" based on the completed dissertation. The money will be distributed as follows: \$2,000 presented at the annual symposium Aug. 15-17, \$500 upon receipt by SOLE of a bound copy of the completed dissertation, \$500 upon acceptance of a minimum 1,500-word article by the "Logistics Spectrum" of a summary of the dissertation. Applications and supporting documentation are due April 7. The contact is Martha C. Cooper, professor of marketing and logistics, Max M. College of Business at Ohio State University, 514 FH, 2100 Neil Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43210-1144; phone 614-292-5716, fax 614-292-0879 and e-mail cooper.7@osu.edu. The application materials can be accessed at http://fisher.osu.edu/~cooper_7/.

Physical training test

Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Garrison will administer the Army Physical Fitness Test every Wednesday in April for all Soldiers assigned or attached to the Garrison. The AFPT will begin at 6:30 a.m. each Wednesday. Note the change of the primary location for this event from the field adjacent to Tin City to HHC headquarters, building 3206 for push-up/sit-up events. This change of location is due to the chance of inclement weather. Special accommodations will be made for sections wanting to make this a morale-building event. Please call 1st Sgt. McIntyre 842-7091 or Mr. Gibson 876-7797 to verify that permanent/temporary profiles are on record at the unit. For all personnel that have temporary profiles which preclude them from taking the APFT, weigh-in will be conducted at 7:30 a.m. the day of the APFT.

Infantry reunion

The Southeastern Chapter of the 88th Infantry Division Association will hold its

Spring Reunion April 27-30 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Veterans of the 88th Infantry (Blue Devil) Division, Trieste U.S. Troops, U.S. Forces Austria and the 88th Regional Readiness Command are invited. For more information, call Robert McCall 881-6325.

Panoply volunteers

Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers' Community Projects Committee is recruiting volunteers to help with the Panoply Arts Festival April 28-30 at Big Spring Park. Most of the shifts are three hours or less. For more information or a volunteer form, call Eura Reaves 842-7093.

Veterinary clinic

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

Women's history program

Team Redstone's Women's History Month Committee invites you to attend the annual Women's History Month observance. The keynote speaker is Command Sgt. Maj. Michele S. Jones, command sergeant major of Army Reserve Command. The program will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, call Demetria Cruz 876-9718 or Stephanie Feltmeyer 876-0023.

Genealogy session

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will present "Writing a Compelling Family History," by genealogist Howard Blood, at 7 p.m. March 20 at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library auditorium, 915 Monroe St. For information call 883-5650.

Federal employment

Do you have questions about applying for federal jobs? Would you like to know how resumes are processed and rated? Then don't miss a Federal Employment Briefing on March 30 from 9-11a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. To reserve a seat, call Debra Jefferson 876-5397.

Festival participants

If you are interested in participating in the Asian Pacific American Festival as a performer or vendor May 24 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, call Gladys Lee 876-5844.

Education center

The Army Education Center will be closed for Web-based GoArmyEd staff training on Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. The center will reopen for business at noon.

Newcomer orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation on April 4 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338, Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers,



Courtesy photo

Space museum

The International Military Student Office took four international students to visit the U.S. Space & Rocket Center on March 11. From left are Capt. Ahmed El-Houty of Egypt, Capt. Ahmed Al Zahrani of Saudi Arabia, Simona Munda of Slovenia and Capt. Hao-Ming Chen of Taiwan.

information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone. Civilian employees, contractors, retirees and military spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

Scholarship winner

The North Alabama University of Missouri -Rolla Alumni Section has selected Nicholas Adams of Dothan as the 2006-07 scholarship recipient. This is an annual scholarship awarded by each alumni section used to promote the university in various regions of the country. The North Alabama section includes Alabama, Mississippi and southern Tennessee.

Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center will close at

noon March 31st for mandatory annual training. All clinics and the pharmacy will be closed for the rest of the day. The Primary Care Clinic will be open April 1 from 8 a.m. until noon for scheduled appointments. The health center is closed Sundays. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments. Fox has no emergency room or emergency medical services. Dial 911 to activate EMS.

Small businesses

The Army Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center Small Business Office will hold its seventh annual Small Business Open House April 5. This event, which is free but requires registration, is designed to teach contractors and businesses more about the center's small business initiatives, and provide networking opportunities between small businesses and large prime contractors. An optional lunch is offered, but the \$20 cost must be paid at the time of registration. More information will be posted on the center's web site at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/>.