

Redstone Rocket

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Utilities bills cause belt tightening

Garrison recommends energy conservation

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Rising utility costs have caused the Garrison to change how it provides drinking water, sewage collection and natural gas for Redstone Arsenal.

Redstone will begin purchasing water from Huntsville Utilities within the next two months and eventually close its potable water treatment plant.

Sewage collection was privatized last October when the Army turned over the system to PDR Properties Inc. This means the utilities service provider owns and operates sewage collection for Redstone.

The Arsenal began purchasing natural gas from a third-party contractor, Interconn Resources Inc., in October. Huntsville Utilities receives a transportation fee for transporting the natural gas to Redstone.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WATER WORLD— Utility engineer Jerry Hinson stands in front of the potable water treatment plant which will eventually close after Redstone begins purchasing drinking water from Huntsville Utilities. An average of 3.2 million gallons per day goes to the plant on Jungerman Road, a six-operator facility which runs three shifts, seven days weekly.

Utilities costs for Redstone represent about \$46 million annually, including water, electricity, natural gas and steam. Natural gas prices alone increased about 70 percent this

year, according to utility engineer Jerry Hinson of the Directorate of Public Works.

"It's a major part of our budget," Hinson said of utilities costs.

Electricity rates continue to rise. The Arsenal purchases electricity from the Tennessee Valley Authority and the distribution system is maintained by Chugach Management Services Inc., the base support contractor. The electrical rate has increased 15 percent since October 2004. An additional 9.95 percent rate increase arrived April 1. Electricity and steam cost about \$20 million apiece annually.

The Defense Department envisioned privatization as a method by which military installations could obtain safe, technologically current and environmentally sound utility systems, at a relatively lower cost than they would under continued government ownership. But this hasn't always been the case. Some installations found the method more expensive.

"We tried to privatize water, electricity and natural gas, (but) we were not successful in awarding the contract," Hinson said. "So recently we requested

See **Energy** on page 3

Worker's contributions cited for war effort

Manager earns recognition as Army civilian of year

By KARI HAWKINS
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Whenever Dr. Steven Messervy has a bad day at work he focuses on one image – the young men and women Soldiers in the Global War on Terrorism who rely on Army technology to succeed on the battlefield and return home safely.

As the general manager of NAMEADSMA for PEO Missiles and Space and a colonel in the Army Reserves, Messervy knows the support he and other Army employees give the Soldiers makes a big difference in the military's ability to win at war.

"Our duty is to win wars," he said. "That's what the Army does and whatever we can do to support it, that's what we do."

Messervy has spent nearly 30 years providing support to Soldiers in his duties as an Army civilian employee. He was honored March 28 for his commitment and dedication by being selected as the Department of the Army's Civilian of the Year at the annual Association of the U.S. Army Redstone-Huntsville Chapter awards dinner at the Von Braun Center North Hall.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TROPHY WINNER— From left are AUSA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter president Emily Vandiver, Civilian of the Year honoree Dr. Steven Messervy and Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury.

See **Civilian** on page 5

An open lane random survey

What woman do you admire most?

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Cadet Bradley Hyde
"My wife, **Christy**, because she's the most intelligent, caring and beautiful woman I've ever known."



Jenny Dunford
Military spouse
"I admire **Amelia Earhart**. She took on a man's world and made it happen. She was awesome."

Nancy Forbes
Retiree
"I would say **Clara Barton**. She was the pioneer of the Army's nursing program. She started the **Red Cross**, too."



Pfc. Robert Mathieson
"I admire my mom. She always told me that I could do anything or be anything that I wanted to be."



Quote of the week

Why do we fall? So that we can learn to pick ourselves up.

— Line from the movie "Batman Begins" (2005)

Letter to the Editor

Personnel fight enters next round

In the (March 22) *Redstone Rocket*, an article was presented that indicated that DoD was pressing forward with its plan to implement National Security Personnel System. The current plan only calls for the implementation within the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center (SCCPOC) and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC). No other agency or organization located on or around Redstone Arsenal will be affected at this time.

Within the SCCPOC, only the non-bargaining unit employees will be affected by the conversion to the new NSPS pay-band and pay-for-performance system.

As a result of the lawsuit filed by AFGE and the other DoD unions, Judge Sullivan ruled that the adverse action, appeals and labor relations proposals submitted by DoD exceeded the authorities granted by the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2004, Section XI. Of most significance is the ruling on labor

relations. Without the labor relations provisions detailed in the DoD enabling regulation, any change to working conditions are still subject to the collective bargaining requirements as set forth in Chapter 71 of the 5 U.S. Code. In short, if the Secretary of Defense wanted to change any part of our working conditions (pay, performance measurement, adverse action, appeals, RIF procedures, etc.), the agency would be obligated by law to give notification and bargain with us before finalizing any such changes.

DoD is preparing to appeal Judge Sullivan's decision to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The date for this appeal has not been set. AFGE and the other DoD unions are also preparing for the next round. Until such time as a higher court overturns the lower court decision, we do not anticipate that DoD will attempt to implement any aspect of the NSPS for employees who are protected by a union. The Secretary of Defense does not want

to be subjected to the collective bargaining process.

In summary, for all Redstone area DoD employees who are not within the Civilian Personnel arena and who are part of the bargaining unit covered by AFGE Local 1858 (Supervisory and Confidential employees are not part of the bargaining unit), NSPS implementation is not imminent. Although no time frames have been provided, we estimate that it will be at least several months before the legal wickets are cleared. AFGE Local 1858 will continue to provide the most updated information available. If you have any questions, please call 876-4880 or send an e-mail to afge-user@redstone.army.mil. You may also visit our web site located at www.local1858.com, as we will publish all of our updates to our web site, as well.

Don Eiermann
president, AFGE Local 1858

Air Force general applauds unmanned aerial vehicles



AERIAL VIEW— Maj. Gen. Norman Seip, assistant deputy chief of staff for air, space and information operations for the Air Force, speaks during last week's workshop.

Seip describes growth for UAV use in war

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

An Air Force general officer brought the operator's perspective to a tri-service unmanned systems safety workshop March 28-30 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Maj. Gen. Norman Seip, assistant deputy chief of staff for air, space and information operations for the Air Force, spent a year in the desert and saw unmanned operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. He spoke to the more than 200 attendees March 28.

"The use and potential (use) by both ourselves and our adversaries out there are growing every day," Seip said of unmanned aerial systems.

Just as joint-service operations have advanced, so has the field of unmanned systems which perform missions without putting servicemembers in harm's way.

"Today we have folks that are doing the right thing because they know what needs to be done," Seip said. "They're that Nintendo generation."

Examples of key mission areas for unmanned aerial systems include deep coverage and survivability, positive target identification and battle damage assessment, and survivable deep strike.

There are nearly 800 unmanned aerial vehicles in the U.S. Central Command area of operations and about 95 percent of these are in Iraq, according to Seip.

"I appreciate your efforts in this critical area (of unmanned systems)," he told the conference attendees.

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: Vickie Marks

Job: Marketing specialist, MWR Sales and Marketing

Where do you call home?
Corpus Christi, Texas

What do you like about your job?
Working with all the people in MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation) and the Redstone community.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I go to school. I'm in college (at Faulkner University pursuing a bachelor's in business management). Getting ready for a baby, too. (Her first child, a boy, is due the last week of June.)



What are your goals?

To have a successful career with MWR and to be a good mom.

What's your favorite type of music?

Rock music, like Top 40's. I like everything – rap, whatever.

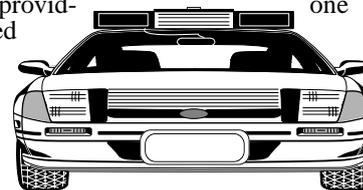
Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

March 23: An individual reported that someone broke a window and removed several cans of paint from a storage building. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

March 24: An individual reported that someone removed his wallet from his room which contained \$60 in cash. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

March 26: An individual reported that some-



one removed his wallet from his room which contained his driver's license and an ATM card. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

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

Violation notices issued: 27 speeding, 1 no driver's license in possession, 2 failure to exercise due care, 1 parked in a handicapped space, 1 failure to obey traffic device, 1 failure to use seatbelt.

Ten-day operation gets results in Iraq

JABOURI PENINSULA, Iraq – Anti-Iraqi Forces on the Jabouri Peninsula have taken a blow because of operations conducted by Coalition forces and their Iraqi army counterparts March 19-29.

Dubbed "Operation Cowpens," the 10-day operation yielded numerous mortar and artillery rounds, small arms weapons and ammunition, surface-to-air missiles, improvised explosive device materials, other explosives and people deemed supportive to the AIF.

The operation's intent was to weaken the AIF's ability to build and employ improvised explosive devices, and also to weaken their supply system.

Elements of the Fort Carson, Colo., based 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, along with 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division and the 1st Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 4th IAD, participated in the mission. (*Army News Service*)

■ Garrison wrestles with rising utilities costs

Energy

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an exemption on privatization of those three utilities. And the exemption hasn't been approved yet but we expect it will be. The House of Representatives recently voted to delay privatization actions for at least five years. So we don't expect to privatize any of our utilities except for waste water or sewage."

Under the Defense Reform Initiative Directive issued Dec. 23, 1998, the Defense Department ordered privatization of all Army owned utility systems. Most of the privatization contracts that were awarded were 50-year contracts. The idea was to spread the repair and replacement costs and capital upgrade costs over a long-term contract. But some installa-

tions have found that these contracts prove costly because the contractors do major upgrades, repairs and replacements.

"We couldn't negotiate a contract at a price that was economical to do it," Hinson said.

Rising utility costs aren't just a headache for the Garrison. The 41 tenant organizations are billed for utilities. Marshall Space Flight Center is the largest consumer, using about 45 percent of the electricity and about 20 percent of the steam.

The Garrison recommends energy conservation as a viable solution.

"The Garrison energy conservation policy is that we use our energy with common sense," Mark Smith, energy manager in the Directorate of Public Works, said. "If we need it, we use it; and if we don't, we turn it off. Conserve with common sense."



Photo by Brian Trapp

Recent history

Lt. Col. Patti Palmer, left, optometrist at Fox Army Health Center, talks with Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Jones and Sgt. 1st Class Lashay White, from the NCO Academy, 59th Ordnance Brigade, about her experiences while deployed. Soldiers from various units at Redstone were guest speakers at the third annual "Women and the Military" event at the Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives in Athens on March 25. The Soldiers were invited to share their military experiences with retired veterans.

Depot gives satellite terminal new lease on life

System redesigned for deployment

By JACQUELINE BOUCHER
Tobyhanna Depot Public Affairs

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Three AN/TSC-86A Satellite Communications Terminals will continue supporting war fighters following a change of mission and a makeover from Tobyhanna technicians.

Originally designed and built in the 1980s by United States Satellite Communications Agency and Tobyhanna, these AN/TSC-86 Contingency Satellite Communication Terminals were upgraded in 1998 and renamed AN/TSC-86A.

Depot employees supported the redesign of these systems, which provided communication connectivity to the global war fighter and supported national security requirements as directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. When this mission ended, the terminals were ordered out of the field.

Twelve Tobyhanna employees were tasked with dismantling the antennas and preparing the system's six components for shipment back to Tobyhanna.

"Initially, each team was supposed to go to the sites to perform assessments on the terminals before tearing them down," said Robert Petrone, electronics mechanic leader, Satellite Communications Division, Communications Systems Directorate, who headed the Torii Station, Okinawa, Japan, effort.

His team discovered the antenna system was not fully operational. On-site



Photo by Tony Medici

ALL EARS— AN/TSC-86A terminals can receive, transmit and process medium and high capacity multiplexed voice and data.

repairs to the antenna control system were needed prior to the terminal's evaluation.

The terminals, retrieved from strategic locations around the world, are being refurbished, overhauled and upgraded at the depot to meet the increasing needs of today's user. When the work is completed, one system will be shipped to Korea, one to an undisclosed location and the third will remain at the depot for future deployment. The assets were formerly operated and maintained by the Army at Landstuhl, Germany; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and Torii Station.

The AN/TSC-86As are managed by Project Manager Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems,

Assistant Program Manager Satellite Communications Systems Special Project Office at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

The terminals consist of a modified AS-3199 antenna, two 60 kilowatt generators, switch gear, power distribution equipment, two environmental control units, and an additional ECU which is used when the terminal is in the bed down location.

On-site technical assistance visits were part of the continuous maintenance and training programs available to operators assigned to the communications system.

"Military units are assigned to each terminal and Tobyhanna is the repair depot," explained Tom Terpak, project lead for installations and technical systems, Satellite Communications Systems Engineering Division, Production Engineering Directorate. "We train the operators and help them test the equipment."

Mobility is what sets these systems apart from the rest. The terminals can receive, transmit and process medium and high capacity multiplexed voice and data. If necessary, operators can add encryption equipment to process secure and non-secure traffic.

As lead technicians on the original project, Charles Cortese and Jack Pallien are proud the system continues to have a role in national defense. Both men said the early systems were developed, tested and certified in "our own backyard." The systems were fully operational when they left the depot.

"These systems can be set up within hours and are self sustained," said Cortese, mechanical engineering technician, Tactical Satellite Design and Support Division, Production Engineering Directorate. "They carry their own power and air conditioning. You can take them

anywhere and they're capable of assuming the essential, critical and priority traffic for one of the 40-, 60-foot terminals."

Pallien, an electrical engineering technician, explained that if a site was to undergo a major overhaul or upgrade, one of the AN/TSC-86As could be dropped into place to provide uninterrupted communications.

The system is capable of restoring five communication links providing deployable support during peace time and contingencies.

"The systems were forward deployed and available for use by units in the theater of operation," said Frank Noone, contractor representative at Tobyhanna for Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems Terminals. "They [the terminals] could be anywhere in a matter of hours."

Records show the terminals were also used to support Homeland Security. The terminal in Fort Bragg was being sent to New Orleans when Katrina hit. Tobyhanna was placed on standby to set up and operate the terminal if and when it was needed, to provide communication, according to Terpak.

The changes to the satellite terminals may be subtle, but the upgrades performed here will allow the system to continue serving the military's communication needs. The new improved TSC-86As are scheduled to deploy to their new locations later this year.

"The Tobyhanna teams are professionals in every respect," said Ronald Hyers, former contractor supporting, PM DCATS, Fort Monmouth, N.J. "We worked 12-hour days and on weekends to accomplish our goal. It was not an easy task, and I would like to thank and commend the team members."

■ Civilian of year selected from 12 nominees

Civilian

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He was chosen from among 12 nominees for the award. Other nominees were:

- Karen Bender, lead management and program analyst, Garrison;

- Robert L. Brown, aviation acquisition systems coordinator, Office of the G-3, AMCOM;

- William Bidwell, director of Utility Directory, Program Executive Office for Aviation;

- Robert Eison, chief, BMDS Ground Test Division, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center;

- William Gilchrist, GBI chief engineer, Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office;

- Thomas M. Jackson, chief, Maintenance Support Branch, Integrated Materiel Management Center, Maintenance Directorate;

- Andrew Ksepka, assistant program manager for modifications, Utility Helicopters Project Office;

- Dr. Tom Pieplow, associate

director for aviation and assistant PEO of aviation logistics, Integrated Materiel Management Center;

- Linda Readus, secretary of the General Staff, AMCOM;

- Artro Whitman, director of Materiel and Supply Chain Management Directorate, Integrated Materiel Management Center; and

- Julia D. Williams, director of Joint Center for Test and Evaluation, Space and Missile Defense Technical Center.

"I am honored to be here tonight and be selected," he said. "It's always an honor to be recognized by your peers ... and to be part of an Army team that really supports the troops out there."

Messervy told the audience that he comes from a "long legacy of Army folk." His father is a 30-year military veteran who served as a combat engineer in Korea. His father-in-law is a veteran of World War II, during which he was a POW taken captive during the Battle of the Bulge and forced into labor at a railroad yard in Munich.

"Now, I fly into Munich as part of my job to visit the offices

of the Patriot Missile System that we have there," he said. "I owe what I do to a legacy of people who've been here before me."

As a Reserve colonel, Messervy recently worked to certify 28,000 National Guard troops for combat.

"I know these troops need any support we can give them," he said.

Messervy was nominated for the DA Civilian of the Year award by Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space. He postponed a family vacation to attend the AUSA awards dinner.

As the AUSA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter DA Civilian of the Year, Messervy will now compete in AUSA's Third Region competition, which includes 18 AUSA chapters in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Republic of Panama. The winner at Third Region will be recognized at the AUSA Annual Meeting in October in Washington, D.C.

"Tonight is all about excellence," Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone

Arsenal, said after the nominees were introduced to the nearly 300 guests at the AUSA dinner.

"You just saw 12 great dedicated, hardworking, classy DA civilians. Each and everyone is a winner and a truly great representative of their organization."

Because of Army civilians, Soldiers are receiving the support they need as they fight in the Global War on Terrorism, he said.

"You make it happen for our Soldiers," Pillsbury said. "You make it happen so they can do their job with precision and then get home to their family."

Pillsbury went on to include Huntsville and its officials in the mix of Army civilians, contractors and supporters who help ensure Soldiers are successful on the battlefield.

Pointing out Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer in the audience, he said "you and the community here set the conditions to make Redstone Arsenal successful ... You put excellence together. We have a great AUSA here. We have a great, dedicated hardworking DA here. Put that together in an excellent community that's working for an excellent organization — the Depart-

ment of the Army."

Jerry Hamilton, organizer for the AUSA event, said the slate of nominees for the DA civilian award was "extremely competitive."

"You've each made significant contributions to our Soldiers," he said. "As a father of a Soldier, I appreciate all that you do."

Hamilton's son is an Apache helicopter pilot now serving his second tour in Iraq.

"We are a team effort," said AUSA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter president Emily Vandiver. "DA civilians play a heavy role in all that we do. The support they've given the Army is what has made it what it is today."

Sponsors for the AUSA dinner included Analytical Services Inc., AUSA, Avion Inc., BAE Systems, Boeing, Booz Allen Hamilton, DESE Research Inc., First American Bank, Lockheed Martin, MIL-TEC Corp., Raytheon, Robbins-Gioia LLC, System Studies & Simulation Inc., SAIC-SED, SRS Technologies, Teledyne Brown Engineering, The Huntsville Times, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Westar and Whiteford Group.

Senior ammunition instructor cited for meritorious service

Marine receives medal upon leaving post

By Spc. ELIAMAR TRAPP
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Raised in a family of Soldiers, Master Sgt. David Taylor knew the Army was a challenge, but he needed something more.

"After I graduated high school I went straight to the Marine recruiter and signed up for the Corps," said Taylor, senior ammunition instructor, Marine Corps Detachment, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, 59th Ordnance Brigade.

Not to say that the Army isn't challenging enough, but Taylor knew that life and was looking for something different. He joined the Corps in 1982 and after 23 years is still taking the challenges he set out to find. Those same challenges have warranted him the award most servicemembers see only as they retire — a Meritorious Service Medal.

During a ceremony at the Marine Corps Detachment March 23, Taylor was awarded an MSM for his outstanding leadership, dedication and meritorious service to the Marine Corps, OMEMS and the nation. Taylor, however, is far from retirement as he intends to go until he's reached his 30-year mark. He is, however, leaving OMEMS to go to his next assignment as the division ammunition chief of the 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Since OMEMS is the only school house to train Marines and Soldiers in the ammunition field, Taylor has been to Redstone several times throughout his career as an ammunition technician. His current tour has lasted nearly four years and has brought him many challenges which he

has proudly taken on and conquered. This time, as an ammunition senior training instructor, Taylor has trained and mentored over 1,280 basic ammunition students, staff non-commissioned officers, warrant officers, and commissioned officers of both the U.S. military and NATO allies.

"My favorite part about being an instructor is challenging a young person in the military," Taylor said. "I always tell them to reach back to their pack and pull out some knowledge. When students come to me with a problem I offer them various solutions. The best part is to see the look on their faces when that light goes off and they understand what to do."

"He's my right-hand man," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Pete Coronado who's known Taylor for almost 20 years. "He's the glue that holds this place together."

Coronado said Taylor's approachable personality, knowledge in his field and ability to talk to people makes him an exemplary instructor. "He can sell you a broken car and you'll walk away happy," he said. "He has a wealth of knowledge that you can't replace easily. He will definitely be missed."

Being an instructor at OMEMS did not only encompass training ammunition specialists. Aside from being the senior instructor, the NCO-in-charge and OIC when the slots were vacant, Taylor also assisted in the development of a training program for the State Department's Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

"The Physical Security and Ammunition Stockpile Management Seminar was developed to brief developing countries on the United States best procedures of storing, securing and accounting for weapons and munitions," he said.

See **Instructor** on page 11



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp

LEADERSHIP APPRECIATED— Capt. Timothy L. Collins, commander, Marine Corps Detachment, presents a Meritorious Service Medal to Master Sgt. David Taylor, senior ammunition instructor, Marine Corps Detachment, for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the Marine Corps, OMEMS and his country March 23 at the Marine Corps Detachment.

Giving their time to help Soldiers and families



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FRONT AND CENTER— Volunteer of year nominee Sharon Samuelson serves as a work group facilitator at Redstone's annual Army Family Action Plan conference, among her many volunteer roles in the community.

Redstone recognizes volunteers of year

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Sharon Samuelson has worked nearly 40 years without pay and she doesn't mind one bit.

She's a community volunteer.

Samuelson is among 18 nominees for Redstone Arsenal Army Volunteer Corps Volunteer of the Year awards for 2005-06. The awards luncheon is April 20 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club.

"I want to help the Soldiers and their families," Samuelson said of her reason for volunteering. "Make their military life a little bit better."

She has volunteered in military – and civilian – communities for 38 years, including 10 at Redstone. She and her husband, retired Chief Warrant Officer Lee Samuelson, reside in Huntsville.

Her volunteer work includes serving as merit awards chairman for the Officer and

Civilian Women's Club, a master trainer with Army Family Team Building, working at the Thrift Shop and at the front desk at Army Community Service. She works with Special Olympics, the community block party and the Warrant Officers Association. In the Huntsville community, she works with the Panoply arts festival and with the Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound (CASA).

Redstone Arsenal recognizes its volunteers each year during National Volunteer Week in April.

"They save the community over a million dollars every year in services," Larry Leggett, quality of life manager at Army Community Service and the luncheon coordinator, said. For more information about the luncheon, call him at 842-8375.

This year's nominees include Samuelson, Katrina Wynn, Maj. Derek Santiago, Spc. Draper Hollier, Lloyd Ackerman, Yashira Rodriguez, Brandon Crutcher, Elizabeth Blackmon, Elizabeth Bland, Janeshia Henderson, Tayla Blake, Olivia March, Octavia March, Willie Brazile Jr., Tiffany London, Sonya West, Gabriel Cannon and Gisela Mullek.

Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Fund-raising campaign goes through May 15

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- AER Online 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. Call Belinda Bailey 313-2257.

- The ASGE Directorate of Research Development and Engineering Center is selling Polo T-shirts and denims, along with caps and coffee mugs. The design is a full span eagle atop an American flag with the words "Redstone Arsenal" on top and "Soaring to New Heights" underneath. The shirts range in price from \$14 to \$30, caps \$12 and coffee mugs \$7. The design is a Team Redstone design. Orders will be placed weekly with a 1-2 week delivery time. For more information call Kay Patton 876-3525 or e-mail kay.patton@us.army.mil.

- G-8, Resource Management, is selling Avon Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard and insect repellent products through April 25. Call Dana Wilbanks 842-9238 and Larry Bowlin 842-7103.

- Advanced Science and Technology Directorate is taking orders for AER Dutch Gardens Bulbs through April 18.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TOTE WORTHY— Debra Rodriguez of Command Management Support holds one of the tote bags that the Command Group and Secretary of the General Staff offices are selling for Army Emergency Relief. These bags, \$12 each, consist of scrap material for the U.S. flag and are made locally by the Alabama Rehabilitation Foundation.

Call Linda Taylor 876-2883.

- Coupon books will be available for \$12 each through May 15. Call Cheryl Baker 842-8695, Ranny Vinson 842-6793

Top enlisted Soldier hears from war fighters in training

Command sergeant major visits Ordnance school

By Spc. ELIAMAR TRAPP
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The Training and Doctrine Command command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. John Sparks, made his first visit to the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School March 28 during a courtesy visit to the 59th Ordnance Brigade.

With TRADOC operating 33 schools at 16 Army installations, this was Sparks' first chance to visit OMEMS since he assumed responsibility as the TRADOC command sergeant major in February 2005.

"The (specialties) taught here are very important to and critical to our fight," Sparks said. "The Soldiers who train here have the benefit of great leaders, well thought out training programs and are all extremely motivated Soldiers."

The daylong visit only gave Sparks the opportunity to see Soldiers in their classroom environment, but he said he was pleased with what he saw. The Soldiers also seemed pleased at the opportunity to see TRADOC's top noncommissioned officer.

"It (was) a privilege to have the most senior enlisted adviser at TRADOC come witness the quality of training our Soldiers receive," said Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle, 59th Ordnance Brigade command sergeant major.

Sparks visited the training areas to receive feedback from the Soldiers and NCOs in training. He said this visit gave him an opportunity to see the type of training Soldiers are receiving before

being sent out to the conventional Army.

"Since 9/11 the number of efforts that influence the way we train have changed to support the force," Sparks said. "We are training Soldiers in TRADOC to suit the needs of the force. It's important to make sure Soldiers are trained and ready to support the fight."

While at OMEMS Sparks had the opportunity to speak with some of the Soldiers going through initial entry training, and answer some of their questions.

Two of the Soldiers who got a chance to talk with the command sergeant major were Pvts. Lakeisha Delts and Michelle Lewis of Charlie Company, who are attending the ammunition specialist course at the Munitions Training Department. Sparks' visit helped clarify some questions they had about the military, they said.

Delts asked Sparks if the Army standards of training had dropped in order to meet the Army's quota.

"In response, (Sparks) said that three out of every 10 people who try to enlist actually get accepted; and only one of those three makes it through basic training," Delts said.

"His responses to our questions helped us see the bigger picture which is something that we don't look at as new Soldiers," Lewis said.

Both Soldiers agreed that having someone in Sparks' position visit the training environment gave them the opportunity to voice their concerns and give positive feedback directly to someone who can take that information and do something with it to benefit the Army.

For Delts and Lewis who have only been at Redstone for two weeks, this visit also reinforced that Army leaders want to hear the issues and concerns of all Soldiers no matter what their rank or military status.



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp

CLASS TALK— Training and Doctrine Command's Command Sgt. Maj. John Sparks talks with Soldiers at the Munitions Training Department, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, during his visit to the 59th Ordnance Brigade March 28.

Relief

continued from page 8

and Kim Sharp 876-8696. Brought to you by Integrated Materiel Management Center, ILS/Manprint Office.

- Flex Tickets to Theatre of Huntsville Performances, \$12 each. Each flex coupon is redeemable for a seat to any Theatre of Huntsville play. All money goes to AER. Available anytime from Pat Blackman 842-8101 or Nancy Morris 955-9613. Brought to you by IMMC, Maintenance Information Branch.

- Fresh roasted Peanuts, \$1.50 per bag, for sale today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 5308, third floor. Brought to you by PEO Aviation, PM ATC. Call Jo-Ann Rice 313-3742.

- Child ID/records kits and first aid kits, including a pet first aid kit, for sale April 17, April 25 and May 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Sparkman Center, in front of the cafeteria. Brought to you by IMMC, Fleet Management Branch. Call Kathy Siebert 842-8614.

- Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and Bake Sale, Thursday from 7:30-11 a.m., building 5300 hallway. Hosted by IMMC, Requisition Operations Branch. Call Margaret Hopkins 876-4381 and Shirley Cunningham 842-0166.

- Motorcycle Poker Run, Sunday (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.

- Patriotic Gear, April 11-12 from 10

a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sparkman Cafeteria hallway. Hosted by IMMC, National Maintenance Branch. Items available anytime from Sharon Sipp 876-1748.

- 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.

- Golf Tournament, April 20 at 8 a.m. at Sunset Landing Golf Course. Four-person scramble format, with registration limited to 25 teams. Registration for \$160 per team includes range balls, green/cart fee and lunch. Door prizes will be awarded. This third annual event is sponsored by the Engineering Directorate. Call Chris Farmer 313-6553, Will Lovell 955-2370 and Ken Nebrig 313-6569.

- Homemade Chili and Bake Sale, April 20 from 11 a.m. until sold out,



Photo by Susan Douglas

PEANUTS GANG— Participants in the G-2 (Intelligence and Security) popcorn/peanuts sale March 28 include, from left, Kevin McClure, Wendy Turney and Sam Hamner.

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.

- Bake Sale, May 1 from 8 a.m. until

it's all gone, corridor between buildings 5301 and 5302. Brought to you by G-8 (Resource Management). Call Dana Wilbanks 842-9238.

- Ice Cream Social, May 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until sold out, corridor between buildings 5301 and 5302. Sundaes are \$3 each. Hosted by G-2, Intelligence and Security Directorate. Call Cherry Hovik 876-9484 and Susan Douglas 842-6795.

- Garrison AER Fund-raising Day and Chili Cookoff, 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. 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.

- Golf Tournament, four person scramble, May 19 at Redstone Golf Course. Registration deadline is May 15. Hosted by Integrated Materiel Management Center. Call Austin Watson 842-7844, Cletis Severs 876-0196, Jan Pickard 876-2569 and Kim Marr 955-7133.

Better to implode than receive demolition bill

Huntsville engineers help with Fort Myer project

By DEBRA VALINE

Huntsville Engineering Center

With a sound similar to a large thunderclap, building 501 at Fort Myer, Va., will be reduced to rubble. The implosion, scheduled for sunrise in early June, depending on how work progresses, will take approximately 15 seconds.

Imploding building 501, Tencza Terrace, is part of an effort to reduce the number of outdated buildings on Army installations. Imploding the building will save \$100,000 and at least a month of time compared to traditional demolition methods.

The Installation Management Agency and Fort Myer turned to the Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, for guidance on the best way to accomplish the mission. As the Installation Support Center of Expertise for facilities demolition and reduction, Huntsville Center supports the planning, management and execution of the Armywide facilities reduction program.

"The demolition of Tencza Terrace demonstrates the great partnership between the Installation Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Col. Thomas Allmon, commander of the Fort Myer military community. "We in the Fort Myer military community lean heavily on the Corps' expertise for all our major projects. The partnership we've established between our installation staff and the Corps working our demolition is fabulous. An effort of this magnitude requires a synchronized effort by all involved for it to be a success and I know the team we've established is up to the task."

Building 501 is a 150,449 gross square foot, 13-story family housing facility built in 1966 for junior noncommissioned officers. The cost to remove the



Courtesy photo

JUST STARTING— Work continues in Phase 1, the soft demolition of building 501 at Fort Myer, Va., to remove all interior walls, fixtures, doors, windows, appliances, sheetrock and floor tiles for either recycling or disposal.

building is estimated at \$1.6 million and will be complete by June.

"We worked with IMA to develop a contracting tool that did a couple of things – it got better prices for what was being done and met environmental goals of the Army," said Michael Norton, a project manager in the Facilities Reduction Program.

IMA had found that installation Directorates of Public Works were using historic data – how much it cost to demolish a building before – rather than looking at demolition experts and nationwide costs for demolishing buildings, Norton said.

"We awarded an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract for the IMA Northeast Region Office to Bhate Environmental Associates Inc., of Birmingham, Ala.," he said. "This firm demonstrated it has the knowledge and means to demolish buildings using industry demolition best practices."

These industry best practices reduce the cost of demolition often as much as 50 percent from what installations have been paying.

"Bringing down the building should take about 15 seconds and sound like a large thunderclap," said Tom Peck, a professional engineer with Bhate Associates. "It will sound like the grand finale at an inexpensive fireworks display."

There will be a test blast the Friday before the implosion actually takes place, said Raymond Zukowski, a field operations manager with Controlled Demolition Inc. of Phoenix, Md. "We put the dynamite in place on Friday and do a test blast. On Saturday we go back in and install the caps and other items needed for Sunday. Once the sun comes up on Sunday, the building will come down."

Building 501 is constructed of brick and concrete and is located on a sloped site. Once the build-

ing is imploded, the brick and concrete will be crushed on-site, rather than removed to a landfill and the resulting rubble used to level the slope. Most of the materials that normally would have gone to a landfill will be recycled or reused.

"The new Army waste diversion standard is 50 percent by weight," Norton said. "That is important because the diversion standard is by weight, not volume. We will exceed that goal. Huntsville Center awarded the contract for the Fort Myer work. Baltimore District is providing the contracting officer representative and quality assurance services for us. They have someone on the ground watching the contractor to ensure he is accomplishing his approved work plan."

Work will be accomplished in two phases. In Phase 1, utilities will be disconnected and rerouted; asbestos abatement will be conducted; and soft demolition performed.

"Utilities such as water, sewerage, gas, TV, electricity, just like in a house, will have to be turned off," Norton said. "When you tear a building down, you do not want a broken gas line, etc. The next part of it is that there is asbestos in the building – in the floor tile, in the adhesive, and on the hot water tank in the base-

ment – that is considered hazardous. That asbestos has to go away, completely out of the building. It is critical that all asbestos containing material be removed so when the remaining rubble is crushed to use as fill material, it is not considered contaminated.

"Soft demolition is the stripping or gutting of the inside of the building," he continued. "We will remove sheetrock, doors, cabinets, windows, piping, fixtures, metal, etc. Most of these materials will be recycled or salvaged. Bhate has even found a company to recycle the sheetrock. The goal of Phase 1 is to reduce the building to a structural skeleton, so that when the building is imploded, the leftover rubble is suitable for crushing into material which is reusable."

In Phase 2, the contractor will implode the building and come in with a crusher to crush the brick and concrete rubble to a small diameter so that it can be used as fill and compacted. The metal rebar will be removed and recycled. The compacted debris will provide the right foundation to allow the Fort Myer DPW to use the site to build roads or small structures. The new slope shouldn't erode and shouldn't need a retaining wall, Norton said.

■ Marine recognized for meritorious service

Instructor

continued from page 6

Teaching these seminars has taken Taylor and a few other selected Marines to more than 13 countries in the last four years. On a tour to Nicaragua in 2004, Taylor's team did a courtesy inspection of a police station located 50 yards from the ambassador's residence and the U.S. Embassy.

"During the inspection we discovered rocket-propelled grenades and launchers that had been confiscated by the Nicaraguan government," Taylor said. The storage of these munitions violated an agreement between the U.S. and the Nicaraguan government that ensured a secure and safe perimeter for the ambassador and his staff. "After the inspection the munitions were moved to a safe and secure location," he said.

During a recent DTRA trip, Taylor and his team were asked to leave the country for their own safety due to a hostile kidnapping situation. Although some countries aren't always safe, and some were safer than others, Taylor said he has never feared for his life while on a DTRA mission.

"We are always well taken care of and have the security and vehicles we need to safely do our job," he said.

Now that he's leaving OMEMS, Taylor's work with the DTRA will cease.

"I liked being part of this project," he said. "The most fulfilling part about it is knowing that my 4-year-old son can grow up in a world without these hazards because of the work that we've been doing."

Taylor said that his job well done is not all due to his hard work because "it takes a team to do this."

"I would not have done all that I've done if it weren't for the senior NCOs in my office," Taylor said. "They really stepped up and helped me when I needed them the most. Because of that, I was able to relinquish responsibilities to some of my NCOs and made sure the job got done. It's that type of teamwork that makes me happy."

Although earning a Meritorious Service Medal did make Taylor happy, he said "we were all just doing our jobs."

Bright suggestions for home lighting

The Redstone Arsenal Energy Management Office provided the following tips regarding lighting.

- Use one larger light bulb instead of several small ones in areas where bright light is needed. In general, the efficiency of incandescent light bulbs increases as the wattage increases. For example, one 100-watt incandescent bulb provides approximately 1,720 lumens or the same amount of light as two 60-watt bulbs (120 watts and 1,720 lumens) or four 40-watt bulbs (160 watts and 1,980 lumens), but consumes less electricity.

- Use compact fluorescent lights instead of

incandescent bulbs wherever possible. Compact fluorescents are 3-4 times more efficient than incandescent and last 10 times as long.

- Long-life incandescent light bulbs (1,500 to 3,500 hours lifetime) are less efficient than regular life incandescent because the filament operates at a lower temperature to extend the life. Energy-conscious consumers should use long-life bulbs only where replacement is difficult; or even better, replace those hard to reach incandescent lights with compact fluorescent lights that have a life of 10,000 hours or more.

For more information, call energy manager Mark Smith 842-0014.

Man of many hats hangs them up for good

Megli retires after 35 years of civil and military service

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

In his 35-year career, Ernie Megli has served in five branches of the military and as a civilian employee.

He has followed opportunities through his years in the Air Force and Army, the Air Force and Army Reserves, and the National Guard and as an employee for the Defense Contract Management Agency. His career has taken him from his first stint as an airman at Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo., through active duty as a staff sergeant at Fort Rucker during Desert Storm to more than 20 years in the quality assurance field.

Through those years, Megli faced many challenges as a helicopter mechanic, flight engineer and crew chief, and as a quality assurance specialist. But it was Megli's bout with cancer that gave him the challenge of a lifetime.

"Having cancer or a heart attack or a major health issue puts a different perspective on your life," he said. "I'm not trying to be profound. But after cancer I want to have a life outside of work."

So, with a 35-year certificate in hand, 55-year-old Megli retired last week. He plans on spending time with his family, doing a little camping and enjoying the life he has.

Megli first enlisted in the military in 1969, joining the Air Force to work as a mechanic, crew chief and flight engineer on the Huey helicopter at Warren AFB. He worked his way up to sergeant before going inactive with the Air Force Reserves in 1973.

"I was one of three helicopter flight engineers, air gunners and mechanics who didn't go to Vietnam the whole four years I was in," said the Vietnam Era veteran.

He then shifted to private industry, working for Boeing in Wichita, Kan., until he started hearing rumors of layoffs.

"I had heard about the technician pro-

gram offered by the Army and the Air Force," he recalled. "In the program, you work as a civilian technician for the Army or Air Force, and then on weekends you teach and train the straight Reservists or what we called the weekend warriors."

So, Megli joined the Army Reserves stationed at the industrial airport in Olathe, Kan. During the week, he worked as a mechanic, crew chief and flight engineer for the Reserve unit's aircraft, including Hueys and Chinooks, and one weekend a month he trained Reservists.

"As a flight engineer, I did all kinds of things like fire duty, cargo loading, making sure systems were functioning and taking care of passengers," he said. "As the chief mechanic, I was the eyes and ears behind the pilots."

But after eight years, a Chinook crash led Megli to transfer to the Air Force Technician Program at Luke AFB in Arizona, where he worked on the Air Force Reserve's Jolly Green Giants.

"Those two and a half years were memorable," Megli said. "While there, I got credited for saving three lives in a flash flood in Phoenix, Ariz. I received the Air Force Commendation Medal for that."

Megli then got an opportunity that would change the course of his career. He was accepted into the Air Force Internship Program as a quality assurance intern, working in an Air Force plant in Ft. Worth, Texas.

"I got to work on the F-111 rebuilds and the F-16 production line," Megli said. "I spent nine years in that plant working quality assurance."

But working in Ft. Worth meant Megli had to give up his Air Force Reserves position in Arizona. So, in 1986, Megli transferred his military experience to the Texas Army National Guard at the Dallas Naval Air Station, where he worked as a crew chief and flight engineer on the unit's Chinooks.

During his time in Texas, Megli also worked at the DCMC Bell Helicopter plant as a quality assurance specialist for the Navy and Marine Cobra mod and refurbishment, the OH-58 rebuild and mod program and the V-22 Osprey low



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HAPPY TRAILS—Ernie Megli is retiring from the Defense Contract Management Agency after a 35-year career that included four years in the Air Force, 19 years as an Air Force or Army Reservist and National Guardsman, and 30 years as a civilian employee.

production rate line.

In December 1990, Megli began a short stint with the Army, which called him up to serve on active duty at Fort Rucker during Operation Desert Storm. For eight months, he helped train new pilots on the Chinook. After Desert Storm, Megli returned to the Texas National Guard, where he retired from his 23-year military career as a staff sergeant in 1992.

But his civilian career continued at DCMC Bell Helicopter until 2001, when he moved to DCMA in Huntsville to work on quality assurance issues pertaining to such systems as the TOW 2 missile system and the Stinger warhead systems.

"I've worked as an itinerate quality assurance employee on buying various parts for defense supply centers for the Air Force, Army and Navy," Megli said.

Megli has enjoyed the Huntsville area. "My position at Bell Helicopter was being abolished, so I took the first job that I was offered that paid more, and that was here," he said. "I've been pleasantly surprised. There are so many outdoor activities that you can do in this area."

But there was a chance that Megli's time in Huntsville would have been shorter. In 2003, he applied for a DCMA job in Japan.

"They said I couldn't go because I had had back surgery and I couldn't bend over and touch my toes," Megli said. "They told me I wasn't qualified to go."

That disqualification actually saved Megli's life. Three months later he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease.

"I have to believe a higher being — God — was looking after me," he said. "If I had gone to Japan, I would have come back in a pine box."

After eight months of chemotherapy treatments, Megli became a cancer survivor. And it was time for him to start thinking about retirement.

"I was declared cured the 15th of February after a series of body scans," he said. "Now, it's time to go do some other things with my life. As of Feb. 24, I have 35 years of service in the government of the United States of America."

Megli said it is his sense of humor that has helped him through the hard times in his career.

"Working around helicopters for 30-plus years, you have to have a sense of humor," he said.

But it was his positive outlook that helped him conquer cancer.

"I chose to live and all during the cancer my view was 'I'm going down a rocky path. It may be bumpy and thorny, but I'll get through it,'" he said.

"If you feel sorry for yourself it turns your mind, body and spirit in a downward spiral."

Megli plans to spend time with his two daughters, four granddaughters, father, brother and other family members in Wichita, and with his girlfriend. And he plans to live the life he has left to its fullest.

Corpus Christi clears air for work force

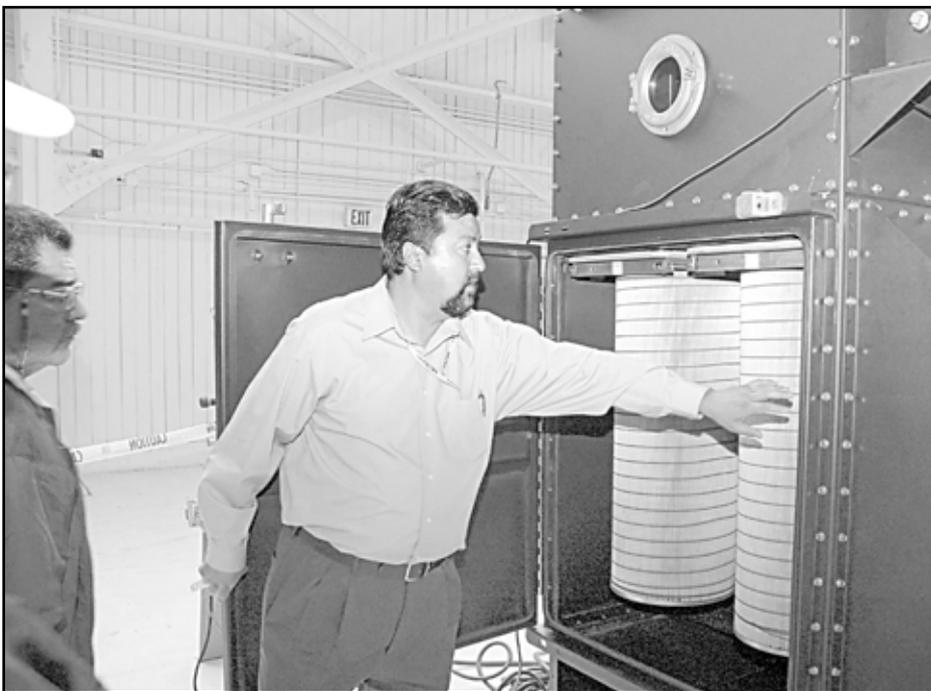


Photo by Leo Gonzales

DUST FREE— Jose Moriel, a contractor with Morgan Research Corporation, demonstrates the HEPA-filtration capabilities of the base model of a new advanced work station which will soon be used by Corpus Christi Army Depot workers in some of the machine shops when grinding or sanding parts.

Depot adopts advanced filtration for sanding, grinding operations

By JAMEY GIDDENS
For the Rocket

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Contractors from the Morgan Research Corporation unveiled the base model of a new advanced HEPA filtration work station aimed at reducing exposure to dust particles for Corpus Christi Army Depot employees when performing sanding and/or grinding operations.

With OSHA calling for exposure limits to various substances to be lowered, Corpus Christi is implementing engineering controls and process changes in order to protect its work force. The advanced work station is one such change.

On March 24, contractors Mike Webb and Jose Moriel of Morgan Research Corporation presented an exhibition of the base model of the advanced work station provided at no cost by equipment manufacturer Farr Industries for demonstration purposes.

"The way the station works is that it draws the air away from the worker into the machine in two directions," said Webb,

explaining the station's down draft and cross draft capabilities. "The machine then uses HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filtration to clean the air, removing dust particles and producing hospital quality air."

By implementing the advanced HEPA filtration work station in various Corpus Christi shops that perform sanding and grinding operations, the depot should reduce dust concentration allowing employees to not have to use as much protective gear.

"In order to properly test the effectiveness of the machine CCAD contract industrial hygienists are taking both personal air samples and area samples," Webb said.

Since the station unveiled was just a base model, Webb anticipates a few design changes to make the station more Corpus Christi friendly.

"We want to include improved lighting and modifications to run/operate electric tools as well as air tools and folding sides that will allow for the accommodation of larger parts/components, in order to make it a CCAD version," he said.

Assuming all goes well with the engineering modifications, he hopes to see the new machine in numerous Corpus Christi shops by late summer or early fall.

Recreation facilities open for business

MWR launches awareness drive to draw entire post community

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

“Yes, you can!”

That’s the message Morale Welfare and Recreation wants to get out to all active, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers, military retirees and Redstone/NASA civilian employees and contractor employees, and their families. Anyone who can access Redstone Arsenal is invited to enjoy all MWR facilities and programs offered on post.

Want to bowl at MWR’s new \$7 million, state-of-the-art bowling center? Care to play 18 holes of golf at one of the area’s best and most affordable golf courses? Like to enjoy lunch at the Officers and Civilians Club? Need to save money on car repairs?

You can do all that, and more on Redstone Arsenal.

“There is no better community support anywhere than the support given by Huntsville/Madison County to Redstone Arsenal and our war fighters,” said Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski.

“And, we on Redstone Arsenal want to reciprocate by taking care of our civilian and military workers and friends. Because these employees and military associates are helping and supporting our war fighters, we want to provide them with convenient, top-quality services.”

MWR has launched a new public awareness campaign to encourage the use of its facilities and programs by all members of the Redstone Arsenal team. Signs have recently been posted at each of the Arsenal’s gates and posters have gone up in Arsenal buildings as part of the campaign. In upcoming weeks, the Rocket will run various stories on MWR programs.

“Every year, MWR has either a brand awareness campaign or a membership campaign,” said Adrian Baker, director of MWR Sales and Marketing. “This year, we are combining both campaigns to real-

ly push MWR facilities and programs.”

Civilian openings

A policy change in 1998 allowed MWR to open its facilities and programs to DoD/Army/NASA civilians and contractor employees, and their families.

“At that time, there was a general policy change,” Baker said. “The generals and the policymakers at the Pentagon decided the folks who make the missiles and design the missiles are as important as the war fighter in the scope of the mission.”

Your benefits are waiting!



You CAN use MWR facilities!

—Colonel John A. Olshefski
Garrison Commander, Redstone Arsenal



“With that decision, the persons who can use MWR facilities changed from active military and retirees to all persons who work on the Arsenal or who can legally access a military installation.”

Even though it’s now 2006, civilian and contract employees are still unsure of what MWR facilities and programs they can use, Baker said.

“They can use it all,” he said. “MWR is here to serve civilian and contract employees as well as the Soldier and military retiree. In every way, we are trying to get this word out.”

Various facilities

MWR offers various programs through a multitude of facilities on Redstone Arsenal. They include the nationally accredited and one of the Army’s best Child and Youth Services, the new Redstone Lanes Bowling Center, the Army’s best medium-sized library, an Army premier program known as Army Community Service, and the new 148-unit storage facility.

There is also an 18-hole golf course, Outdoor Recreation facilities and equipment rental, the Auto Skills Center, the Arts and Crafts Center, car wash, the flying activity, the saddle activity, swimming pools, four fitness and wellness centers, restaurants, Challenger Bingo, overnight lodging facilities and the Officers and

Civilians Club.

Redstone Arsenal has some of the best MWR facilities and services offered by a military installation, Olshefski said.

“We have a world-class bowling center, a great golf course and brand new storage facilities,” he said.

“Other installations have them, but not as nice as ours. We have a great club at the Redstone Officers and Civilians Club and the Soldatenstube is as good as there is in German quality food. Soon we will have our very own beer called Redstone Red.”

Marketing MWR facilities and services is a unique challenge on Redstone Arsenal.

“Since it is a civilian dominated post, I want to ensure that my civilian work force does know about all the facilities and services they can use,” Olshefski said.

“For instance, we have a paint booth in our automotive center that most people do not know about. We have framing and woodworking capabilities in our Arts and Crafts Center as well as our new storage facilities that most people do not know about. Civilians and contractors that work on post do not live on post. Sounds simple, but when my civilian work force goes home, if they do not know what we have to offer on post they will not come back.”

Olshefski said that the public awareness campaign may be followed up by Town Hall meetings with tenant organizations so that MWR’s offerings can be further communicated to civilian and contractor employees.

“We have great leadership in MWR,” he said. “They are service-oriented folks.”

Membership benefits

Those having access to Redstone Arsenal do not need to join MWR to enjoy its varied offerings. But, MWR membership, which is obtained through one of four MWR clubs, does provide added benefits.

“MWR programs are open to civilian government employees and military per-

sonnel and their families,” said Vickie Marks, MWR marketing specialist. “The only requirement MWR has is that if a contractor wants access to a fitness center, they need to join an MWR club.”

Joining a club also provides MWR members with special discounts, including a one-time gift of \$15 in MWR money, discounts at the Soldatenstube German Restaurant, Child Development and School Age Services, Auto Skills Center, Outdoor Equipment Rental, Arts and Crafts Center and Redstone Lanes Bowling Center snack bar. In addition, there are discounts on golf course green fees and swimming pool season passes, and access to all four fitness centers.

Those clubs open for membership are Challenger Bingo (\$15 per month), Officers and Civilians Club (\$18 per month), golf club (\$67 per month) and flying activity (\$35 per month). Soldiers can join the Soldiers Discount Club for \$12 per month. Currently, there are about 3,000 MWR members.

Whether an MWR club member or not, the value offered by MWR facilities and programs surpasses anything offered in the Huntsville community.

“There are people outside the gates who would love to have access to our programs,” Baker said. “We do offer a lot of value that you can’t get anywhere else.”

“At the Auto Skills Center, you can rotate rotors on a mid-size sedan for less than \$20, something that would cost you \$79 in Huntsville. Our child care facility, which is the only one accredited in North Alabama, is far less expensive than other facilities in the area. You can work out with a trainer at one of our fitness centers for only \$18 a month for a single membership versus a minimum of \$45 a month outside the gates. And, a lot of people don’t even know there is a library on post that offers services comparative to the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library.”

For more information on MWR facilities and programs, check out its web site at www.redstonemwr.com or call 830-9175.



Courtesy photo

FUN FOR ALL— There will be plenty of reasons to smile at the annual Block Party on Saturday.

Community takes to streets for annual block party

Families invited to free activities

By ANDREA MATTOX
MWR Sales and Marketing

Tired of being cooped up inside all winter? Looking for a way to shake the winter blues? How about a totally free event with free food, entertainment, games, and make-and-take projects for the children? It’s time to catch spring fever with Morale Welfare and Recreation.

Child and Youth Services will host another great Month of the Military Child Block Party on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. at the Youth Center, building

3148 on Youth Center Road.

The Block Party is designed to be a fun, family event for all ages. Activities will include a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, a diaper derby, Huntsville Humane Society adoption day, face painting, carnival games, cake walk, inflatables, karaoke, entertainment and more.

Because of limited parking, Bill Heard Chevrolet will provide free shuttle service for our guests. The shuttles will be picking up/dropping off every 15 minutes at building 1500, as well as the youth baseball fields on Goss Road.

If you are looking for a four-legged companion, stop by the Huntsville Humane Society’s adop-

tion area. All animals will be available for you to take home that day. Because the animals will be at the Block Party, we are asking that our guests refrain from bringing personal pets. The animals from the shelter say thank you in advance!

We would like to thank our commercial sponsors for their support of this event: Boise Office Supply, the Commissary, Post Exchange, Knology, FM-104.3 WZYP, Peggy Ann’s Bakery, the Huntsville Havoc, Huntsville Vipers, and Coca Cola.

For more information about the Month of the Military Child Block Party, call Gena Scofield at 876-5911 or e-mail gena.scofield@redstone.army.mil.

By Army families for Army families

Team building program fosters happier homes

By ERIKA READUS

For the Rocket

“AFTB is a program designed by Army families for Army families,” Sara Ballard, Army Family Team Building volunteer program manager at Army Community Service, said.

“AFTB empowers Army families and makes them self-reliant,” she said. “The Army used to be just about recruiting Soldiers. Now, it’s about recruiting families. We have to have happy Army families for retention purposes and AFTB is one way the Army is making that happen.”

The Army Family Team Building program is staffed by volunteers who have a central purpose: to educate spouses and family members in support of the total Army effort. Strong families are the pillar of support behind strong Soldiers, and AFTB educates families so they have the knowledge, skills and behaviors designed to prepare them to move successfully into the future.

“It empowers the Army family through professional development and offers opportunities to grow,” Ballard said. “An

example of the empowerment component is apparent because AFTB is a program run mostly by volunteers. I’ve been around the program around 10 years and two things are very clear when it comes to the Army family; the first, people have a genuine desire to help their fellow Army family members and two, people enjoy harvesting new skills.

“There is no rank in AFTB,” she said. “It’s for the total Army family, active duty, Reserve and the Guard and retirees. We also include civilians because they work and support the Army family and its retirees.”

The program is taught in three levels. Those who finish the third level are encouraged to become instructors with the program. “This component helps keep the program going and growing,” Ballard said. “Level I is for people that are just coming into the Army family, zero to five years. Students learn basic customs, courtesy and military acronyms. By the time a spouse gets out of AIT they speak a new language and it’s helpful to know what all the new acronyms mean. It also teaches family and military expectations.

“This is very important because this is many of the students’ first time to sit with a group of their peers. The instructors were once students and they speak from

that position. They also have a connection with the student because they can be a civilian, retiree, active duty, or active duty spouse — these people actually understand what it’s like.”

Level II is for emerging leaders and includes communication skills, effective leadership, stress management and time management. The skills learned in Level II don’t just apply to the military. They are skills that can be used in everyday life.

“It also provides an excellent way for spouses that don’t work outside of the home to continue to build their resume just in case they decide to go back to work outside of the home,” Ballard said. “This level also teaches dealing with change. In the military, change is the only constant and whether you are a change master or a change victim depends on how well you deal with life’s changes.

“Level III is training for more in-depth leadership roles. The students learn coaching, mentoring and advising. Level III prepares you to teach — each one teach one. Students are trained to deal with group conflict, problem solving, as well as effective public and media relations management. They even learn how to build others’ self-esteem and varying personality traits, so that they can become the ones taking the lead at family readiness group meetings and other leadership roles throughout the community.

“The next level is instructor training where students learn to be confident in front of crowds, and different learning styles. After that, they come on board with AFTB to help us, help others.”

There are many ways to get involved with AFTB. You can call Army Community Service at 876-5397 and talk with Ballard or Larry Leggett, the quality of life program manager.

“I am so impressed with the training here at Redstone,” Ballard said. “The instructors are outstanding, funny, knowledgeable, and very dependable and they

just want to help, many teach after a full day of work. I have always been excited about this program. As soon as I found out about it, I got involved, and I think many people do, once they know about it.”

Instructor training is coming up April 17-20 and Level I runs May 2-4. Free child care is available upon request for participants. For more information, call 842-8375.



Courtesy photo

Company president

Retired Maj. Gen. John Holly has been named president and managing director of Analytical Services Inc. A current ASI board member, Holly previously served as senior vice president and general manager of Huntsville-based Intergraph’s federal solutions business unit.



Photo by Erika Readus

EACH ONE TEACH ONE— Jonathan Williams, a former Army Family Team Building student, teaches AFTB Level II to a group of students during the program’s March session.

General officer sees democracy grow in desert

Urias volunteered for duty in Iraq

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

Despite the negative images of the Iraqi war that appear in Western media, Soldiers who are serving in the theater know their work is making a difference in the lives of Iraqis who want national unity, freedom and democracy.

One of those Soldiers – Maj. Gen. John Urias – recently returned from a 13-month tour of Iraq during which he served as the commanding general of the Joint Contracting Command. He was in Iraq during all three of the country's major elections.

“For Iraqis to take part at their own peril was really something,” Urias said. “I have pictures of Iraqis showing their thumbs covered in ink. Many were killed. But, they stayed firm and were proud they participated in the elections.”

Urias spoke about his service in Iraq during a “Welcome Home” social sponsored by the Redstone Arsenal-Huntsville chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association. Before deploying to Iraq, Urias served at Redstone Arsenal as program executive officer for air, space and missiles and as deputy commander for the Space and Missile Defense Command.

He volunteered to serve in Iraq, where he established the Joint Contracting Command, a unified, multi-force command that established new wartime procedures for the acquisition of supplies, services and construction in support of the coalition forces and the reconstruction of Iraq. The command was so successful that the command's duties were expanded into Afghanistan and then later into Pakistan in response to the 2005 earthquake. During his deployment, the Joint Contracting Command in Iraq awarded 35,000 contracts at a value of \$10 million.

Urias told the crowd of about 50 ADA members that serving in Iraq gave him a chance to see the courage and commitment of both the coalition forces and the Iraqis as they worked together to rebuild the nation.

“It's a very tough environment,” Urias said. “Our troops are doing magnificent things over there in spite of day to day threats from the insurgency ... Our troops are mission focused and they will not waver.”

In the contracting arena, as well as in other areas of Iraq's transition government, Soldiers and DoD civilians work daily with Iraqis in implementing policies and procedures needed in a democratic and unified nation.

“Most of the Iraqis live in the Red Zone because there isn't enough room for them to all live in the Green Zone,” Urias said. “They come in the Green Zone to work with coalition forces. They are seen by the insurgents and many times they are targeted. They have tremendous courage.”

Urias told the story of a former colonel in Saddam Hussein's army who spoke out against the improper or total lack of training for Iraqi soldiers, despite the knowledge that he would be killed for his boldness.

The colonel, who was also a lawyer, spent several hours with Hussein and members of his cabinet.

“He told Saddam what he was doing wrong,” Urias said. “He told Saddam that the army was not strong, even though he knew it would be his demise. Saddam could not kill him without losing face. So, after a month, he put this colonel in prison for three and a half years ...”

“Today, this man, who is all bent over from living so long under horrible prison conditions, is doing contracting law in the Joint Contracting Command. He is a national Iraqi who doesn't care about a particular tribe. He cares about national unity.”

See **Democracy** on page 20



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WELCOME HOME— Members of the local chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association enjoy a Welcome Home celebration for Maj. Gen. John Urias (at right in foreground), who returned in February from a tour as commander of the Joint Contracting Command in Iraq and Afghanistan. From left are Lt. Col. Lawrence McRae of the Sentinel Radar Office, Col. Walt Lorcheim of the AMCOM G-3 Office and Col. Ed Mullin of the Cruise Missile Defense Project Office.

System speeds response to air traffic controllers

Airspace information becomes more timely

By JULIE FREDERICK
For the Rocket

The Air Traffic Control Product Manager Office is working to set a Soldier focused Army standard with a new performance based support strategy for the Tactical Airspace Integration System.

TAIS is used by Army air traffic controllers and airspace managers to help plan and integrate combat airspace, supporting ground maneuver while reducing the risk of fratricide. It is a mobile system that displays near real-time 2-D and 3-D views of the aerial battlespace and operational flight paths. It was developed to provide better situational awareness and a more orderly way to synchronize operations in the third dimension of the battlespace, according to Jim Kelton, assistant product manager, Tactical Airspace Integration System.

"TAIS was developed to meet a critical combat need identified during Operation Desert Storm to develop a system to quickly manage Army requests for airspace, make combat airspace orderly and usable, provide situational awareness of operations in the third dimension, and interface with joint airspace management systems," Kelton said.

The system is important because operators can more quickly and safely plan and execute the airspace required in support of the maneuver commander. TAIS provides airspace information to Army commanders and their staffs as well as to other command posts and civilian agencies in a more timely and efficient manner. The 2-D and 3-

D visualization capabilities give decision-makers a more complete picture of both air and ground assets – enabling more rapid, better informed combat decisions.

"To show the benefit of TAIS," Kelton said, "you must compare and contrast the last two wars that the United States has found itself in. During Desert Storm a copy of the Airspace Control Order, the joint force commander's daily plan for airspace usage, had to be manually delivered to each command post. This was difficult and inefficient because the ACO was always changing. Now, during OEF/OIF TAIS is being used to electronically depict the airspace from the ACO, detect potential conflicts through automated processes, and make that information instantaneously available for planning and executing operations in the third dimension."

TAIS is in full production and approximately midway through unit fielding. The first unit equipped occurred in 2000. It is expected to be fully fielded by fiscal 2008.

TAIS was developed to make Army Airspace Command and Control easier for the Soldiers in the field. However, to keep the numerous TAIS systems up and running requires a focused effort back home on the support front. Performance Based Logistics is the new supportability strategy doing just that.

Performance Based Logistics is a systemic approach for reducing total ownership costs. From a technical and sustainment standpoint, it keeps the product support provider, General Dynamics C4 Systems, engaged in the life cycle of the system through government/industry partnering. PBL also puts in place a single



Courtesy photo

IN THE FIELD— Soldiers use the Tactical Airspace Integration System for views of aerial battlespace and operational flight paths.

contact for questions about the system, the product support integrator, and provides an around-the-clock technical support call center for Soldiers. TAIS is the first PBL program to receive approval by the Army Acquisition Executive, and is viewed as the standard for future Army PBL programs.

Performance Based Logistics helps eliminate the proverbial "telephone game" by placing a product support integrator as the single point of contact for all support and the hub for information dissemination. Communication is more efficient because all information must flow through the integrator. The integrator then works with the assistant product manager as the liaison for the system between government, contractor and Soldiers in the field, while constantly evaluating incoming information. The government members of the PBL team ensure that TAIS product supply and support to the field is never hindered by miscommunication or misunderstanding. They also bring feedback from the field to other government stakeholders and the contractor so that issues or suggestions made by Soldiers can be systematically addressed.

A critical success factor of the TAIS PBL strategy is the technical support call center. It is manned by highly-trained field support representatives and is available to Soldiers in the field 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Soldiers can call in with a system problem and walk



Photo by Julie Frederick

RECEIVING END— Ken North of General Dynamics answers a question at the technical support call center.

through problem resolution over the phone with a technical representative. If the problem cannot be resolved by phone, then a field support representative is sent to the unit. The communication strategy allows system, software and hardware engineers to talk Soldiers through problem resolution. This reduces response time that would be incurred if travel were involved, as well as travel costs.

It mitigates excessive system down time which is integral to system operational availability and the ultimate satisfaction of the Soldier on the battlefield.

Performance Based Logistics allows the Army to be more Soldier focused, according to Jerry Johnston, senior logistics manager.

"Our goal is to always work for the Soldier," Johnston said. "Not only do the Soldiers benefit from the higher readiness rate as a result of the performance based logistics strategy, they also benefit from receiving over-the-shoulder training (by the field support representative). They know we care because we give them prompt and personal attention, not an automated telephone system."

Tactical support after hurricane

TAIS and PBL have been used successfully in the civilian environment, too.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, it wiped out the National Airspace System administered by the Federal Aviation Administration, and all measures for coordinating airspace usage and maintaining flight plans for rescue and support aircraft. The Army was asked to bring in TAIS to help re-establish order to the airspace until FAA facilities could become operational again.

The Army quickly responded and dispatched a National Guard TAIS system and support personnel to the Gulf Coast. A National Guard system was deployed to Louisiana for a couple of weeks; and the TAIS team responded within hours of receiving the call for support, even though communications and support facilities were sparse and unorganized. The flexibility of the PBL strategy became evident as the system was changed from battlefield support to disaster assistance support. PBL support proved that it could work in training, combat and natural disaster environments.

Disabled vets partake in Winter Sports Clinic

Annual six-day event draws more than 400

WASHINGTON — Catastrophic combat injuries, blindness and paralysis will not stop more than 400 disabled veterans, including nearly 70 veterans from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, from taking part in the 20th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass Village, Colo., April 2-7.

The event is jointly sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Disabled American Veterans.

The six-day clinic is an annual rehabilitation program open to all U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injuries or disease, visual impairments, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations or other disabilities, who receive care at any VA health care facility.

“For 20 years, the Winter Sports Clinic has been a shining example of VA’s commitment to help disabled veterans recover from their serious injuries and illnesses,” said R. James Nicholson, secretary of veterans affairs. “Also important is that their determination, courage and achieve-

ment become models for other injured people to realize what they still can do with their lives.”

The veterans will learn adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, and be introduced to a variety of other sports, such as rock climbing, scuba diving, trapshooting and sled hockey. The U.S. Secret Service will also teach a course on self-defense for people with disabilities.

This year veteran athletes will be able to set their sights on the Paralympics, thanks to an agreement between the U.S. Olympic Committee and VA signed on Nov. 17, 2005. Clinic participants will be introduced to racing techniques and other Paralympic sports such as wheelchair fencing.

The clinic’s own Chris Devlin-Young, recent silver medalist in the men’s downhill skiing competition during the 2006 Paralympics in Torino, will ski at the clinic and take part in this first-ever race training and development program.

Devlin-Young and U.S. Olympic coaches will be on hand to teach racing skills and philosophy as well as to identify those veterans with Para-

lympic potential.

“There is a true sense of community and a deep bond among veterans,” said DAV national commander Paul W. Jackson. “You feel it very strongly at the clinic. During this week, those brave men and women who have shared sacrifices in battle forge an even stronger bond through teamwork and competition.”

Clay Walker, country music entertainer, will perform Thursday at 9 p.m. Actress Bo Derek, national honorary chairperson for VA’s rehabilitation special events, will also be present during the week to meet with the veterans.

VA continues to be a recognized leader in rehabilitation, with recreational therapy programs at each of its 154 hospitals allowing disabled veterans to challenge themselves both physically and emotionally. DAV, which has co-sponsored the event since 1991, is a nonprofit, congressionally chartered veterans service organization, with a membership of more than 1 million wartime disabled veterans.

Editor’s note: Information for this Army News Service release was provided by Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Office.



Arnews photo

VETERAN SKIER— Army veteran Alan Lewis tries out skiing at the 2005 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Lewis, a double amputee, was injured in service during Operation Iraqi Freedom and will attend this year’s event.

■ Urias returns from voluntary tour of duty in Iraq

Democracy

continued from page 18

The colonel is just one example of Iraqi courage, Urias said.

“When you are in Iraq you grow to love Iraqis because you can see they want democracy,” he said. “They are tired of insurgents killing innocent civilians and destroying civilian property.”

In his comments, Urias shared the views of Gen. George Casey, commanding general of the Multinational Forces in Iraq, who has urged patience in withdrawing troops from Iraq.

“It’s going to take time for the Iraqi army to be able to stand up alone against the insurgency,” he said. “You can’t look through an American lens and expect immediate democracy.”

Though the coalition forces are trying to get the good news of Iraq’s new developments into the media, the enemy often is able to manipulate information to their own ends, Urias said. To make it worse, coalition forces have to be careful about reporting about the successful completion

of a reconstruction program because when such news is reported the insurgents will do whatever it takes to destroy that success.

The insurgency is a “very complex and difficult foe,” Urias said.

The general is proud of the work he accomplished in helping Iraq in its steps toward being a democratic nation.

“This job is the best I’ve had,” he said. “It doesn’t get any better than being in the theater. That’s what we train for everyday. We do it. Live it. Experience it.”

“Even though there are tough times and losses, there’s nothing better and something I’ll never forget ... It’s a great honor to know I am among those who served before me and who will serve after me. Together we’ve made a difference in keeping our nation free and strong.”

Retired Col. Jon Stieglitz said it was appropriate that the local ADA chapter sponsor an event for Urias.

“We’ve all known him and worked with him and for him for many years,” Stieglitz said. “He has a distinguished career in air defense artillery ... And, then he volunteered to go to Iraq.”

Army bans commercial body armor

WASHINGTON – Soldiers may no longer wear body armor other than Army-issued Interceptor Body Armor, Army officials announced.

In a safety message sent to all commanders March 17, the Army warned that commercial body armor may cause “death or serious injury to Soldiers.”

“I think the mothers and fathers that are currently having Soldiers deployed, whether they’re female or male, ought to feel comfortable with the fact ... that we have provided the best body armor that is available anywhere in the world,” said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, the Army secretary’s deputy assistant for acquisition and systems management, at a Pentagon news conference March 31.

Of main concern with officials is “Dragon Skin,” produced by Pinnacle Armor. While the manufacturer has received close to a million dollars from the Army to produce lighter-weight armor, Dragon Skin’s capabilities do not yet meet Army requirements, and is not certified by the Army to protect against several small arms threats currently being encountered in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“They have not been tested. They have not passed the rigor that we put into standards determining whether something is safe, effective and suitable.”

— Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson
Army secretary’s deputy assistant
for acquisition and systems management

Advertising for Dragon Skin implies that it is superior to IBA, but Army officials say there have been no tests to validate the claim.

“They have not been tested. They have not passed the rigor that we put into standards determining whether something is safe, effective and suitable,” Sorenson said. “And until they can do that, we will not give them, if you will, the ‘good housekeeping seal of approval.’”

Many Soldiers interviewed by *Stars and Stripes* said

they were fine with the Army’s move to ban privately purchased body armor.

“It’s been proven to work, so why should I go out and have to buy my own?” Sgt. Davaras Bronson of the 3rd Corps Support Command told a reporter.

Body armor currently being issued to Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan has gone through seven improvements since the beginning of the war, according to Sorenson. More than 200,000 sets of the latest iteration are now in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Commanders have 30 days to ensure their Soldiers are in compliance with the directive. Additionally, commanders may tailor the IBA configuration to meet threat and mission requirements. Components include the outer tactical vest and ballistic plates, throat protector, collar, groin protector, Deltoid and Axillary Protector, side plates and side plate carriers.

Soldiers may dispose of unauthorized body armor through their local Central Issue Facility, who will ship the items to PEO Soldier. (*Army News Service*)

Unmanned Predator kills three terrorists

WASHINGTON — An MQ-1B Predator unmanned aerial vehicle engaged three insurgents in the process of planting a homemade bomb along a road near Balad Air Base, Iraq, March 28 and launched an AGM-114 Hellfire missile against the group.

The Predator monitored the three terrorists for about a half hour while they used a pick ax to dig a hole in the road, placed an explosive round in the hole, and strung wires from the hole to a ditch on the side of the road. When it was clear the individuals were placing a bomb, the Predator launched the 100-pound Hellfire missile, killing all three insurgents.

“This is a prime example of how airpower is supporting the fight on the ground,” Air Force Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad, said. “We’re able to provide a persistent view of the battlefield to commanders on the ground and, if called upon, put a weapon on a target within minutes.”

Using joint Army and Air Force trend analysis and past incident reporting from the area, the Predator was assigned to monitor the general location where the insurgents were ultimately found. “Based on the information we had available, we had a pretty good idea there might be some activity in the area, and we were



Army photo

ON PROWL— The Air Force’s Predator unmanned aerial vehicle has been widely used in the continuing war on terrorism.

right,” Gorenc said. “This strike should send a message to our enemies that we’re watching you, and we will take action against

you any time, day or night, if you continue to stand in the way of progress in Iraq.”

In other news from Iraq, a relative of a

suspected terrorist turned him over to Multinational Division Baghdad soldiers March 27, accusing him of conducting drive-by attacks against Iraqi army troops, officials reported.

When Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, responded to the relative’s tip and went to the suspect’s house, they found two AK-47 assault rifles, a 9 mm pistol, and body armor. The suspect was taken into custody for questioning.

Elsewhere, other tipsters told coalition forces and Iraqi army soldiers about two weapons caches on March 25. One cache contained 22 grenades, six grenade fuses and five blasting caps in southern Baghdad. U.S. Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and counterparts from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, found the cache.

A few hours later, another tip led the same Soldiers to a large weapons cache containing 292 grenades, 350 machine gun rounds, 100 hand grenade fuses, two 120 mm artillery rounds, two 25-pound bags of artillery propellant, and repellant charges.

Editor’s note: Compiled by the American Forces Press Service from Multinational Force Iraq and U.S. Central Command Air Forces Forward news releases.

Task Force Guantanamo has new commander

Navy rear admiral succeeds Soldier

By Sgt. SARA WOOD
American Forces Press Service

NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba – A Navy admiral assumed command March 31 of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, the force responsible for detainee operations and intelligence gathering here.

Navy Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris assumed command from Army Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, who has commanded the task force since March 2004.

Harris, who most recently had been the director of the information, plans and security division for Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael G. Mullen at the Pentagon, said he is honored to take command of a force that plays such an important role in the war on terror.

“I’m very impressed by the people that work here,” Harris said in an interview. “The dedication that I’ve seen with the military folks and the civilians that are here - I think they’re doing a great job. I think their country is lucky to have them down here, and I’m very lucky and fortunate to be asked to take charge.”

The mission of Joint Task Force Guantanamo is complex and challenging, but Harris is extraordinarily qualified, Army Gen. John Craddock, commander of U.S. Southern Command, said at the change of command ceremony. The chief of naval operations personally chose Harris, Crad-



Photo by Sgt. Sara Wood

PASSING COLORS— Army Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles, Joint Task Force Guantanamo command sergeant major, passes the task force colors to Army Maj. Gen. Jay Hood, outgoing commander, during the Joint Task Force Guantanamo change of command ceremony at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 31. Navy Rear Adm. Harry Harris took command of the task force.

dock said, and the members of the task force are lucky to have him.

Hood, the outgoing commander, also

expressed confidence in Harris’s leadership. Harris’s talents, coupled with the dedication of the servicemembers and

civilians of the task force, will ensure the task force’s mission continues at a high standard, Hood said.

“Our mission here at the joint task force is about protecting America from terrorists,” Hood said to the task force members assembled at the ceremony. “(The terrorists) have underestimated your courage, your character, and your commitment to do what’s right.”

Harris said his goal is to maintain focus on the mission of providing safe and humane custody to detainees and continuing to gather intelligence valuable to the war on terror. The work of the task force is heavily scrutinized, he acknowledged, but he said he welcomes the scrutiny.

“The light of day is a useful thing,” he said. “I hope that the American people will be given a chance to understand just how fortunate they are that young men and women in the armed services and the civilian agencies that are down here - that they’re working their butts off in support of the American people.”

Joint Task Force Guantanamo is vitally important to the war on terror, Harris said. To protect national security, America’s enemies captured on the battlefield need to be detained somewhere, he noted.

“What we’re about here on Guantanamo, is we are about defending our nation,” he said. “We’re doing it here in Guantanamo, because that’s where our nation has called us to serve.”

Hood moves on to be a special assistant to the commander of U.S. Forces Command at Fort Meade, Md.

Commander leads Gitmo guard force through challenges

By Sgt. SARA WOOD
American Forces Press Service

NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba – Navy Cmdr. Catie Hanft knows she asks a lot of the sailors and Soldiers she commands. They work 12-to-14 hour shifts in intense heat, dealing with a difficult group of people from a culture foreign to them, all the while knowing their work is under international scrutiny.

But with a focus on leadership, Hanft, deputy commander of the Joint Detention Group and commander of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion here, is bringing her troops past these challenges to a place where they are fulfilling their mission and contributing to the fight against terrorism.

“Being down here is the right thing to do,” Hanft said. “Seeing how hard the sailors and Soldiers work, I know we’re doing a good job.”

The roughly 500 sailors in the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion provide security inside Camp Delta, the main detention facility here. An additional 400 to 450 Soldiers provide security for other smaller camps and Camp 5 — the newest and most high-security facility — as well as external security outside the camps.

In all the facilities, guard force troops face unique challenges when dealing with the detainees, Hanft said. Detainees who have been here for a long time and are frustrated and depressed often act out against the guards by assaulting them, throwing things at them or calling them names, she said.



Photo by Sgt. Sara Wood

HOLDING CELL— Navy Cmdr. Catie Hanft, deputy commander of the Joint Detention Group and commander of the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, stands in a display of a typical compliant detainee cell at Camp Delta, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, March 30.

Guards are not allowed to react to detainee outbursts, but are relieved from their posts and taken care of while the detainee is put in segregation as punishment, Hanft said. This has been a challenge for her troops, she said, because they cannot give in to their natural inclination to defend themselves when attacked.

“I ask young sailors to put aside their personal political beliefs and to reach deep into their ethical beliefs, and to look past the differences and problems, and to be humane,” she said. “That’s a big challenge, to do that on a daily basis.”

The long hours also are taxing on the guard troops, Hanft said, especially when they’re required to keep their composure at all times and use interpersonal skills to work with the detainees and foster cooperation. Servicemembers receive cultural training before reporting here, but the Muslim culture isn’t something that can be learned overnight, she said.

“No matter how much you tell a person what they can expect, they won’t fully understand until they come down here and see the reality and live the reality day to day,” she said.

A negative worldwide perception of detention procedures at Guantanamo Bay has been a challenge for her troops to overcome, Hanft said. These troops have sacrificed a year of their lives to leave home and serve their country, doing a very arduous duty, and it’s hard for them to hear criticisms and accusations leveled at them in the United States and abroad, she said.

“It’s very hard on them to know that they are volunteering — they are sacrificing their families and themselves — to come down to a place that many people don’t understand and that many people criticize,” she said.

Many criticisms of Guantanamo Bay occur because people haven’t visited the facilities and witnessed detention procedures, Hanft said. “Until you really fully understand what’s going on down here and see what’s going on down here on a daily basis, then you can’t really comment on it.”

The Guantanamo Bay leadership is

constantly making improvements to make detainee operations better, Hanft said. The detainees’ menu was recently changed to a more Mediterranean-style cuisine to suit their preferences, and detainees have a choice of four different meal plans.

As always, all detainees are given basic issue items and afforded the right to practice religion, Hanft said. Compliant detainees are given comfort items, such as games, library books, and pens and paper. Highly compliant detainees are allowed to live communally, sharing meals and recreation, and spend more time out of their cells.

Female guards perform the same duties as their male counterparts, with one exception, Hanft said. When a detainee is showering at the end of the cellblock, female guards cannot go more than two-thirds of the way down the block, she said. Also, when detainees are using the bathroom facilities in their cells, they are allowed to cover themselves with a sheet or exercise mat.

Legal procedures being put in place for these detainees are ones the U.S. government has never had to employ before, so there are many issues to work out, Hanft said. While that system is being developed, the servicemembers at Guantanamo Bay have been charged to safely, securely and humanely detain the suspected terrorists, and they are doing so with integrity and discipline.

“The American people need to trust that the military, who they’ve turned to before in times of need, are doing what they need to do,” Hanft said.

Ringling Bros. joins 'America Supports You'

Greatest show on earth becomes corporate member

By PAUL X. RUTZ
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Corporate support for the nation's troops means a lot, especially to their families, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said here March 29 as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus began its annual series of performances in the nation's capital.

Retired Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers was guest of honor at the circus, along with 15 children of troops deployed overseas and six wounded veterans from the National Naval Medical Center in nearby Bethesda, Md.

Myers spoke during the kickoff ceremony announcing Ringling Bros.' membership in "America Supports You," a Defense Department program highlighting grassroots and corporate support for the nation's troops and their families.

"We know this is a big commitment, and it can't come at a better time, when we have so many folks deployed around the world, trying to keep us free and safe and secure," he said, before motioning toward the children standing around him. "The families of our military members also serve, and these folks represent those who are serving."

Myers invited the crowd of thousands attending the circus at Verizon Center to visit www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil and find out more about how they could help support America's troops.

Nicole Feld, the show's co-producer, welcomed Myers and other distinguished guests. She said the circus is proud to join many volunteer groups, charitable organizations, local governments, and other corporations in communicating their support for the nation's men and women in uniform.

Feld gave Myers a scroll and specially designed ringmaster top hat and turned the crowd's attention to an elephant wearing a specially designed extra-large dog tag, which she said symbolized the circus' corporate commitment to the ASY program.

"Please accept these items on behalf of the men and women in service and know that all of you are always welcome at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey," Feld said.

Cpl. Estevan Diaz, a wounded Marine waiting for surgery at Bethesda, said he was

proud to come and be part of the event.

"It means a lot to us," he said. "It's just the act of them helping us out like that. It shows a lot of support."

The first act of the show included elephants, horses, zebras, acrobats and clowns, as well as Brian and Tina Miser, a married couple of human cannonballs who blasted out of a specially designed cannon simulta-

neously. Both have been shot more than 5,000 times.

Brian said the couple's fathers retired after long Air Force careers — Brian's father as a crew chief, and Tina's as a colonel. Tina was an Air Force reservist, keeping flight records for pilots, before resigning to travel professionally with Ringling Bros.

Luke Brechtelsbauer, now in his second season traveling with the group, plays a Scottish clown. He said he was happy the circus has decided to support the troops, and he personally is prepared to do more. "If you want me to support the troops, send me over to Iraq to put on a show," he said. "Now that would be support for the troops, there."



Photo by Paul X. Rutz

CLOWNING AROUND— America Supports You welcomed Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus as a corporate member during a kickoff ceremony. Michael Richter, a clown with the circus, poses in front of an ASY sign before the show in downtown Washington, D.C., March 29.



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.

Ten-miler tryouts

Tryouts for Redstone's team in the Army Ten-Miler are 7 a.m. May 6 and May 13 on a 10-mile course beginning and ending at Sparkman Fitness Center. There are openings for eight military and four civilian members. The Redstone community is invited to try out – including active duty and retired military, National Guard and Reserve, and government and contractor civilian employees. The 22nd annual Army Ten-Miler is Oct. 8 in Washington, D.C. For more information on the tryouts, call team head coach Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs 842-6864, Skip Vaughn 876-1500 and Alexander Steel 876-3867. Interested military runners should call Hobbs so he can answer any questions they might have.

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 Friday, 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.

Bass tournament

The Army Aviation Association of America, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will hold its 2006 Spring Bass Tournament on April 22 at Spring Creek Marina. Entry fee is \$30 per boat for members, \$40 non-members. Registration deadline is April 14. Call Bob Vlasic 881-4144, Tom Geoffroy 895-4162 and Matt Boenker 955-6420.

RDEC 5K run

The RAM Engineering and Test Division of the Engineering Directorate will hold the fifth annual RDEC 5K Run and Fun Walk to benefit the Army Emergency Relief fund May 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the physical training track off Corporal Road. Military, civilian, contract employees and their family members are welcome to participate. Registration deadline is April 12. The \$15 entry fee includes a blue T-shirt and race day snacks/water/Powerade and a \$5 coupon to Fleet Feet Sports. Call Mary Ann Brothers 876-1216, Wynema Wooten 842-2775 and Holly Rigdon 842-2764.



Courtesy photo

Brooklyn's best

Morale Welfare and Recreation and Redstone Lanes Bowling Center announce the winner of the "Name the Sports Bar" contest is **Steve Booze, for submitting the name "Brooklyn's."** Stop by Brooklyn's, located in building 3424 on Hercules Road near Gate 10, which is open seven days a week. For more information, call 876-6634 or 842-2695.

Stars baseball

Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring Team Redstone Night at Joe Davis Stadium on April 22. Cheer the Huntsville Stars as they battle the Mobile BayBears starting at 7:05 p.m. Be one of the first 2,000 people who enter the stadium and receive a free Stars/Team Redstone souvenir baseball cap. Free general admission tickets are located across the Arsenal, at the Sparkman Cafeteria, or from any CWF Council member. Each ticket will admit one person and can be upgraded to an upper or lower box seat for \$5. There will be military displays in front of the stadium before the game.



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.

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.

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.

Acquisition community

The 2006 Acquisition Community Con-

ference, hosted by the Defense Acquisition University and sponsored by the DAU Alumni Association, will explore the topic "Quadrennial Defense Review: Impact on DoD and Defense Industry." The conference will generate discussions on shared concerns and interests across the military-defense industry community regarding priorities specified in the defense review. The conference will be held April 18 at the DAU Campus, building 226 (Howell Auditorium), Fort Belvoir, Va. It will also be linked by video-teleconference to the DAU South Campus in Huntsville. Those interested in acquiring firsthand knowledge about the defense review and its impacts are encouraged to register for the conference online at www.dauaa.org, or dauaa-s@dau.mil for the Huntsville video-teleconference. The contact for satellite connections is Emma White in Huntsville 722-1079.

Civil War talk

"Collecting the Civil War," a talk about collecting and researching Civil War materiel, will be presented by Sid Lyons of the local Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table. The presentation is 6:30 p.m. April 13 at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin St., north entrance. The meeting is free. Chicken dinner is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. For information call 858-6191.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer Users Group will meet at 9:15 a.m. Saturday at the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Scheduled presenter Ron Schmitz will be followed at 10:45 by Gene Zajicek. Both are members of the group. The presentations are open to visitors. For more information, call 883-9601.

Communication society

Society for Technical Communication will have a luncheon meeting April 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the UAH University Center, room 126. Reservations are required for this Italian pasta bar buffet. Huntsville/North Alabama Chapter members and technical communication students are admitted free. Cost for others is \$10. For reservations, visit membership@stc-na.org.

Women accountants

American Society of Women Accountants meets April 18 at the Holiday Inn Select on Williams Avenue, Sun Room of Lofton's. Social starts at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 and the program at 6:30. Mary Guillory and Robert Half are to speak on Student Night. Cost is \$16.50 members, \$17.50 non-members and \$10 full-time undergraduate students. Reservations are due by noon April 14 by calling 830-0377 or e-mailing royerfe@juno.com.

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Federal employees

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday morning at 9 at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Breakfast in the cafeteria is \$5. Scheduled speaker is Harvey Cotten, chief operating officer of the Huntsville Botanical Garden. For information call 881-4944 or 882-2406.



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. On a trial basis, the shop will take afternoon appointments from 1:30-2:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call 881-6992.

Computer classes

Self-paced computer classes are offered at

Army Community Service to assist military spouses in learning or enhancing their computer skills. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher and Windows XP. All classes are free and are offered Monday through Friday anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Certificates will be given after successful completion. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Chapel services

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held April 16 at 6:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Weekly services at the 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.

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.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Keeping it clean

Retired Master Sgt. Hartis Lowman washes his car weekly at the MWR Car Wash after getting off work at the nearby Class Six store.

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.

Warrant officer scholarship

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the War-

rant 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.

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 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

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

TOW system reunion

The TOW missile system has been in existence since the 1960s. The TOW Reunion is planned Sept. 8-9 for everyone who has contributed to the system through the years. A registration web site has been established at <http://towreunion.com/> or call Jack Conway 562-2132. The chairman of the reunion committee is George Williams, former program executive officer for tactical missiles and former TOW deputy project manager. Chuck Ruddy, of Raytheon marketing and business development, is co-chairman.

Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society) will hold a free lecture Thursday night at 7 at

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Courtesy photo

Knights drop in

The Army Golden Knights Parachute Team is scheduled to perform Saturday at the River Region Air Show and Open House at Maxwell Air Force Base. The day also features a "Salute to Veterans" and is free and open to the public. Gates open at 8 a.m. For more information call (334) 953-3500 or visit www.maxwell.af.mil/airshow.

Huntsville-Madison Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Dr. Bill Cooke, of Marshall Space Flight Center's Meteoroid Environment Office, is to speak on "Forecasting rocks: Who needs meteor shower predictions?" For more information, visit www.HAL5.org.

College fund gala

Oakwood College presents the 28th annual UNCF (United Negro College Fund) Gala, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. Theme for the occasion is "Living to Learn and to Serve." Featured speaker is Les Brown, nationally-recognized motivational speaker, author and entrepreneur. Musical entertainment will be provided by Oakwood's own Take 6, whose latest album "Feels Good" hit stores March 21. Tickets for the gala may be purchased from Oakwood College, 7000 Adventist Boulevard, East Hall or by calling 726-7584 or 726-7236. For more information, visit the Oakwood College UNCF web site at www.oakwood.edu.

ROTC scholarships

Army Reserve Officer Training Corps is offering two-year scholarships to students desiring to become a commissioned officer in the Army Reserve. Students who are pursuing a baccalaureate degree who are entering their junior year of college, high school students who attend a military junior college and individuals pursuing a graduate degree may apply. Applicants must have two academic years of college remaining.

Contact the 81st Regional Readiness Command's education services office for more information or to request an application at its toll-free number (877) 749-9063, ext. 1705, or EdServices81@usar.army.mil. Annotate ROTC on the subject line of e-mail to expedite services. Deadline for applications is April 24.

Block party

Child and Youth Services will host the annual Community Block Party for the Month of the Military Child from 1-4 p.m. Saturday at the Youth Center, building 3148. This family event for all ages will feature free food, games, entertainment, cultural displays and informational booths. All block party traffic should park on the paved parking lots along Goss Road and at building 1500, the Challenger Activity Center. A shuttle will be provided by Bill Heard Chevrolet. For more information, call 876-5911 or 876-3704.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is offering education scholarships to spouses of Soldiers on active duty, and residing in the United States. Scholarships are also available for widows of Soldiers who have died while on active duty. Applications will be accepted through May 22, and are available at www.aerhq.org or by calling Kristi Foster of Army Community Service 876-5397.

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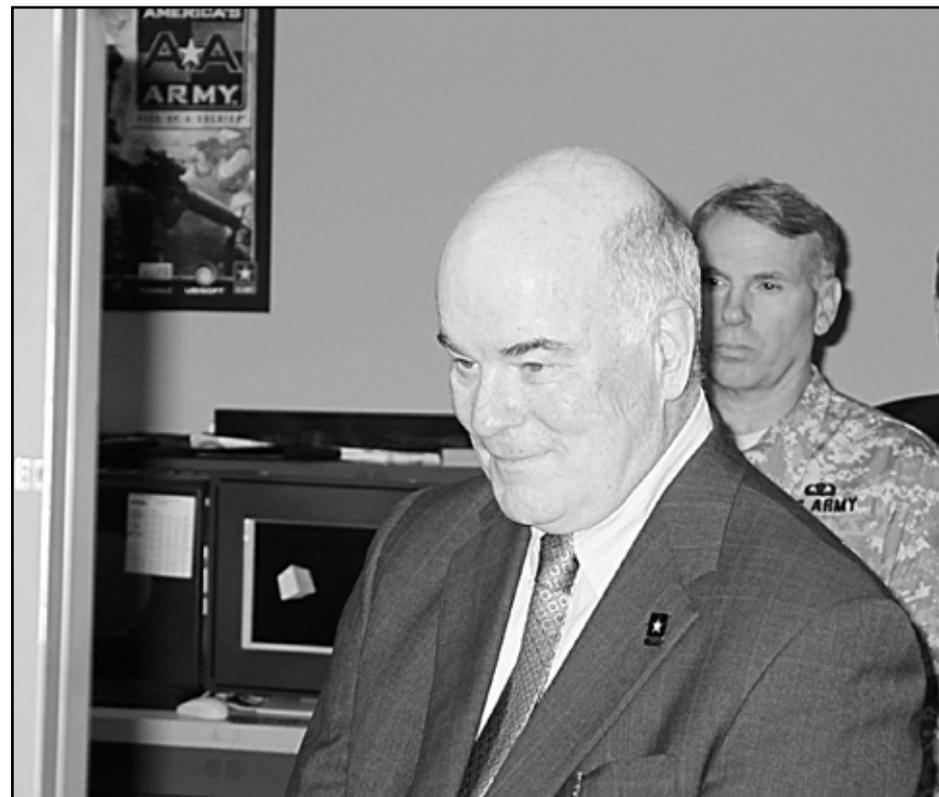


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Army secretary

Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey tours the Software Engineering Directorate while visiting Redstone on Thursday. "It's good to be in Alabama," he said. At right is Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space. The directorate is part of the Research Development and Engineering Center.

