

# Redstone Rocket

VOL. 55 No. 22

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May 31, 2006

## Training day



Command course visits Redstone  
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## Culture cloth



Celebrating heritage Asian Pacific style  
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## At ease

'AER Idol' rocks house  
**Page 14**



## Still serving



Local businesses salute veterans  
**Page 16**

## Win or lose



Gators savor first victory  
**Page 20**

# Driving home safety first

*Failure to yield, speeding top factors for accidents*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

How important is driving safety? Just listen to a member of the Aviation and Missile Command's Safety Office.

"The No. 1 hazard to our personnel is driving – driving accidents," Bryan Lorge, chief of operational safety division at AMCOM Safety Office, said. "So I think that's the most important thing we can do to help take care of our folks."

Capt. Roger Triplett, assistant operations officer in the Garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services, knows firsthand about the importance of driving safety. He's been a police officer for 24 years and investigated Redstone's last traffic death which occurred in 2004. "It saves lives," he said.

"Safe driving goes hand-in-hand with attention to detail on the road which can lead to saving lives. You have to look at car insurance, health insurance," Triplett said.

Rather than rushing to get to work or back home after work, put safety first. "I'd



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**PAY ATTENTION—** Safety and police officials encourage drivers to focus on what they're doing.

rather be late than not there at all – wherever you're going," Triplett said.

Failure to yield and speeding are the two biggest contributors to traffic accidents, according to Triplett.

"Eighty percent of your accidents occur

within 25 miles of your house under 40 miles per hour," he said. "And failure to yield and speed are the two contributing factors."

See **Driving** on page 11

# Safety subject of day for Ordnance school

*59th brigade Soldiers get outdoor training*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

When equipment is damaged in an accident, it can be replaced. But that's not true with Soldiers.

That's why the 59th Ordnance Brigade shut down all training Thursday so its troops could spend the day learning about safety at the brigade's annual Safety Day on the parade field.

"We want the Soldiers to understand that their safety and well-being is a concern of ours and is high on our priority list," 59th commander Col. Jose Enriquez said.

This event is held each year as a prelude to the Memorial Day weekend and summer activities. The Soldiers went to 12 educational stations on the parade field which covered various aspects of outdoor safety.

"It's a matter of making the Soldiers aware of it. And for those that have seen it, refreshing their minds again," Enriquez



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**REVIEWING STAND—** Working in the command post for Safety Day are, from left, Pvt. Ross Sprayberry and Pvt. Cory Bennett, both of Charlie Company, and Sgt. 1st Class Warnie Stokes of HHC 59th.

said. "Safety is a No. 1 issue of all leaders, to include myself. I just don't have a whole lot of people to go around and replace others (who are lost in an accident). The Army doesn't.

"We want people to be able to enjoy themselves (in the summer), and not have to go through life with losing a loved one in an accident when it could have been prevented. So it's an education."

The brigade conducted the classes with assistance from six outside agencies including the Huntsville Fire Department

and the State Troopers.

"We do (safety day) every year," Sgt. Maj. Robert Johnson, the brigade's S-3 sergeant major, said. "We give them all the safety training that they need – all the different classes – as we head into Memorial Day and in the summer time frame."

The 12 stations included drunk driving simulation course by the State Troopers; improvised explosive device/unexploded ordnance class; privately owned vehicle safety; fire extinguisher/operations; motorcycle safety; smokehouse; severe weather safety class; poisonous plants, snakes and insects; outdoor recreation; water safety; heat injury class; and alcohol and drug abuse class.

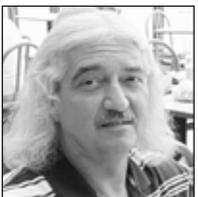
The 59th Ordnance Brigade has 2,267 Soldiers, including about 1,100 at Redstone. The 832nd Ordnance Battalion is here along with the Marine Detachment and the NCO Academy. The battalion's three detachments include a radar repair training detachment at Fort Sill, Okla.; a Patriot training detachment at Fort Bliss, Texas; and an explosive ordnance disposal school at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Headquarters & Headquarters Company 59th has a directorate of instruction which includes civilians and permanent-party Soldiers. The 73rd Ordnance Battalion is located at Fort Gordon, Ga.

# An open lane random survey

*What are you doing to save money on gas?*

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



**Bob Steele**  
retiree  
"I drive only required miles and I don't punch my sports car."

**Pvt. Kristina Ehrenberg**  
"I use public transportation and take the shuttle whenever I can."



**Marshall Grice**  
contractor  
"I'm buying a smaller truck with a V6 instead of a V8 engine."

**Maurice Newby**  
contractor  
"I think one of the easiest ways is to carpool — maybe switching off driving each week. That way you're not driving your vehicle every week."



## Quote of the week

'Laughter is God's hand on a troubled world.'  
— "Big Momma's House 2"  
comedy movie (2006)

## Excellent customer service

I would like to say "Thank You" to the Military Personnel Division, Directorate of Human Resources, Army Garrison employees/contractors. On May 18, I went to the Military Personnel Division to have my CAC Card renewed. Upon my arrival I was approached by some of the most professional employees working in the ID Card Section I have encountered in quite sometime. They were very respectful, patient and courteous to all their customers while rendering the

proper services regardless of the number they had waiting in line for assistance. I was in total awe and impressed with their standard of conduct toward each individual who had different needs and concerns. Thank you, Military Personnel, for all you do and for setting the standards of excellence in customer service.

**Gloria D. Dorsey**  
Army (retired),  
government employee

## Equestrians rein in trophies

Congratulations equestrians for putting the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Club on the map. One of the most premier pony club events, Wolf-Gap Combined Training Show, was held on Saturday, May 13, in Elkton, Tenn.

Many of our members and their horses, after hours of training, loaded up and headed to Wolf-Gap along with 150 other competitors to compete in dressage and cross country.

Dressage is a French word for train-

ing. The rider through slight movement of their hands, legs and weight guides their horse in a ballet of graded maneuvers. Cross country is a series of natural obstacles from 12 inches to 3 feet 4 inches high, depending on the division. In the harder divisions, the obstacles can be 5 feet wide at the base.

The rider must walk the cross country course to determine how he/she will ride to and over the obstacles.

Please see **Trophies** on page 3

## Walk on wet side

During the past year a lot of work has been done in front of building 5309 including a large amount of dirt being brought in, sod and the addition of an attractive "S" shaped sidewalk that gets covered with water every time it rains. One might ask why does this happen, and of course the answer is the sidewalk is lower than the ground around it so

See **Walk** on page 3

## Correction

The May 17 "Getting to know you" column should have identified Gregory Rayford as a supply systems analyst, depot programming, Integrated Materiel Management Center.

Pat Vittitow, chief of the AMCOM Safety Office, was featured in the May 10 column.

## Letters to the Editor

## Bowled over by writer

The May 24 letter to the editor, "Unsettled in seat," written about the overly enthusiastic automatic toilets in the Sparkman Complex, is probably the funniest thing I've ever read in the *Redstone Rocket*.

I want more.

Please consider hiring this person to write a regular column. For that matter, *The Huntsville Times* should grab up this person as well. He or she is as funny or funnier than many of the *Times* columnists, syndicated or not. Very Dave-Barry-esque. Too bad they asked that their name be withheld; whoever wrote it is a minor celebrity around here. We've Xeroxed it and have been passing the letter around for laughs.

There has been a bit of debate over the gender of the writer. One clue that suggests the writer could be male is the use of the phrase "comb your hair." I think most women tend to use "brush" instead of comb.

On the other hand, clues that it may be a female include: a) the position of the toilet victim, b) the use of the arguably girly phrase "little hokey pokey dance," and c) the customary use of toilet seat liners.

At the risk of being incredibly gender-ist, not many men, except those raised by mothers who work at the CDC, are even aware of what those wall dispensers contain, much less how to use one. And they certainly wouldn't know about the Secret Emergency Toilet Paper Strip Maneuver. That's only taught in Girl School.

**Liss Sterling**

*Editor's note: For the record, it's a guy.*

## Club stands by veterans

The duMidi Women's Club helped the residents of the Tut Fann Veterans Home on Friday, May 19, celebrate Armed Forces Week. Members helped honor some of this country's worthiest old warriors, while being entertained themselves. Darryl Goldman, storyteller extraordinaire and Army chaplain, spun his tales of early Huntsville and was followed by the musical talent of Patsy Cline tribute artist Margie Cumby. Cake and ice cream were served, along with a generous portion of good humor, affection and appreciation. Continual needs are visits and Bingo prizes, for anyone who would care to help out.

**Sherry Stutts**  
duMidi Women's Club

## Thanks from the heart

This note is to express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Steve Reid, for his instantaneous response and medical expertise that he provided to me on May 23. I also would like to thank the other medical professionals that responded to my call. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to get everyone's name. Please know that your kindness and patience will always be remembered. May God continue to richly bless each of you.

**Cevelyne McCaulley**  
Command Ombudsman Office

# Redstone Rocket

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# Getting to know you

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

**Name:** Robbie Evans

**Job:** Supply systems analyst,  
Integrated Materiel Management  
Center

**Where do you call home?**  
Stonewall, Miss.

**What do you like about your job?**  
It's challenging. Plus, rewarding  
because you can see results. You  
can see the benefits and results.

**What do you like to do in your spare  
time?**  
I love bowling. I love church. And  
I love socializing with people.

**What are your goals?**  
My goals are, in the next couple  
of years, to finish up my master's.



And I hope to retire (in the next  
five years) and run my own busi-  
ness.

**What's your favorite type of  
music?**  
Gospel and jazz

# Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

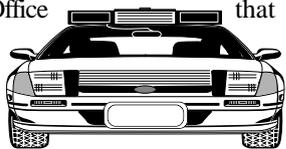
The Provost Marshal Office  
provided the following  
list of reported incidents:

**May 14:** An individ-  
ual was found to be  
operating his motor  
vehicle with a suspended driver's  
license at Gate 9. He was issued a  
violation notice and released to a  
licensed driver.

**May 14:** An individual was found  
to be operating his motor vehicle  
while under the influence of alcohol  
during an inspection at Gate 10. He  
also had an open container in the  
vehicle, and a suspended license. He  
was transported to the Provost Mar-  
shal Office where he was issued  
three violation notices and then  
detained until his blood-alcohol  
level reached an acceptable level.

**May 15:** An individual reported  
that she had two rings taken from  
her on-post residence valued at  
\$3,500 each. Investigation contin-  
ues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**May 15:** An individual reported



that someone had removed  
six government laptop  
computers and a pro-  
jector from their build-  
ing. Investigation contin-  
ues by the Provost  
Marshal Office.

**May 17:** An individual was found to  
be operating his motor vehicle with  
a suspended driver's license at Gate  
10. He was issued a violation notice  
and released to a licensed driver.

**May 21:** An individual was  
observed in the Post Exchange  
selecting several items, concealing  
them, and then leaving without ren-  
dering the proper payment. Investi-  
gation continues by the Provost  
Marshal Office.

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

**Violation notices issued:** 12  
speeding, 1 expired tag, 3 driving  
with a suspended/revoked license, 3  
seatbelt violations, 4 failure to obey  
traffic control device, 1 no proof of  
insurance.

## ■ Sidewalk gets covered with water

### Walk

continued from page 2

there is no drainage. The solution for  
people going from the parking lot to  
5309 is: one, Walk through the water  
on the sidewalk; two, Walk through the  
wet grass; or three, Walk around  
through the parking lot to the sidewalk  
at the front of 5309.

We are now engaged in a construc-  
tion project to add a secured area, to  
which I have no objection, in front of  
the Cafeteria by adding a gate, a berm  
and steel posts. Because of the loca-

tion of a portion of the berm, the prob-  
lem with the sidewalk flooding is just  
going to get worse since it still appears  
to be no provision for any drainage. I  
guess if the water gets deep enough it  
can run down the wheelchair ramp.  
Can someone please go and take a  
look to see if some kind of drainage  
can be added?

**Richard R. Rice**

*Editor's note: The Garrison pro-  
vided the following response. "The  
Garrison DPW Engineering is work-  
ing to solve the problem areas(s) and*

# AER drive exceeds goal

Team Redstone has done it again.

The 2006 Army Emergency Relief cam-  
paign surpassed its \$150,000 goal Thursday  
with money still coming in until today, accord-  
ing to AER officer Kristi Foster.

The total was \$155,256 after the \$3,427  
raised by the "AER Idol" singing competi-  
tion Thursday afternoon at Bob Jones Audi-  
torium.

"Thank you on behalf of the many Soldiers  
and their families that you have touched  
through your support of Army Emergency  
Relief," Foster told the audience.

Army Emergency Relief provides no-inter-

est loans and grants to active duty and retired  
military, National Guard and Reserve who are  
active under Title 10 for 30 days or more, and  
their qualifying family members for any emer-  
gency that results in a financial need. Examples  
include death or serious illness of an immediate  
family member, vehicle repair, and utility or  
rent assistance.

Last year 342 individuals in the Tennessee  
Valley area were served by AER. Some  
\$310,000 was provided in no-interest loans and  
grants.

Last year's fund-raising drive collected  
\$142,479 to surpass an \$85,000 goal.

# Drinking water meets standards

The Garrison Environmental Management  
Division has completed the Installation's 2006  
Drinking Water Quality Report and announces  
that the drinking water on Redstone Arsenal  
continues to meet or exceed all federal and  
state requirements.

This water quality report is provided to com-  
ply with the Environmental Protection  
Agency's drinking water right-to-know initia-  
tive which is known as the Consumer Confi-  
dence Report Rule. Under this rule, all commu-  
nity water supply systems are required to pre-  
pare and distribute annual drinking water qual-  
ity reports to their consumers.

EMD has made the report available to Red-

stone's housing residents by direct mail distri-  
bution through the Postal Service. The report  
will also be available to installation personnel  
and organizations via the AMCOM Info web  
site under the subject "Drinking Water Analy-  
sis" and on the Garrison home page site map  
under "Drinking Water Report."

The CCR will enable individuals to make  
practical and knowledgeable decisions about  
their drinking water and their health. You are  
encouraged to review the CCR; and if you have  
any questions or comments regarding your  
drinking water, call Gene Daniels of the Garri-  
son Environmental Management Division at  
955-7591. (Garrison release)

## ■ Saddle Club has good showing at competition

### Trophies

continued from page 2

Some combined training shows have had  
riders and horses get hurt and some have died  
doing this sport. The time, money and training  
that equestrians, including our members, put  
into this sport to be as safe as possible are  
tremendous. Each equestrian has a dressage,  
show-jumping and cross country coach or  
coaches. However, the equestrian will travel to  
the show without that coach except to remem-  
ber the voices of their coaches in their head.

Wolf-Gap Combined Training show had 14  
classes and five divisions. The five divisions  
were Ameoba, Tadpole, Beginner Novice,  
Novice and Training, of which four of our  
members placed first. They are Lisa MacFar-

land riding Tadpole on her horse Mohave,  
Samantha Munoz riding Beginner Novice on  
her horse Prince, Lacey Richards riding  
Novice on her horse Blonde, and Alisa Cole  
riding Training on her horse Chase Me Charlie  
II.

The other members who placed in the top  
five are Ashley Wallace riding Alvin, Karrie  
Kelley riding Leon, Alisa Cole riding Sonny,  
Conner Burley riding Gandolf, Julie Riley rid-  
ing Sundance in the Tadpole division, Marie  
Lyons riding Gumpy, and Kevin Osborne rid-  
ing Aladin in the Beginner Novice division.

The other members that participated were  
Wallace Willard riding Latte and Marilyn Wal-  
ton riding Silver.

Following the show, there was two hours  
for schooling. Riders and their horses were  
given the opportunity to ride the cross country  
jumps to school a new horse or just do addi-  
tional training.

Many of our members compete locally and  
nationally. One of our members, Alisa Cole,  
was Area 3 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Ten-  
nessee and Mississippi) Junior Rider Champi-  
on for 2005.

The interest in combined training has  
grown tremendously in the Tennessee Valley.  
As our interest grows in this sport and other  
riding disciplines at Redstone Arsenal Saddle  
Club, our members look forward to the future  
on how our club can plan to put on such  
events.

Redstone Arsenal Saddle Club invites the  
public to come by and see our future equestri-  
ans in action or just say hi and congratulate  
them on a job well done.

Thank you, riders and coaches, for putting  
us on the map.

**Elaine McCutchan**

*regrets any inconvenience to the work  
force and visitors of the Sparkman  
Center. As noted in the letter, the  
flooding on concrete walkway at the  
northwest corner of building 5309 has  
been exacerbated by the recent con-  
struction, a continuation of Force  
Protection-Phase II project.*

*"There potentially is a similar  
ponding problem at the northeast  
corner of building 5309 which will  
also be evaluated. The affected walk-  
way(s) will be replaced and raised as  
necessary and drainage swales will  
be shaped in the sod areas to correct  
this hindrance to pedestrians. This  
work will be accomplished as soon  
as possible."*

# Class keeps the command running

*AMC class hosted for first time here*

By **KIM HENRY**  
Staff writer  
kimberly.henry2@redstone.army.mil

Joseph Gardner has made two trips from Rock Island, Ill., to Redstone Arsenal. He was surprised by what he learned on his



File photo

## Management honoree

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association has presented its 2006 Defense Management Award to **Wayne Burke**, the deputy program executive officer for missiles and space. The award acknowledges Burke for his record of accomplishments in defense, including leadership positions with the Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems, Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, Air to Ground Missile (Hellfire) System, and TOW missile project offices.

second trip.

"I was interested to see how AMC operated," said Gardner, a Tank-automotive and Armaments Command production liaison. "I found out AMC is bigger than I ever thought."

Gardner was among 100 military and civilian employees from Army Materiel Command organizations who attended the "How AMC Runs" class here. The class gave employees the opportunity to learn more about how their job relates to AMC and supports the Soldier.

"The objective of the course is to assist the participant to understand the AMC mission, structure and internal/external interaction," said Pat Long, AMC G-1 team leader for leader development, training and career management. "The participant will understand how their position and organization fits into the larger AMC, Army and joint environment."

The class provides a variety of information including an overview of AMC's mission and organization, logistics transformation, acquisition process, Future Combat Systems and Lean Six Sigma.

Last year a joint Headquarters AMC and Major Subordinate Command working group revamped the entire curriculum, added experiential learning course components and made it portable.

"Hosting the 'first ever' off-site version of 'How AMC Runs' was a significant achievement for the U.S. Army Materiel Command," Long said.

"AMCOM was the first to volunteer to host the course, so when the opportunity presented itself, it was an easy decision. AMCOM is easily accessible, has superior facilities, and has a

proven track record of excellence."

With the change in venue, local employees got the opportunity to attend. More than half of the class had workers from Aviation and Missile Command, Research Development and Engineering Center, Logistics Support Activity, Program Executive Office for Aviation, and PEO for Missiles and Space. The course was organized by Michael Davis, AMCOM human resource development specialist.

It cost \$16,000 to train local employees at AMCOM versus a minimum of \$75,000 to train those same employees at Fort Belvoir, Va. Because of the cost savings, the class will rotate to each major subordinate command.

"We appreciate the efforts that AMC made to rework the course into a version that could be offered at field sites," Tim Grey, AMCOM G-1, said.

"The new version retains all of the excellent modules that established the outstanding reputation of the course, but also includes new modules that great-



Nina Banta/Photo Lab

**COMMAND ABC'S—** Tom Polmateer, Army Force Management School instructor, teaches a portion of "How AMC Runs." Several of the instructors, like Polmateer, were former military and drew from their prior knowledge and skills to teach the class.

ly enrich the course," he said. "The opportunity to train large numbers of AMCOM employees and other AMC employees at Redstone with this course is a win-win situation for the AMCOM, Redstone Arsenal and AMC. We look forward to having the course here again soon."

This course is also a module in the Depot/Arsenal Commanders Course and has been well received by incoming commanders and sergeants major who appreciated the fundamental instruction on how the Army Materiel Command supports the Soldier.

## Senior service college coming to Redstone

"The Army has established leadership training for its civilian employees as one of its highest priorities in acquisition career fields," a Defense Acquisition University release said.

"Civilians are increasingly being asked to take on acquisition leadership roles as the war on terror draws active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers to support these efforts.

"The Defense Acquisition University has taken on the role of assisting in this critical training requirement and partnered with the Army to establish a very lean, efficient and customer friendly Senior Service College Fellowship Program (beginning in July at DAU in Huntsville).

"This program is unique in its design to provide leadership training, senior acquisition certification for program management, master's degree completion and senior service college credit.

"By doing this at regional sites, DAU estimates a 75 percent reduction in cost/student and obtaining the education requirements in less than one-third of the normal time. By providing the training at the student's home location this program supports Army family values.

"In our continuing role as a regional partner, DAU is not just a place for folks to take classes – DAU is truly part of the acquisition community."

# Choosing between survivor's benefits or more insurance

Review options early  
to decide best route

By SHARI BURNUM  
For the Rocket

Because we are all living longer, the possibility of running out of money becomes greater. This makes the value of a pension of great benefit, especially to those who have longevity in the family. But certain elections must be made at retirement in the event the federal or military participant dies before their spouse to ensure that there is income for a lifetime. So what is the wise thing to do?

There are no blanket answers. But because there is so much power in what can be left behind in a survivor's pension benefit, the entire pension should be a part of any retirement plan analysis. Even though elections aren't made until retirement date, it's wise to choose your course of action now and implement any other financial strategies that support that decision.

At retirement age, if you elect to take 100 percent of your pension benefit, you leave no payment to your spouse. If you have sufficient assets to produce an income to your spouse, then there is really no issue. Getting to that point means you either save more, purchase life insurance, or both. And, of course, the earlier one looks at the options, the better.

Here's the strategy with insurance. If the amount you'd give up on your pension check for leaving a survivor benefit is MORE than what it would cost to buy an appropriate amount of life insurance to pay the same amount, then it makes sense to buy insurance. Buying the right amount and kind is the tricky part.

The ideal amount of life insurance as a survivor benefit alternative is based on the pension payment amounts and length paid to the survivor. One thing that an eager insurance agent may forget is that pension payments increase over time. Although these likely won't keep up with true inflation, they do increase, so any calculations as to how much insurance should be purchased should take into account an

increasing payment to the spouse. Often this doesn't happen and the insurance rates look much cheaper compared to the pension reduction because not enough insurance is being proposed.

Another complicating factor is buying the right kind of insurance. Surely there are cases where an inexpensive 20-year term life insurance policy was bought instead of leaving the survivor's benefit, and the employee dies in year 21. The spouse is left with no insurance and no pension. Bad planning.

The easy way to solve this is to buy permanent insurance (whole or universal cash value plans) or even a 30-year term policy. These are much more appropriate comparisons. After all, the pension lasts a lifetime and lifetimes are getting longer. If you live long enough, even a 30-year insurance plan wouldn't last long enough and potentially leave the survivor in a pinch.

That's where looking at the whole picture becomes important. If the couple have accumulated some assets, perhaps those assets can fill in the void. Perhaps not.

The government and military survivor's benefit plan is one of the most competitive in the industry. The amount deducted from a retiree's check so that their spouse can have some continued benefit upon death is really quite low. Unless planning is done early, likely electing the survivor's benefit is appropriate in many cases.

This does not totally absolve the need for insurance. The pension to the surviving spouse is 55 percent of the original benefit. If there are not enough assets to produce that shortfall, insurance is still a solution.

The strong suggestion is to look at your pension options early and decide based on your ability to save, invest, qualify for insurance, etc. whether it's best to take the survivor benefit or try and do something on your own. And, if you choose an alternate strategy, know the pitfalls so that planning doesn't flop!

*Editor's note: Shari Burnum is owner of Investors Resource, branch manager with Raymond James Financial Services at 100-C Essex Court in Madison, and president elect of the Huntsville Estate Financial Planning Council.*



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Original wear

An original first Army Community Service volunteer uniform, donated by Mary Walker, wife of retired Brig. Gen. George Walker, is displayed in the reception area of the ACS building. It has been displayed on a poster cutout of Marilyn Monroe since a 2005 ACS recognition event with the theme "Hooray for Volunteers." Mary Walker began volunteering for ACS in 1969 in Heidelberg, Germany. In those days, volunteers purchased their own uniforms. Walker also volunteered at ACS in Frankfurt, Germany, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort McPherson, Ga.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Major promotion

Capt. Kathleen Kelly, a contract law attorney with AMCOM, is promoted to major Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium. Doing the honors are Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, and Chief Warrant Officer Alfred Kelly, the major's husband. She was deployed to Iraq for seven months last year with the 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. She will leave in July for Charlottesville, Va., to pursue a master's degree in military law at the University of Virginia. Her husband is administrative chief for the Electronic Technology Training Department at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School.

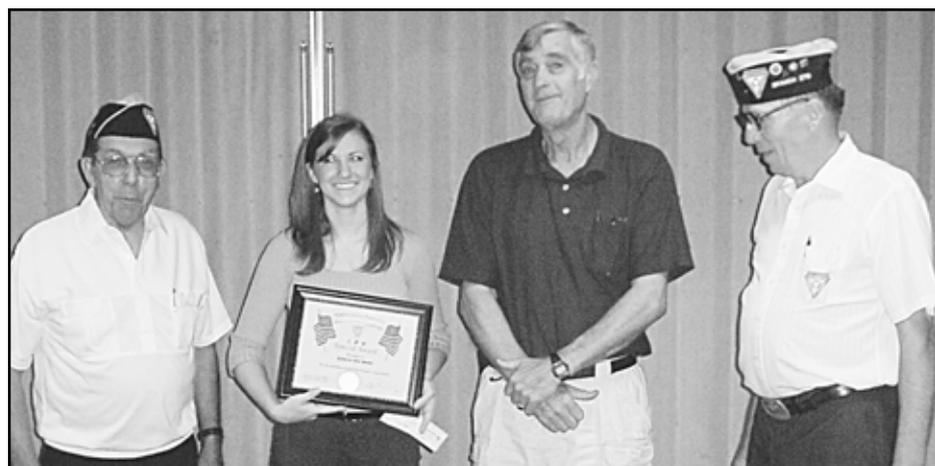


Photo by Stan Moore

## Scholarship award

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 presents its scholarship award May 20 to Katherine Rhee Snider, a sophomore at Arab High and the daughter of Jeff and Lisa Snider of Guntersville. The association's essay theme for 2006 was "What My Vote Will Mean to Me." Katherine was chosen as the top entry for the local area served by Branch 278, which covers northern Alabama. From left are president Gene Aittala, Katherine, vice president Amiel Lewallen and secretary/treasurer James Sutton.

# Tennessee Guard sets mark for fielding

*Unit launches artillery rockets*

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky.— The Tennessee Army National Guard's 1-181st Field Artillery Battalion is the first National Guard unit, and only the second unit in the Army, to field the Army's new state-of-the-art M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

The battalion, headquartered in Chattanooga, conveyed to Fort Campbell to fire the first live rounds from their 19 new launchers. The Firing Exercise instilled confidence in the crews as the new launcher equipment was fully functional and the crews successfully conducted tactical firing operations.

The 1-181st, commanded by Lt. Col. Stan Koby, began the transition to the HIMARS system in June 2005. The HIMARS replaces the 1-181st FA's tracked M270 Multiple Launched Rocket System launchers with the new wheeled, C-130-transportable HIMARS.

Both the MLRS and HIMARS are designed to provide precision long range artillery rocket and missile fires that supplement traditional cannon artillery fires. They deliver large volumes of firepower in a short time



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Randy Harris

**FIRST TO FIRE— High Mobility Artillery Rocket System rounds are launched by the Tennessee Army National Guard's 1-181st Field Artillery Battalion.**

against critical, time-sensitive targets. The new M142 provides the 1-181st with a firing platform that can accommodate the firing of the latest MLRS suite of munitions to include the highly accurate Army Tactical Missile System and the Guided MLRS Rocket.

"The HIMARS is the result of several technical advancements within the MLRS family of launch platforms," Koby said. "The lightweight, wheeled platform is in accordance with the U.S. Army's plan to develop a lighter, more mobile ground combat force."



Courtesy photo

## *Library congrats*

Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, gives the Post Library a big "Hoo-ah" Friday for being named the Community and Family Support Center's best library in the Army, medium size installation. The library staff was commended for commitment to excellence with dedication and intense loyalty to patrons, reflecting credit upon the library, Redstone Arsenal and the Army. From left are library technician Elizabeth Jones, Pillsbury, library director Gail Alden, Morale Welfare and Recreation's recreation chief Mike Chemsak, and library patron Becky Pillsbury, the general's wife. Not pictured is library technician Martha Piskulic. The library, open to civilians as well as the military, offers audiobooks, DVDs, bestsellers and more. For information call 876-4741.

# Army supports national 'Click it or Ticket'

Lives saved  
by seatbelts

By KELLY WIDENER  
Army News Service

FORT RUCKER – Armywide installations are supporting this year's national seatbelt campaign, Click it or Ticket, through June 4.

Post motorists will be faced with either buckling up or receiving a ticket in the national effort to keep people safe on the roads.

"The Click it or Ticket program remains one of the most enduring law enforcement and safety partnership programs," said Col. Eugene Smith, operations division chief of the Army Office of the Provost Marshal General.

"We need to promote seatbelt awareness week as a grim reminder of the large number of lives that may have been saved in accidents had the vehicle occupants only worn their seatbelts," he said.

In the first eight months of fiscal 2006, the Army had 72 Class A vehicle accidents. Only 49 percent of all POV Class A-D accidents reported contained any description of seatbelt use. Of the 49 percent reported, 21 percent were not wearing seatbelts.

Since 1993, the national Click it or Ticket campaign – led by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Safety Council – has

actively promoted the awareness that seatbelts are a major factor in saving lives. According to NHTSA, safety belts saved 13,274 lives in 2001, and if more occu-



Army News Service

**REMINDER— Army installations throughout the world are promoting seatbelt use by participating in the national Click it or Ticket campaign.**

pants older than 4 years old had been wearing seat belts, an additional 7,334 more lives could have been saved.

Installation military police will work with civilian law enforcement officials throughout the campaign to implement a zero-tolerance enforcement policy with checkpoints and periodic vehicle stops.

Police normally check seatbelt use as drivers enter installations, and frequently provide courtesy corrections to drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts, Smith said. It is equally important, he added, for drivers and passengers to check themselves when they depart installations.

Some posts will also offer child-safety seat and safety belt checks by military police.

"Buckling up your children is important, but ensuring they are buckled up correctly is vital," Smith said. "It's estimated that 80 to 90 percent of child-safety seats are installed or used incorrectly. We want to help parents ensure that their children are properly secured in the vehicle."

Teens are a high-target group during the campaign, according to NHTSA. The administration reported 3,322 teens lost their lives in vehicle crashes during 2001, totaling up to nine teens a day. Sixty-five percent of those teens were killed because they weren't wearing safety restraints.

In the last year, safety-belt use has increased to 82 percent, and NHTSA estimates that for every increase of safety-belt use, 2.8 million more people are making the decision to buckle up. This increase saves 250 more lives while preventing 6,400 serious injuries annually, according to NHTSA officials.

NHTSA and Army leadership agree the campaign has increased the national use of seatbelts, and though the campaign only lasts for two weeks, officials stress that the decision to buckle up must be a lasting one to continue saving lives.

*Editor's note: Written by Kelly Widener, U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center Public Affairs Office.*

## Looking for a few good engineers and scientists

By CORBY DAVIS

*For the Rocket*

The Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space has identified a long-term problem associated with a shortage of young engineers and scientists interested in pursuing a government career. One of the elements of the solution is to identify students with the needed skills and interest and to let them know about the important, challenging and rewarding careers available on Redstone Arsenal.

As part of this effort, a team from the PEO MS, led by Corby Davis, hit the road with a display and informational literature to attend the Team America Rocketry Challenge 2006 at The Plains, Va., on May 20. TARC is sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association and the National Association of Rocketry, with co-sponsorship by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Defense, Civil Air Patrol and 39 AIA member companies. The teams are made up of three to 15 students who are in seventh- through 12th-grades in any U.S. school and U.S. chapters of national non-profit youth organizations such as Scouts, 4-H, Civil Air Patrol, or Young Astronauts.

This year's challenge was to design and build a model rocket carrying one hen egg that would fly to exactly 800 feet and stay aloft for exactly 45 seconds while returning the egg uncracked. There were 678 teams who competed in region-

al trials with 100 teams being invited to the finals. The winners, a team from Statesville Christian School in Statesville, N.C., flew a rocket that reached a perfect altitude of 800 feet and was just short of two seconds off the target flight time of 45 seconds.

The goal of the contest is to encourage students to study advanced math and sciences and to consider studying aerospace fields in college. The process of designing, building and flying a moderately complex flight vehicle teaches many concepts of teamwork, physics and engineering, including aerodynamics, flight mechanics and stability, and electrical circuitry for the ignition system. The process of vehicle optimization for a performance goal teaches engineering design and tradeoffs.

The demonstrated skills and interests of the participants in TARC 2006 match perfectly with the talents needed within the PEO MS and other organizations located at Redstone. The external affairs team from PEO MS was overrun with students interested in the work being done within the PEO. All day the students were stopping by to ask questions about the PEO MS, working for the Department of Defense and government engineering and research work in general.

PEO MS will continue recruiting efforts at universities and job fairs throughout the year.



Photo by Debbie Thornton

## Safety support

Steve Wilson and J.D. Marks, project managers with Chugach Support Services, share Chugach's focus on safety. Todd Tielking, not pictured, is the company's safety manager.



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp

## Snake's alive

The 59th Ordnance Brigade's Safety Day training last Thursday included a class on poisonous plants, snakes and insects as these two non-commissioned officers from the Basic NCO Course learned.

# Stay out of hot water

Every year, approximately 3,800 injuries and 34 deaths occur in homes because of scalding from excessively hot tap water. The majority of these accidents involve the elderly and young children.

To help prevent scalding accidents, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition to preventing accidents, this decrease in temperature will conserve energy and save money.

Most adults will suffer third-degree burns if exposed to 150 degrees Fahrenheit water for two seconds. Burns will also occur with a six-second exposure to 140 F water or with a 30-second exposure to 130 F water. Even at 120 F, a five-minute exposure could result in third-degree burns.

Please, always hand-test water before using it, especially when bathing infants. (Garrison Safety release)

## Redstone traffic accidents decline from last year

### Driving

continued from page 1

His main advice to drivers is "pay attention to the road." Triplett has seen people driving while talking on their cell phone, eating or putting on makeup. One inattentive driver about six years ago ran into Gate 9 when it was closed, a chain-link fence.

"It's just paying attention to the road," Triplett said. "That's the big thing."

Statistics show a decline in Redstone traffic accidents this year compared to

2005. Through May 22, there were 81 accidents – some of which included vehicle-deer, following too close, improper lane change, and failure to yield right-of-way. This compares to 106 accidents through May 20, 2005.

Keith Coates, a safety specialist in the Garrison Safety Office, wants people to focus on their driving without taking anything for granted.

"Don't drink and drive," Coates said. "Don't think you would never have an accident. Because what do the statistics say, it's one out of every 10? You can be that one."

# Asian Pacific Americans share heritage on-stage



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**DANCING TO THE BEAT**— Young members of the Okinawa Drum Dancers dance to the beat of their drums during the Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month Celebration at Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

## *Celebration honors fulfillment of dream*

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

Amidst the grace and beauty of Asian Pacific dances, a group of young dancers showed a different side of Asian Pacific-American culture with the heavy beat of drums, the stomping of feet and the cries of warriors.

The dramatic performance of the Okinawa Drum Dancers impressed the audience at the Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month Celebration, held May 24 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. They were among several dance performances that shared the story of the Asian cultures of Thailand, Japan and the Orient.

“What we saw today was very important in our commitment to share cultures together, and to live and grow together,” Garrison Sgt. Maj. Mark Gerecht said. “There is no place like America to live. We need to each take a little bit of our day to help each other and take care of each



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**THE BEAUTY OF JAPAN**— Tazuko Sawyer performs a Japanese dance during the Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month Celebration.

other because America – this is ours.”

During the celebration, scheduled during Asian Pacific-American Month, emcee Katherine Mims told the audience the program of performances and exhibitions convey the dreams and challenges faced by Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

May’s designation at Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month coincides with two major events in the lives of American Asians, Mims said. The first was the arrival of the first Japanese to the U.S. on May 7, 1843. And the second was the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

There are an estimated 14 million Americans who claim ancestry from the Asian Pacific region, according to U.S. statistics.

“Hawaii has the largest Asian population in the U.S.,” Mims said.

She went on to say Asians have the highest proportion of college degrees in the U.S. Though Spanish is America’s second language, Chinese is third in the U.S. while being the number one language worldwide. With the help of other Asians, Mims showed the audience the different degrees of a bow – the Asian formal greeting – and explained when each bow is most appropriate. She also explained the different types of Asian dress.

Gloria Vergara, a member of Huntsville’s International Services Council, the Philippine American Association of Alabama and the International Women’s Club, introduced Asian dancers to the audience.

She also read President Bush’s comments made during a recent Asian Pacific dinner at the White House.

“You raised standards and showed that the American dream is within reach to all who study and persevere,” she read.

Asian Pacific Americans have made their mark in all walks of life in the U.S., including business, law, politics, education, community service, and the arts and



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**A LADY DANCES**— Suneerat Blair performs Thailand’s First Lady Dance during the Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month Celebration. The dance is a greeting from the performer to the audience. Blair works at CPAC.

# 'AER Idol' wins with Motown classic



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**AND THE WINNER IS— "AER Idol" winner George L. "Lawrence" Crawford basks in the applause from the audience and emcee Bryan Cordell of WDRM radio 102.1-FM.**

*Crawford chosen favorite singer*

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

Season five of "American Idol" culminated with the announcement of winner Taylor Hicks to a national television audience May 24, but Redstone's "AER Idol" wasn't crowned until the next day.

Thirteen singers from throughout the Redstone work force competed for the title in Thursday's event which raised money for Army Emergency Relief. Just like the popular television show, there were cheering sections and a panel of three brutally-honest judges.

"This has never been done before as far as fund-raising for AER," originator Steven Froniabarger, the Acquisition Center's key AER representative this year, said. "It's the first opportunity for folks to



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE— George L. "Lawrence" Crawford, a geographic information systems analyst at the Garrison, performs the Motown favorite "I Heard it Though the Grapevine."**

do something like this."

The first of what is to become an annual event drew nearly 600 people to Bob Jones Auditorium and raised \$3,427 for Army Emergency Relief. The proceeds included a \$500 donation and \$2,925 from 585 \$5 tickets sold.

Each ticket holder in the audience was allowed one vote to decide the winner. The final results were: winner George L. "Lawrence" Crawford, who works for contractor Amtec Corporation; first runner-up Glenda Parker of the G-6 Office; and second runner-up Dwayne Jones of AMCOM SSTR.

"I was surprised," said Crawford, a geographic information systems analyst at the Garrison. "I just thought I'd have a good time and all. I hoped I would win. I'm just thrilled and excited."

He wowed the audience with a rendition of the Motown hit "I Heard it Through the Grapevine."

Crawford, 36, from LaFayette, about 20 miles north of Auburn, said he has been singing "around the house" since he was about 4. He didn't really get into it until about three or four years ago when he bought public address equipment and had a stint in a short-lived band called Babylon Slim. It did one gig in February 2005 at a little local club before breaking up. He has also done karaoke at a bar and grill in Madison.

"I just can't believe it," Crawford said of winning. "The song (Grapevine) I'd never done before and I was really worried about the words."

He received a Chili's gift certificate, Fudgey Nut gift basket, two Theatre Huntsville tickets, Southern Wake-Up gift certificate, and four Rave movie tickets.

The judges, all from the Acquisition Center, were Stan "Randy" Crittenden, Detra "Paula" Battle-Blue and Doug "Simon" Greene.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**MABEL'S CORNER— Faye Yates, center, of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, shows her support for "AER Idol" contestant Mabel McGhee of IMMC.**

# Control station unveiled for air defense system

*Boeing Company rolls out hardware*

By DAN O'BOYLE  
*For the Rocket*

The Boeing Company delivered the first integrated fire control station Friday for the Army's new Surface-Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile ground-to-air weapon system.

SLAMRAAM pairs six Air Force AIM-120 AMRAAMs with a turreted Humvee to provide enhanced capability against enemy aircraft and cruise missiles.

More specifically, the SLAMRAAM system of systems provides the war fighter a tailorable, state of the art air-defense system that can defeat current and emerging cruise missile threats.

Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems is the prime contractor for the new ground-to-air weapon system. Raytheon will now integrate the Air and Missile Defense Common Software and prepare the IFCS for entry into the SLAMRAAM test program. Boeing is under contract through 2007 to design and develop five systems.

"SLAMRAAM is a lethal and versatile air defense system that



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

**ARMY FIRST— Robert Chambers, Boeing SLAMRAAM integrated product team lead, explains key weapon system features to Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon and Wayne Burke, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.**

will extend the range of force protection beyond the current engagement envelope," said Debra Rub-Zenko, vice president for Boeing Integrated Missile Defense. "We are very

pleased to be a member of Team SLAMRAAM bringing this crucial new capability to the war fighter as the Army consolidates air and missile defense capabilities into composite battalions."

Locally, Boeing designs, develops and assembles the SLAMRAAM integrated fire control station which provides battle management command, control, computers, communications and intelligence.

Besides providing sophisticated fire control for the lethal SLAMRAAM system, the IFCS can be networked to the Army's already-fielded Sentinel radar, the Army's future Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor system, the existing Patriot radar and the Marine Corps' future multi-role Ground/Air Task Oriented radar system, providing integrated air defense fire control.

"This delivery is a significant milestone for Team SLAMRAAM as we move forward from hardware and software component design and build phase and into system integration and test SLAMRAAM to provide our war fighters with a technologically advanced defense system to defeat a wide range of air breathing threats," Raytheon's Steve Kaspar said.

"Because the war fighter's operational concept has shifted from a system-centric focus to network-centric, component-based architecture operating within the Army and joint inte-

grated framework, SLAMRAAM has been designed to provide an initial Integrated Fire Control capability that ties Sentinel radars with SLAMRAAM launchers via the Integrated Fire Control Station and AMD Common Software," Lt. Col. Walt Jones, product manager for missiles and platforms, said. "This is the Army's first step toward achieving its vision to link any sensor with the best shooter."

Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, Missiles and Space program executive officer, also noted the event's significance.

"In the U.S. Army today, we have a very limited capability to defend against cruise missiles," Cannon said. "So this system represents an absolute, must-have capability for the United States Army. The threat today and in the future is going to be cruise-missile based.

"It's been a long, hard road getting here, but I am truly thrilled to see this system roll today. Now this is not the end; this is just the beginning of our journey to fully integrate air and missile defense systems. The work that you are doing today has huge implications for our future. Thank you for all the hard work that you have put into this."

# Businesses sign up for support to veterans

Thirty local companies employ hiring program

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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Staff Sgt. Thomas Massen- burg was looking for a slower paced lifestyle when he retired from the Army.

The stress and danger of serving in Desert Storm left him with a strong faith in God and the hopes of living his retirement days in a down- home city of peaceful neigh- borhoods, friendly people and community togetherness.

“There were a couple of times when my whole unit should have been wiped out,” recalled the Bronze Star recipient who worked in the- ater ammunition as part of the 608th Ordnance out of Fort Benning, Ga., in Iraq. “We were just doing our job and we came under Scud attack. God pulled us through it.”

Massenburg couldn’t find the lifestyle he was looking for in his hometown in the eastern United States. But he remembered how much he enjoyed living in Huntsville when he attended school at Redstone Arsenal in 1985. He also heard there were jobs to be had in Huntsville for veter- ans.

“I was told about a security position at West and understood they were looking for a former military person,” he recalled. “My heart was here. So, I came back here.”

Four years ago, Massenburg began a civilian career at West Corp. in Huntsville. He was among 19 West employees recognized last week as the company sponsored a Military Appreciation Celebration that highlighted the federal government’s Hire Vets First campaign and the state’s Operation Grateful Heart program.

More than 100 companies are involved statewide in the national Hire Vets First campaign that began about two years ago. About 30 companies are involved in the campaign locally. West Corp. is the first Huntsville company to host a celebration to publicize their commitment to the Hire Vets First campaign.

“Hire Vets First is the president’s cam- paign,” said Robert Franks, assistant director for the U.S. Department of Labor in Montgomery, during the celebration attended by West employees, public offi- cials and Soldiers from local units.

“Veterans know about leadership, working in a team, taking and giving orders, and getting to the job on time. As a member of the Hire Vets First program, companies aren’t obligated to hire a vet.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SHARING SENTIMENTS OF APPRECIATION—** Maj. Robert Cook, representing the 152nd Military Police of Huntsville, and Lt. Col. Jeff Owen, representing the 128th Military Police of Scottsboro, receive copies of the book “God Bless Ya’ll All” from co-author Lisa Moses and Don Wood, executive coordinator of Alabama’s Operation Grateful Heart program. The book, which includes about 2,000 letters written by Alabama children to Soldiers, will travel with the units to Iraq in the next few months. The book has been distributed to more than 500 units serving in Iraq.

But, they have made a commitment to look at the qualifications of veterans when they come home and see if those quali- fications meet their needs.”

Ensuring that veterans have job oppor- tunities is an important part of Gov. Bob Riley’s Operation Grateful Heart pro- gram, which provides assistance to fami- lies of serving military and to returning military throughout the state.

“We want to ensure that veterans have good jobs to come home to,” said Don Wood, executive coordinator for Opera- tion Grateful Heart.

“If they don’t want to continue in the job they left, then we want companies to show their appreciation by considering them for better opportunities. It’s one of the ways we can show our appreciation to those who serve.”

May has been designated Military Appreciation Month in Alabama, making it a good time to publicize both Hire Vets First and Operation Grateful Heart, Wood said. Operation Grateful Heart was begun in 2004 by Riley to encourage commu- nity and individual efforts to support mili- tary families of deployed and returning Soldiers.

While many volunteers throughout Alabama assist Soldiers and their fami- lies during deployments, when it comes to



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**RESPECTING THE COLORS—** Mem- bers of the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Butler High School pre- pare to present the colors during a Military Appreciation Celebration to publicize local commitment to the national Hire Vets First campaign and Alabama’s Operation Grateful Heart program. From left are Senior Airman Justin Erskine, 1st Lt. James McFarlen, Cadet Maj. Hannah Baptist and Cadet Capt. Caitlin Stickler. The program at Butler is coordinated by retired Air Force Col. Mike Parsons. Retired Air Force Sgt. Elijah Porter is in charge of the high school’s special teams.

## 10 reasons to hire vets

The Hire Vets First program provided the following list:

- Accelerated Learning Curve – Veter- ans have proven ability to learn new skills and concepts, and they enter the work force with transferable skills they learned in real world situations.

- Leadership – Veterans are trained to lead by example as well as through direction, delegation, motivation and inspiration. They understand ways to manage behaviors, even in the most try- ing circumstances. They know the dynamics of leadership in both hierarchi- cal and peer structures.

- Teamwork – Veterans understand how genuine teamwork grows out of a responsibility to one’s colleagues.

- Diversity and Inclusion in Action – Veterans know how to work with many different types of people, regardless of race, gender, geographic origin, ethnic background, religion and economic sta- tus as well as mental, physical and attitudi- nal capabilities.

- Efficient Performance Under Pres- sure – Veterans know how to meet goals

under tight schedules and limited resources.

- Respect for Procedures – Veterans have a unique perspective on the value of accountability, and know how policies and procedures enable an organization to exist.

- Technology and Globalization – Veterans are aware of international and technical trends pertinent to business and industry.

- Integrity – Veterans know what it means to do “an honest day’s work” and their track record often includes security clearances.

- Conscious of Health and Safety Standards – Veterans represent a drug-free work force that is cogni- zant of maintaining personal health and fitness, and their awareness of health and safety issues translate into protection of employees, property and materials.

- Triumph Over Adversity – Veterans have proven their mettle in mission criti- cal situations demanding endurance, stamina and flexibility.

# Hiring

continued from page 16

providing Soldiers with jobs, it is the corporations and businesses of Alabama who are qualified to answer the call.

"When our Soldiers leave military service and become veterans, we should feel obligated to give them our support, especially with jobs," said John Thomas, director of Site Operations for West Corp.

"How we recognize their service is directly proportional to how they feel appreciated by the nation ... At West, we are glad to help initiate an important program for our veterans."

Of all the skills a veteran brings to the job, Thomas said their personal traits — integrity, sincerity, trustworthiness, dedication and sense of teamwork — make them ideal employees for any company.

"Their genuine teamwork grows out of their responsibility to their colleagues," he said. "They understand schedules and what it means to be on time in spite of tremendous stress."

Describing Soldiers as "the thin green line that saves us all," David Carney of the North Alabama Veterans Coalition said "our nation's military are doing their job ... and we need to support them when they come home looking for jobs. We need to help them and their families."

Emily Vandiver, president of the Huntsville chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, said the Hire Vets First program is one of many ways local corporations and individuals are supporting veterans and their families. Throughout the year, AUSA works with other local organizations to sponsor programs to show military appreciation.

"We try to make sure we don't forget (what) all the Soldiers and their families are going through," Vandiver said, speaking to the Soldiers in the audience.

"You have a job to do and you are doing it so well. We appreciate you. You may not realize what you mean to us ... Sometimes you don't know that what you are doing really counts. But, believe me, it really matters."

She said the Soldiers she has talked to want their communities to do one thing while they are deployed — look after their families.

"We know that's what matters to the Soldiers — that their families are safe," Vandiver said. "This community is working together to do that."

To continue that support, local companies should provide job opportunities for both military spouses and returning veterans.

"We salute West for doing this today and we want to partner with more companies like this," said Terris Tatum, team leader for Veteran Services with Alabama's Career Center System, State Employment Office on Sparkman Drive. "How we treat our veterans is really an

indication of who we are as a people. It is important that we all come together for one common goal — to support the Soldier. This community is very pro-military and there are a lot of companies that support Hire Vets First."

As a West security guard, Massenburg jokes that he is "still in uniform." But he is serious about the skills a veteran can bring to the job force.

"Anyone exposed to military life, the expectations of being in the military and the different cultures found in the military are better at understanding what it takes to be a team member and to meet goals," he said.

"The skills you learn in the military are the same kinds of skills you need to be successful as part of a company."

Brina Parrish-Davis and Sherona Towns, who both served in the Army, were recently hired by West Corp. They work in customer service.

"You have to be flexible when you are dealing with all kinds of different people in your work," Parrish-Davis said. "It's just like how we had to be flexible in the Army with all the different kinds of attitudes and personalities that make up your unit."

During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Jeff Owen, representing the 128th Military Police Company of Huntsville, and Maj. Robert Cook, representing the 152nd Military Police Company of Scottsboro were presented with copies of the book "God Bless Ya'll All." The books will travel with the Soldiers of the two units when they are deployed during the next few months to Iraq.

The book, which includes about 2,000 letters written by Alabama children to Soldiers serving in the war, was compiled by Lisa Moses and Alice Yeager. The book has been distributed to more than 500 units serving in Iraq.

"We compiled this book so that the letters of children could be read by many Soldiers. Some shared special thoughts. Others shared jokes ... The children really support you all and understand what's going on. They don't forget," Moses told the Soldiers in the audience.

"One child wrote 'I pray for you every day. I might not know your name, but God does.' Another wrote 'Because you are there, we are here.'"

Those words of appreciation stay with Soldiers both while they serve their country and when they enter the civilian work force. It is during a Soldier's transition from military to civilian life that local employers involved with the Hire Vets First campaign want to show their appreciation, Tatum said.

*Editor's note: Companies can sign up for the Hire Vets First program by calling Terris Tatum at Alabama's Career Center System, 851-0537, ext. 254, or visiting the web site at <http://www.hirevetsfirst.gov/employeer-download.asp>.*

# Computers find new owners through program

*Logistics directorate  
does reutilization*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**  
Staff writer  
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Redstone uses a lot of computer equipment. As that equipment is replaced and offices are restructured, many devices are no longer needed by the programs they are assigned to. Rather than letting it sit and collect dust in storage, the Garrison Reutilization and School Donation program helps match that equipment with other offices and organizations who need it.

Until January of this year the program operated under the Directorate of Information Management, staffed by contractors. At that time it was taken over by the Property Accountability Branch of the Garrison's Logistics Directorate.

"The mission is being accomplished and run effectively," Ray Watkins, installation property accounting officer, said.

The way it works is fairly simple. If an organization has excess information technology equipment, such as computers or fax machines, they can contact the reutilization office to see if it



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**FILE CLEANUP— Betty Walker, left, and Jimmie Tidmore start the process of wiping hard drives clean on newly accepted computers.**

is eligible for reassignment through them. If it is something the office has a request for or can use, then it can be given to the office by filing the appropriate forms and following set procedures. The equipment is then delivered to the reutilization warehouse. It is important that all cords, cables and peripherals come with the equipment.

"There is no cannibalization at Redstone. Cannibalization means you go in and take parts

out to use on another computer," Watkins explained. "There's no reason to keep anything from an old system. Everything that came with the old equipment needs to go with it when it comes to us."

Once it arrives it is checked and rechecked to make sure it is in working order and falls within acceptable guidelines for reutilization. Not every item can be reutilized. Some are unacceptable because of specific components or simply because they are

too outdated, Betty Walker, Garrison Reutilization and School Donation Program lead, said.

"If it has a certain code we're not supposed to accept it," Walker said.

Then all hard drives and memory are wiped clean not once but three times to ensure that anything stored within the equipment is gone. The goal, after all is to share equipment — not potentially sensitive information.

Once all of that is completed, Walker begins the process of matching the equipment with requests. Military and government organizations' requests have priority, but it isn't limited to Redstone's boundaries.

"We get requests from as far away as Fort Campbell, Ky.," Walker said. "We support government activities first."

Even with the expanded territory, Reutilization sees more equipment than it needs to fill government requests. The extra is not left to sit until someone asks for it, however. There is so much, in fact, that doing so would quickly surpass storage capacity for the program.

The equipment not needed for other offices and installations goes to fill requests by schools and law enforcement agencies

that probably could not get it otherwise. The process for them is a little more complicated. It requires more paperwork as approval for outside transfer must come from higher up.

"It has to go through another system for approval at DRMO," Walker said. "Schools and law enforcement request equipment differently, too. A request has to be mailed or faxed in on their letterhead."

Schools and law enforcement agencies from around the state receive the equipment. The office gets numerous letters of thanks from school systems. Some even send their thanks in tangible form.

"A man just brought us ferns for our office from the Geraldine school's gardening program as a thank you for our help," Walker said.

The gift of working computers is something many schools dream of. One in particular is equally happy to get the non-working ones.

"Drake State Technical College takes the ones that don't work," Walker said. "They have a program where they teach people how to fix them, so they can

See **Computers** on page 19



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Trapp

## Thanks to school

International civilian students from England present a plaque to OMEMS commander Col. Jose Enriquez on May 22 in appreciation of the training they received from Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School and the outstanding support from the International Military Student Office. From left are Norman Kemp, Mark Ellison and Ian Mason.

## Bell Helicopter opens site

Bell Helicopter, a Textron company, has opened a new business office in Huntsville in support of the Army.

Paul Elliott, who has more than 23 years experience as an Army aviator and Acquisition Corps officer plus seven years experience in the aerospace industry, is the senior Bell Helicopter representative who runs the office. *(Bell Helicopter release).*



Courtesy photo

## Across the water

Ian Mason, right, an international student from England, speaks with Joe and Gertrude Powell from the International Services Council of Huntsville/Madison County at a picnic May 20 on Green Mountain in Huntsville.

## Asian culture shared through celebration dances

### Celebration

continued from page 12

sciences, Bush's comments said. Americans with Asian Pacific heritage have helped unite the nation, and strengthened its economy with entrepreneurship and innovations.

"America has thrived as a nation because we've always welcomed newcomers who in turn embrace our values and our way of life ... You've enriched America by your contributions. You've made America a better place to live. Thank you for being

■ Excess computers available by request

## Computers

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use the non-working equipment."

Even with the forms, guidelines and procedures involved, the entire process is still fast. Walker estimates that the turnaround time for equipment can be as short as a day for government offices or up to four weeks for a school from the time the equipment is delivered by the donating office until it is picked up by the receiving party.

Watkins said reutilizing IT equipment is a major cost-saver for the government.

"We're talking up in the hundreds of thousands of dollars saved," he said. "If a government organization needs a piece of equipment, why should they go buy it if it's available here in good working condition?"

For more information on donating or requesting equipment, call Walker at 876-2050 or e-mail her at [bettyjo.walker@redstone.army.mil](mailto:bettyjo.walker@redstone.army.mil). Fax requests should be sent to 842-0991.

active citizens in the greatest nation on Earth," Vergara read from the president's comments.

Following the performances, the winners of Team Redstone's Asian Pacific-American essay contest and displays were announced. Essay contest winners are: first place — Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs, OMEMS; second place — Kum Cha "K.C." Bertling, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project; and third place — Pvt. Tina Siatu'u, OMEMS. Display contest winners are: first place — Electronic Technology Training Department; second place — Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion; and third place — Bravo Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion.

# Alpha Company bats come together

## Gators outslug NCOs for first win of season

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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After opening its season with three close losses, the Alpha Company softball team left nothing to chance this time – especially on offense.

The Gators beat the NCO Academy 20-14 on May 22 at Linton Field for their first win.

“We did it by just keeping our heads in the game,” Alpha coach/first baseman Herman Payne said. “Had a slow start, had some errors, but once the guys got refocused we started cleaning up on those errors and relaxing at the plate. We played the whole game through. We didn’t stop playing until the end of the game.”

Second baseman Bryce Saxton went 4-for-4 with a double, three RBIs and scored two runs. The Gators broke the game open with an 11-run fourth inning.

“It means a lot to our team because we finally actually got our bats together tonight,” Saxton said. “And confidence in our bats, and to be able to bat our runners in. Slow-pitch softball is a hitters’ game. And to have confidence in your swing is a key point.”

During the fourth-inning outburst, the Gators had five hits and were helped by three walks and three errors. Two of the

walks were to Shawn Moldenhauer, who scored both times.

“Teamwork,” Moldenhauer, the winning pitcher, said of the key to the win. “It’s all about building teams. Had a few big losses by a few runs, and finally came together as a team today. Got the bats rolling.”

Alpha (1-3) had lost to 326th Chemical 19-15, Bravo Company 11-10 and PEO 12-11.

“I feel like this (win) is a big confidence builder for our team,” Payne said, “and shows us we can win games. So it

was a really big game for the team as far as a confidence builder.”

Robert Wannamaker went 4-for-4 with an RBI double and scored three runs for the NCO Academy (0-4). Daniel Irizarry had three hits with two doubles and scored three runs.

“We made too many errors,” Irizarry, the NCO Academy coach and third baseman, said. “We need to practice. That’s the main thing. Since we’re the NCO Academy, we don’t keep the players because they come and go with the school. But it’s all fun.”

Last week’s results included:  
May 22 – Alpha def. NCO Academy 20-14, MEDDAC def. 326th Chemical 17-3 and Bravo Company def. PEO 22-3

May 23 – HHC 59th def. NCO Academy 15-4, Alpha def. Marines 11-9 and PEO def. MEDDAC 18-12.

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



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**SOUTHPAW**— NCO Academy left-hander Bernard Gaines delivers a pitch during the 20-14 loss to Alpha Company.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**GOOD NIGHT**— Alpha Company pitcher Shawn Moldenhauer and second baseman Bryce Saxton discuss their team’s win over the NCO Academy.

# Event runs up contributions for emergency fund

## AMRDEC 5K race raises \$8,315

The sixth annual AMRDEC 5K run drew more than 150 participants May 17 and raised \$8,315 for Army Emergency Relief.

Dale Cox, a member of Redstone’s Army Ten-Miler team, won in 18 minutes and 20 seconds. Emry McKay was the first female finisher in 18:35.

All winners received a plaque provided by Bowman’s Enterprises. Overall winners received a \$25 gift certificate donated by Fleet Feet, which also provided \$15 gift certificates to age category winners.

Sponsors included Colsa Corporation, Driving 2000-Suzuki of Huntsville, Fleet Feet Sports, Bowman’s Enterprises, Publix Super Markets Inc., Home Depot and Kroger.

The event was coordinated by Mary Ann Brothers, Holly Rigdon and Wynema Wooten of the RAM Engineering and Test Division of the Engineering Directorate.

There were 13 participants from the Navy Recruiting District Nashville, located in Huntsville and Decatur. They included Zone 1 supervisor Naval Counselor Chief Terence Ford from Chattanooga. Zone 1

represents Huntsville, Decatur, Dothan, Chattanooga and Cleveland, Tenn.

“The Navy supported the Army Emergency Relief,” zone ombudsman Rona Brownridge, secretary for Applied Technology Initiatives at AMRDEC, said.

Brothers expressed her thanks on behalf of the coordinators. “We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our Navy participants for coming out and showing their support for our fund-raiser,” she said.

Here are the results:

- Overall male – Dale Cox (18:20).
- Overall female – Emry McKay (18:35).
- Ages 18-29 – male, Joshua Parker (21:12); female, Kelly Van Veldhuizen (21:20).
- Ages 30-39 – male, Nathan Graham (20:11); female, Karen Bowie (35:03).
- Ages 40-49 – male, Mike Greene (18:42); female, Barbara Saunders (20:19).
- Ages 50 and up – male, Ricky Dickens (22:20); female, Jean Grotophorst (28:13).
- Division team winner — AED (20:35).
- Division team runner-up — LTPO (21:21).



Courtesy photo

**NUMBER ONE**— Dale Cox, a member of Redstone’s Army-Ten Miler team, wins the AMRDEC 5K in 18:20.

# Local archer aims high despite disability

Setting sights on paralympics

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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From a distance, Bryan Pourcho appears to be in the stance of any competitive archer. His left hand supports a straight bow, his head and body are aimed toward the target, and his arrow is nocked and ready to fly.

But a closer look reveals Pourcho

doesn't use his right arm to pull back the bowstring. Rather, his back teeth grab a mouth pull, he securely brings the arrow back, and then he releases the arrow with enough speed and force to hit near the bull's-eye of a target 25 yards away.

The end result of the seven arrows he has shot is not bad for a 48-year-old archer whose paralyzed right arm, and partially paralyzed left arm and legs qualifies him for a chance to compete in the 2008 Paralympics.

"A year ago last October was when I resumed archery," Pourcho said. "I didn't realize I would be able to do this until I saw on the Internet a site that described how to make a mouth tab to compensate for an arm that doesn't work well."

With the help of employees at the Custom Archery Center, Pourcho was able to get a mouth tab designed specifically for his use. His wife, Kim, or 14-year-old daughter Erin sew a new mouth tab for Pourcho every month or so.

Now, Pourcho, a principal engineer working on unmanned aircraft systems for System Dynamics Inc., practices his archery skills at MWR's Outdoor Recreation area on Sportsman Drive four to six times a week.

He practices mostly in the morning. But sometimes he is on the range at lunch time or in the evenings. Pourcho has to remember to pace himself.

"My muscles are fatigued. I am trying to build up strength. I have upper back weakness that during the day gets progressively worse," he said. "I get sore."

See Archer on page 25



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**MOUTH PULL**— Bryan Pourcho uses a mouth tab to pull back the bowstring on his archery bow. He is practicing his stance and other techniques in hopes of making the U.S. Paralympics archery team.

## Ladies golf association has spring tournament

Jo Ann Gore shot a net score of 66 to win the Spring Handicap Tournament sponsored by Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association on May 17.

Winners of the six flights included:

• First flight – 1. Beverly Van Oost-rum, 2. Linda Kephart, 3. Elke Napier. Low putts — Linda Kephart and Marie Makimowski.

• Second flight — 1. Jean Gamble, 2. Jackie Lane, 3. Judy Angus. Low putts — Jackie Lane.

• Third flight — 1. Joy McGuire, 2. Pam Bucey, 3. Dianna Wilson. Low putts – Jo Ann Gore.

• Fourth flight – 1. Fran Shaner, 2. Doreen Foster, 3. Judy Finch. Low putts – Judy Finch.

• Fifth flight – 1. Kay Colgan, 2. Linda Jones, 3. Kathy Newton. Low putts — Kathy Newton and Dixie McGraw.

• Sixth flight – 1. Nancy Wilbourn, 2. Betty Butler, 3. Lois Goodman. Low putts – Margaret McBrearty.

# Army's fittest gyms reside at Redstone

Facilities offer variety  
for exercise enthusiasts

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
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Maj. Jimmy Rivers is quite familiar with military fitness centers. A Reservist from Augusta, Ga., he works out regularly – whether in facilities at Fort Gordon near Augusta or at Pagano Gym on Redstone Arsenal.

Two hours in the gym four times a week keeps him in tiptop shape. He is a regular on the treadmill, elliptical and nautilus machines, and with the weights and dumbbells.

“I’m just trying to maintain,” he said. “I work the second shift at the AMCOM Operation Center in the Sparkman Center. I am a mobilized Reservist. My wife is in Augusta. So, I have the time to come here and work out.”

He’s been working at Redstone Arsenal for about four months. He expects to be here for a year or two. When he completes his service, he will return to his job as a maintenance supervisor for Westinghouse in Augusta.

“The only difference between the Pagano Gym and what we have in Augusta is the steam room here. I love the steam room,” said Rivers, who also golfs regularly.

While Rivers goes through his routine, gym regulars Jim Goshen and Howard Charnell, who are engineers in the Joint Attack Munitions Systems Office, get ready to blow off some steam in the racquetball court. They often visit the court during their lunch break.

“I’ve been playing racquetball here or at the Fitness Center for about 10 years,” Goshen said. “The convenience is the main reason. Because the gyms are here on the Arsenal, I can easily fit in a racquetball game after work or during my lunch time.”

Besides racquetball, Charnell uses the gym’s treadmill, elliptical machine and weights.

“When I can’t find anyone to play racquetball, I’ll lift weights,” he said.

For Shemika Skillings-Jones, staying fit is important while her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Detric Jones, is deployed to Iraq. The couple have three young children. Now that she has been able to get them in the part-time day care program offered on post, Skillings-Jones is a regular at Pagano Gym.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**BUSY SPOUSE—** Shemika Skillings-Jones likes to follow a workout routine that includes cardio and free weights at Pagano Gym. She recently joined the gym after getting her children in part-time day care on Redstone Arsenal. Her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Detric Jones, is deployed in Iraq.

“I use to work out at Riviera,” she said. “But, the kids are in day care here at the child care center now to give me a little break. So, this is much more convenient. I just had to find it.”

Staying fit is a goal for 800 to nearly 1,000 users who visit one of the four gyms on Redstone Arsenal daily. Gaylene Wilson, director of Sports and Fitness, and her staff of 32 run four gyms on the Arsenal. Last year, 69,000 visits were made to Pagano Gym, 75,000 to the Redstone Fitness Center, 47,000 to the Sparkman Fitness Center and 16,000 to the Wellness Center.

The Sports and Fitness program on Redstone Arsenal is among the best the Army has to offer. For the past two years, it has been awarded the best in sports and fitness programs among medium-size installations in the Southeast Region. In 2004,

its facilities, programs and customer service were named best in the Army among medium-sized installations.

One of the reasons the program is so strong is because employees are always looking for ways to improve services and facilities for a wide variety of users.

“We have a very diverse population of people because we have active duty and DoD and quite a few family members and a large group of retirees who all use our gyms,” Wilson said.

“We are promoting healthy lifestyles for all our visitors, who range in age from 16 to 84 years old. We are looking for ways to reach out to all our users and particularly to the large number of inactive retirees who need to stay active to live long and healthy lives.”

The gyms are among the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**TIME FLIES—** Reserve Maj. Jimmy Rivers, who is on temporary assignment at Redstone Arsenal, lifts 90 pounds on a chest fly machine at Pagano Gym. Rivers spends a lot of time at the gym to keep in shape while stationed away from his family in Augusta, Ga.

many services being promoted by Morale Welfare and Recreation in an ongoing publicity campaign aimed at all those who can use MWR services – including all active duty, National Guard and Reserve; Redstone/NASA civilians and contractor employees; military, civilian and contractor retirees; and their families.

“They are open to basically anybody who has access to Redstone Arsenal,” Wilson said. “You do have to sign up for an MWR membership to use the gyms. But, once you have that, you can use any of the four gyms whenever they are open.”

MWR membership is \$18 a month and can be purchased by calling 830-9175.

“If you want to get into a fitness program at one of our gyms you only have to, first, be an MWR member and then, second, come in to one of our gyms and a staff member will show you how to use the equipment,” Wilson said.

“We will work with you one-on-one to show you how the equipment works. It is best to make an appointment, but we also take walk-ins. Any time you are in the facility, there will always be employees on staff who know how to use the equipment.”

Those who want a more extensive fitness program as part of an overall health program can get a free health screening at Fox Army Health Center.

“You will fill out a health his-

tory questionnaire and get your blood work done at Fox,” Wilson said. “Then, a staff member will go over the results and design a one-time program for you.”

Besides offering a variety of facilities and programs, Sports and Fitness also provides a family atmosphere and a fun social environment in its gyms.

“It really is much more than people coming into the gym and working out,” Wilson said. “It is one big happy melting pot of people from all over the Arsenal.”

Each of the centers offers basic weight training and fitness facilities. But they all are unique in those that use the facilities and the programs they offer, Wilson said.

The Wellness Center in building 4460 on Digney Road is the program’s smallest gym. It is open from 5 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“Even though it’s small, we have a pretty good retiree group that uses the facility,” Wilson said. “It has a full line of strength machines, free weights, bikes, treadmills, Stairmasters and cross trainers.”

The Wellness Center also provides blood screenings and individual workout instruction.

The Sparkman Fitness Center on the first floor of building 5302 is open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The center is used mostly by civilian employees working in or

# Gyms

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near the Sparkman Center. It averages about 250 users a day.

"We have a huge fitness room at Sparkman, but not a full gym," Wilson said. "We also offer a variety of aerobic classes."

It offers free weights, Cybex strength machines, treadmills, bikes, Stairmasters, rowing machine and cross trainers. The center provides one-on-one equipment instruction.

Aerobic classes are offered every week day at 11:15 a.m. and noon, and Monday through Thursday at 4 p.m. Classes include Step, Toning and Ab Blast, Yoga, and Butts and Guts.

MWR's newest gym is the Redstone Fitness Center in building 3705 on Aerobee Road. It opened in February 1997. Hours are 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on holidays.

"We have a smaller amount of weights at the Redstone Fitness Center," Wilson said. "But, there is a lot of space for sports activities and it has a separate aerobics room."

The Redstone Fitness Center offers free weights, nautilus strength machines, treadmills,

bikes, Stairmasters, rowing machine and cross trainers. Visitors can play racquetball and basketball, and use the saunas. The center also provides one-on-one equipment instruction.

Pagano Gym is in building 3474 on Honest John Road. It has extended hours from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Pagano Gym offers the largest collection of free weights. It also has nautilus strength machines and cardio equipment.

"Guys who do weight lifting prefer this gym the most," Wilson said. "We offer a steam room, dry sauna and aerobic classes at Pagano Gym."

Toning, Fitball, Step, Beginner Step, Circuit, Total Body Toning, and Abs, Back and Butt classes are offered at Pagano Gym. They are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., and Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Racquetball courts, basketball courts, lighted tennis courts, steam rooms and saunas are all offered at Pagano Gym.

Pagano Gym and the Redstone Fitness Center are also used for the military's intramural sports leagues in basketball and volleyball.

Like any fitness program,

Sports and Fitness does experience the up-and-down cycle associated with gym workouts. The gyms are busy after the holidays, during the winter months and right before summer swim season. But, programs are in place to encourage the use of the gyms throughout the year.

One program occurring several times a year is Movin' and Groovin', an eight-week competition among teams of five people to exercise and lose weight.

"When you work in teams, you get the encouragement of your teammates that keeps you focused on the goal," Wilson said. "It also provides some accountability. At the end of the eight weeks, we have an awards ceremony."

The gyms also work with the military community to schedule extra aerobics classes to prepare Soldiers for the Army Physical Fitness Test.

"Any Army units that want something different can let us know and we will schedule any kind of aerobics or other programs they want," she said.

Sports and Fitness also works outside the gym by providing facilities for softball and flag football leagues. It sponsors a 5K run and a golf tournament each year. The Felix Milar Active Duty Post Championship is scheduled for June 2-4 at The Links at Redstone golf course. For more information, call 842-2574 or 313-1202.

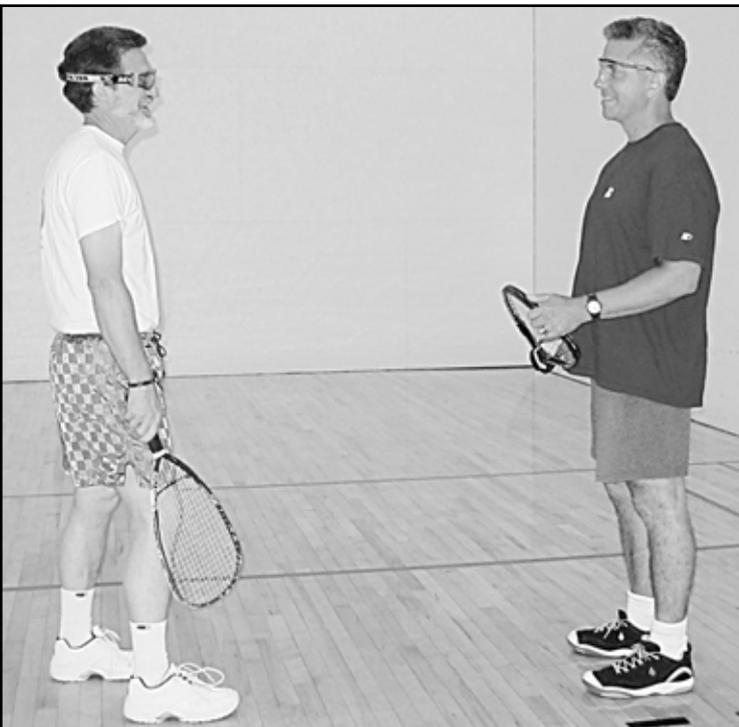


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**READY FOR FACEOFF— Jim Goshen, left, and Howard Charnell, both engineers with the JAMS Project Office, get ready for a fast-paced game of racquetball. They often visit Pagano Gym on their lunch hour or after work.**

"Meeting all the different needs and wants of our patrons is definitely an ongoing challenge for us," Wilson said. "But, it's a fun challenge. We can't always meet every need. So, when we can, it's very rewarding to us."

Aerobic class schedules and other gym information can be

found on the MWR web site at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com). Phones number are: Wellness Center, 955-6844 or 955-7508; Redstone Fitness Center, 313-1201 or 313-1200; Sparkman Fitness Center, 313-6091 or 313-6096; and Pagano Gym, 876-6701.

# Archer

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But, I have a great massage therapist that I go to once a week.”

Pourcho’s target is the Archery National Target Championship, which will be held in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the beginning of August following a U.S. Paralympics archery camp in late July. Winners at the championship will go on to compete as U.S. contenders in an international archery competition in Seoul, Korea. Participation in these events increases a contender’s chance of being named a member of the U.S. Paralympics Team, which will compete in the Paralympics in 2008 in Beijing, China.

“I’m just starting to compete,” Pourcho said. “There are lots of opportunities to compete in archery, even when you have a disability.”

Pourcho would also like to compete in the physically challenged class of the International Bow Hunters Organization.

“They conduct 3D tournaments where you go through the woods shooting arrows at 3D animal targets on unmarked ranges,” he said.

Pourcho has already attended one Paralympics training camp, where he was given many pointers on how to improve his stance and techniques. He will spend the summer on the archery range incorporating those coaching tips and building up his strength and stamina. To compete, Pourcho must be able to shoot 72 arrows at a distance of 70 meters.

“I want to get good enough to be on the Paralympics team,” he said. “Basically, I’m hitting the bull’s-eye 50 percent of the time at 25 yards. I need to be able to hit the bull’s-eye 95 percent of the time at 77 yards.”

Pourcho hasn’t always had to contend with a disability. As a young man, he was a cadet at the Air Force Academy until his color blindness disqualified him to be a pilot. He then went on to complete his electrical engineering degree at the University of Michigan, and took engineering jobs in places like St. Louis and Arizona. He and his wife settled in Huntsville in 1988 when he was hired by EER Systems. From 1990-94, Pourcho was a competitive archer.

“I always loved archery,” he said. “I could ‘Robin Hood’ (shooting an arrow into a target and then shooting a second arrow that splits down the first) arrows routinely at 20 yards.”

But a tumor discovered inside his spinal cord led to a dangerous surgery that forced Pourcho into years of rehabilitation away from the archery course.

“I knew something was wrong, but it took six months to diagnose,” Pourcho said. “I had a little tingly numbness in my left forefinger and thumb, and I had a general weakness. I thought I was just out of shape.”

An MRI led to a diagnosis of Ependymoma spinal disorder, which arises from ependymal cells lining the central fluid space of the spinal cord’s central canal or the lower brain area. About 100 cases of Ependymoma are diagnosed every year. Eighty percent of victims are men in their mid-30s. Pourcho was 36 at the time of

his diagnosis.

“I had spinal cord fluid that mutated,” Pourcho said. “It was a slow grower. I probably had it 10 years before I noticed any problems ... If I didn’t have it removed, doctors said it would have kept growing and basically would have suppressed my ability to breathe and function within the next three or four months.”

In August 1994, Pourcho went to Nashville for surgery to remove the tumor. There was a 15 percent chance Pourcho would die during surgery and a greater risk of disability after surgery.

“I came out of surgery paralyzed from the neck down and on a respirator,” Pourcho recalled. “It took me about one-and-one-half to two weeks to get off the respirator. It took about one-and-one-half to two years to get through rehabilitation.”

Pourcho spent time at Shepherd’s Spinal Center in Atlanta, a premier rehabilitation center, and then later did rehabilitation at Huntsville Hospital and HealthSouth. Doctors told him to expect to live life from a powered wheelchair. But by late January 2005, Pourcho was able to stand and walk a few steps.

“There were a couple days when I felt down about all that had happened,” Pourcho said. “But, then I realized it wasn’t doing me any good. I was a pretty determined rehabilitation patient ... I’m a Christian. There’s times when you ask ‘Why in the world does this have to happen to me?’ But, I’m also fortunate that I have made it this far. It’s been a mixture of frustration and blessing.”

Pourcho’s wife, relatives and friends provided plenty of support that pulled him through his rehabilitation. Today, there are no signs of tumors or cancers in Pourcho’s

body. But he does contend daily with the limits caused by a paralyzed right arm, and a left arm and legs that have also been affected by partial paralysis.

“I have no feeling in either hand, so I have to do everything by sight,” he said. “I can’t stand on one leg and I can’t stand a long time with my eyes closed.”

Pourcho also plays bridge online, and is involved with his family. He went on to get a master’s degree from the University of Alabama in 2001. Because of his paralysis, Pourcho and his wife sold their five-acre home in Lacey’s Spring to downsize to a more manageable home in southeast Huntsville.

“One of the biggest things I learned is that even though you are disabled you can still have a pretty rewarding life,” Pourcho said. “I’d always been active in sports. I thought the worst thing that could happen to me was to be disabled. But, surprisingly, you can learn to adapt and overcome and still have a good life.”

Even though Pourcho can no longer fish in the family’s pond in Lacey’s Spring with his daughter, he can be a parent to her in other ways – being there to listen to her problems and to give advice, and spending time just being together.

Pourcho’s life is committed to continuing a challenging professional career, to growing his personal relationships with God, and his family and friends, and to improving his skills on the archery range. He is not hesitant to explain his disability to those who ask him about it.

“A lot of people don’t even notice my disability,” Pourcho said. “It is more pronounced to others when I am walking.”

He hopes his disability will also go unnoticed when he once again becomes competitive on the archery range.



### Bicyclist class

Road I Course from the League of American Bicyclists will be held June 10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Safety City, 2221 Drake Ave. The class is recommended for adults and children over 14. The \$50 course fee is due at signup. Spring City Cycling Club members receive a \$5 discount; and AlaBike members receive a \$10 discount. Deadline for registration is June 3. Registration forms can be found at [www.knology.net/~BikeEdHSV/courses.htm](http://www.knology.net/~BikeEdHSV/courses.htm). For more information, call David Stone 348-6414.

### Junior Golf benefit

The Rocket City Retired Military Golf Classic Tournament organizers invite you to come drive a Chrysler and support Junior Golf. If you test drive a car at the tournament June 5-8 at The Links at Redstone, you get a sleeve of balls and Chrysler donates money for the Junior Golf Program.

### Military golfers

The Felix Milar Active Duty Post Championship will be held June 2-4 at the Links at Redstone. This tournament is part of the intramural sports leagues and is open to active duty military only. June 2 is the unit competition with the post championship June 3-4. There are no fees for this tournament. Carts, food, drinks and prizes will be provided. For more information, call Gaylene Wilson 842-2574.

### Sergeants Major golf

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its annual golf outing June 23 at the Links at Redstone. There will be a breakfast meeting that morning from 6:30-7:30 in the Regimental Room at the Officers and Civilians Club. Teams will be organized at that time with a tee time between 8:30 and 9. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Robert Johnson 842-9767 or retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McSwain 842-6778.

### Bowling center

Help celebrate the first anniversary of the Redstone Lanes bowling center Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. Bowling, shoe rental, hamburgers, pizza slices, hot dogs, french fries, and small sodas are \$1 each. Door prizes will also be given away. For more information, call 876-6634 or 842-2695.

### Fall soccer signup

AYSO Soccer at John Hunt Park is taking registrations for the fall 2006/spring 2007 season for ages 4-18 boys and girls. Cost is \$70 per player and includes the uniform. Fall season practice begins Aug. 7 and the fall season will end Oct. 29. Registration can be made online at [www.ayso160.org](http://www.ayso160.org) or call 650-0739 to have forms sent to you. Forms are also available at John Hunt Park at the Information board at the corner of Airport Road and JC Way. (Registration fee covers both the fall and spring seasons.) For more information, call 539-6852.

### Player camp

AYSO Soccer at John Hunt Park is hosting a summer player camp conducted by MLS Camps on June 12-16 at Field 3 at John Hunt Park (corner of Airport Road and JC Way). For players ages 4-6, two sessions will be offered in the mornings from 8-10 a.m. or 10 a.m. to noon each day at a cost of \$75 per player. For players ages 7-18, two sessions of four hours each day will be offered at either 8 a.m. or 4 p.m. for \$125 per player. Registration can be made online at [www.ayso160.org](http://www.ayso160.org) or call 883-6342 to have forms sent to you.

### Youth soccer

Madison Soccer Club will hold girls tryouts June 2, 4 and 5 and boys tryouts June 3, 4 and 6 at Dublin Park in Madison. The club has adopted a Brazilian approach to soccer training. For more information, visit [www.madisonsc.org](http://www.madisonsc.org).



## Conferences & Meetings

### AMCOM town hall

The AMCOM Town Hall with Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, is this morning from 9-11 in Bob Jones Auditorium. It will be broadcast on Team Redstone Television Channel 42, and via Internet Portal TV to computer desktops equipped with the IPTV application. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7 of the auditorium. Badges must be worn by all attending. All AMCOM, PEO-Aviation and PEO-Missiles and Space employees are encouraged to attend.

### 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](mailto:amy.donlin@us.army.mil).

### Enlisted spouses

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

### Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski is scheduled speaker. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows, are invited. For more information, call retired Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323.

### Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold the regular/special June (only) membership meeting June 6 at 5 p.m. at building 3202. The date of the meeting is being changed in order for the members to present and approve resolutions to be presented at the National Convention in Atlanta Aug. 7-11. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

### Aeronautics section

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Alabama-Mississippi Section will hold its Awards Dinner and Offi-

cer Installation on Thursday at the Holiday Inn Research Park, 5903 University Drive. Social begins at 6:15 p.m. with dinner at 7. Cost is \$20 (\$10 for students). For information call Terry Abel 217-6365.

### Air defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association is holding a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club. Brig. Gen. Fran Mahon, commander of 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, is scheduled speaker. Cost is \$11 for members, \$15 for non-members. Corporate member tables are available at \$11 per seat. For more information, call Janet Beasley 837-5282, ext. 1524.

### Space society

HAL5 (National Space Society) will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St., for a free public lecture. Dr. H. Philip Stahl of Marshall Space Flight Center's Space Optics Manufacturing Technology Center is to speak on the "James Webb Space Telescope, The First Light Machine." For more information, visit [www.HAL5.org](http://www.HAL5.org).

### Helicopter technology

The Southeast Region and the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Helicopter Society and the Colonial Virginia Chapter of Army Aviation Association of America will sponsor a national conference on Helicopter Military Operations Technology, Oct. 24-26 at Fort Eustis, Va. "Global Operations: Challenges and Opportunities Facing the Military Aviation/Industry Team" is the theme. For information call Jerry Irvine, public affairs officer for the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, (757) 878-3272.

### Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer Users Group will feature Elwyn Dobbs, a longtime member of HPCUG, presenting a program on "Internet Annoyances — How to Fix the Most Annoying Things About Going Online," at 10:45 a.m. June 10 at the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. At 9:15, Kevin Wangbickler, co-leader of the HPCUG's Internet/Windows Special Interest Group, will provide web sites for solving computer problems and host a question-and-answer session. For more information, call 883-9601.

### Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet June 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin St., north entrance. The meeting is free. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. Author Robert Hicks is to speak on "The Widow of the South" which is his historical novel about the Battle of Franklin and Carrie McGavock, mistress of Carnton Plantation. For information call 858-6191.



## 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

# Rocket Announcements

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](http://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](http://www.gsaauctions.gov), search by State of Alabama; and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-4667.

## Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and 9-4 Wednesdays and Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-1. The shop has appointments from 1:30-2:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays. The shop is accepting summer clothing/items. "Join us at your Redstone Thrift Shop Saturday, June 3 for some great bargains from 10-2," a prepared release said. For more information, call 881-6992.

## Computer classes

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

## Chapel services

Weekly services at Bicentennial Chapel, on Goss Road, include: Weekdays (except Friday) – noon Catholic Mass. Saturday – 5 p.m. Catholic Mass. Sunday — 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, 10:45 a.m. CCD, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, 11 a.m. Protestant Worship Service. Many Bible studies are throughout the week. For information call 876-2409.

## 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.

## 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](http://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 Testing 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](http://www.testweek.org). For information call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

## 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



Photo by Stefanie McCrary

## Beautifying space

Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space employees work last week to brighten up the area around building 5250.

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.

## American Idol singer

Carrie Underwood, the 2005 American Idol winner, along with special guest Josh Turner, are coming to Redstone Arsenal July 21. Tickets can be purchased at the Post Exchange, ITR, Officers and Civilians Club, Sparkman Cafeteria, Outdoor Recreation, Hotel Redstone, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and all Ticketmaster locations. Cost is \$18 for general admission tickets and \$60 for premium tickets. For more information, call 876-4531 or 876-5232.

## Johnson High reunion

Johnson High School's Class of 1986 20-year reunion is Aug. 4-5 at the Holiday Inn-Research (Madison Square Mall). Those interested can send their address and phone number to [joj1986@earthlink.net](mailto:joj1986@earthlink.net) or call Jenise Showers 457-4633.

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