

Redstone Rocket

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

October 18, 2006

VOL. 55 No. 42

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Faith makes a difference in battle

Airborne chaplain recalls
1993 Battle of Mogadishu

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Struecker faced his audience at a breakfast meeting of the Young Business Leaders for North Alabama as an All-American Soldier, the medals on his uniform witnessing to his bravery and courage on the battlefield.

But, instead of talking about military strategy and strength, Struecker's message spoke to the hearts of the men – some middle school and high school age, others established business, political and community leaders – who gathered to hear of the faith that bore Struecker through a bloody and deadly firefight in Mogadishu, Somalia, made famous by the book "Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War" by Mark Bowden and the 2001 Academy Award-winning movie known as "Black Hawk Down."

Struecker, who served in Panama and Desert Storm, and who received a Bronze Star with Valor Device for leading several vehicle convoys into the fight during 1993's Battle of Mogadishu, spoke of his faith as a born-again Christian to about 750 members of Young Business Leaders at the Von Braun Center's North Hall on Oct. 6. He was introduced by Mike Durant, a Black Hawk co-pilot whose helicopter was shot down in the Battle of Mogadishu, and who lives and works in the Huntsville area. Struecker, a captain among the Army's top Rangers who is a jump master and chaplain with the 82nd Airborne Rangers, has recently written a book about his life as a Christian and a Ranger called "The Road to Unafraid."

Since giving his life to Jesus Christ as a 13-year-old boy, Struecker told the audience that there's "not a day he hasn't made a difference in my life or during the chance opportunity to serve my country in a time of war ... My faith makes a difference in how I respond when the chips are down and against me."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HEROES SHARE HISTORY— Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Struecker, right, and Mike Durant, a Black Hawk co-pilot, are both decorated military heroes who were involved in the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993 in Somalia.

Even so, as a 24-year-old, newly married staff sergeant with the Army's 82nd Airborne Rangers, Struecker said the firefight on Oct. 3 and 4, 1993, was the most intense 24 hours of his life with Jesus Christ. No one expected that mission to turn into a firefight that left 18 American Soldiers dead and 79 injured, one Malaysian soldier dead and seven injured, two Pakistani soldiers injured, and between 500 and 2,000 Somali militiamen and civilians dead.

"On most of the earlier operations we experienced relatively little resistance, and we're in and out in 30 minutes," Struecker recalled. "This day there was one exception. A Black Hawk was shot down. Then, our whole mission changed."

The Battle of Mogadishu occurred during Operation Restore Hope, the United Nations and U.S. military oper-

ation to provide humanitarian aid and to break the military siege in Somalia.

On several occasions, when an assault target was pinpointed, Special Forces would attack with a combination of ground and air measures that would involve using Black Hawks to land Rangers on the rooftop of a targeted building and then positioning Soldiers in Humvees at the corners of the building to guard against unwanted intruders. Struecker's unit provided the ground forces of 10 to 12 Humvees for these missions.

On Oct. 3, 1993, a U.S. Special Operations Forces composed mainly of Rangers, Delta Force (1st SFOD-D) operators, and aviation support from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Night Stalkers), attempted to capture two senior lieutenants of Somali warlord Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid,

one of the military's main targets. The plan was to fast rope Soldiers from hovering MH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to secure the four corners of the target building, and to capture the two lieutenants and load them onto a ground convoy for transport back to the U.S. compound.

The ground extraction convoy was supposed to reach the captive targets a few minutes after the beginning of the operation. However, it ran into delays when Somali citizens and local militia formed barricades along the streets of Mogadishu with rocks and burning tires. There were also problems by air when Army Ranger Todd Blackburn fell 70 feet from a helicopter while fast-roping to the target.

Struecker led a three-vehicle convoy back to the American compound with the injured Blackburn.

As the convoy turned onto a main road "I experienced enemy gunfire like I never experienced before or after. The enemy was on every rooftop and in every alleyway," he recalled.

It was bedlam. The Soldiers on Struecker's Humvee were trying to shoot back in "50 directions at once," said Struecker, who quickly assigned the Soldiers to shoot in specific directions so they could work together to destroy the enemy.

Even so, Struecker lost one Soldier – Sgt. Dominick Pilla — who died as he killed an enemy target only 10 feet away from their Humvee.

"The back of my vehicle was absolutely plastered with his blood. Everyone in the vehicle, including me, panicked," Struecker said. "I realized how serious this was. I thought 'I'm going to die right here.'"

"But, then our training took over. Eventually, we made it back to the airfield."

Struecker was safe. But, two Black Hawks had been shot down by a rocket propelled grenade, and he and his unit were ordered back out to help in the rescues.

"I was a Christian, but I was

See Faith on page 7

An open lane random survey

What is the solution to school violence?

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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Rhonda Sheahan
retiree spouse



"It's a problem with parenting. Kids need mom and dad both. Society is falling by the wayside and that's what's wrong."

Pfc. Mark Uzela
Charlie Company
"I say we need parental discipline. They need to start young."



Pfc. David Mounts
Charlie Company



"Parents let their kids spend way too much time watching TV and they're not paying enough attention to what's going on with them."

Ed Baswell
contractor

"It's a two-part answer. The public school system needs more leeway to discipline and instill discipline in kids because they're apparently not getting it at home. Parents also need to 'parent up' and raise their kids."



Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.

Unhappy with shipping policy

I was outraged this morning when I tried to order a \$1,599 television online from (a national corporation) and I got to the shipping page and discovered a message stating that they do not ship to military installations. It is impossible to believe that a mega giant will not ship to military installations when the U.S. post offices, Fedex, UPS among others, deliver straight to our doors. ... Of course I immediately got on the phone and after speaking to

three customer representatives, the only reason one could come up with was that there is normally not a state listed in the shipping address. That's ridiculous! They claimed they were transferring me to a manager; and after being on hold for 30 minutes, I finally hung up. Not only should they be shipping, they should be offering a military discount.

Sgt. 1st Class Kurtrell A. Jackson

Ode to fast and furious drivers

A rhetorical question; what is the speed limit of the road being traveled? An "Open Lane Survey" might reveal - it's what is posted; nevertheless, the more cynical would reply; whatever I can get away with. If you watch Redstone Arsenal roads you will routinely observe drivers approach their arrival at RSA like it was race day; moreover, they exceed the posted speed limit and fail to render courtesies and etiquettes of the road so they can be first. This is most evident during three periods of the workday: the beginning, the mid and the end of the day. I qualify my statement via observation of traffic entering and exiting Gate 9, "Ride Out Road" during these periods.

Upon approaching RSA, you'll first experience Monte Carlo racing or as known by the Southern race aficionados, Demolition Derby. As cars rush toward the gate, they tailgate, they dart left, scream by, dart right to be first foregoing common sense and courtesy. Their speed and darting causes you to brake almost causing you to be rear-ended. Austin Cameron on demolish derby driving - "It was a blast! It was totally cool to go racing and the main purpose is to take out the competition." Is it so they can be the first to enter RSA? Oh on contraire, it's because they need to stage for the next race.

Turn signal; what is that? There are many who remember arm signals; left arm stuck out; up, down, or straight to make one's intentions known. Yet with the proximity today they are used even less. Nevertheless, when used a driver should anticipate the other driver speeding up to protect "his" lane. The most

dangerous moment upon approaching RSA is when exiting I-565 east/west from the far right lane and wanting to, maybe not immediately necessary, cross all lanes as it expands into Alabama Highway 255 so as to access Rideout Road Gate. They pull out; accelerate, cross two, even all lanes, without a turn signal, cutting off all others, just to get to the left lane. Ironically there is humor in this; their audacity to stare you down as they cut you off - as though saying "What?"

Drag racing begins immediately after staging at the Security Gate. Once the ID is returned the driver launches out of the gate, immediately changing lanes, and yes, cutting off all others without a turn signal. A point of interest is the white lines on the roadway at the exit and entry points - they are as I remember for safety. They warn of the hazard of changing lanes too soon. Their subliminal message: travel beyond the end

See Drivers on page 19

Quote of the week

'It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone.'

— **A. Bartlett Giamatti**
former baseball commissioner

Missing trees on Goss Road

I hope that whoever authorized the cutting of the trees in front of the Youth Center along Goss Road is looking for a new place of employment. I can understand the cutting of trees in some of the more out of the way places on the Arsenal, but right along Goss Road is just plain misguided. We had an attractive stand of pine trees in front of the Youth Center, close to Family Housing, Day Care Center, and Bicentennial Chapel. Now we have a bunch of ugly stumps.

Now that the trees have been cut down, I hope there will be a requirement that the loggers pull out the stumps and clean up their mess unlike some of the other locations that have been logged in the past. And, let's replace the trees with something other than pines.

Richard Rice

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The trees in front of the existing Youth Center were cut down in the name of progress. This is the site for the new Child and Youth Services Facility. This \$6 million project was an FY '06 Congressional Add. Congressman Bud Cramer, 5th Congressional District, initiated and supported this valuable project."

"The site was chosen due to the proximity to the existing Care Center and Youth Center. Co-locating this project on the same site as the other two facilities will provide improved child care services for the Soldiers and civilians on Redstone Arsenal. The logger was able to mobilize on this site and harvest the trees prior to the commencement of the construction activities. This allowed funding to be returned to the agricultural program at Redstone Arsenal rather than have the construction contractor removing the trees and placing them in the landfill."

"I hope this answers the question and explains that the Garrison is not cutting trees without reason. We do everything within our power to ensure that the natural beauty of Redstone Arsenal is preserved. However, there are times when the landscape must be altered to better support the Soldier and the mission of Redstone Arsenal."

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

The *Redstone Rocket* is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in The *Redstone Rocket* through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the *Redstone Rocket* is *The Huntsville Times*, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

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Rocket articles are available online at the following:
<http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil/>

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Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for The *Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

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Getting to know you

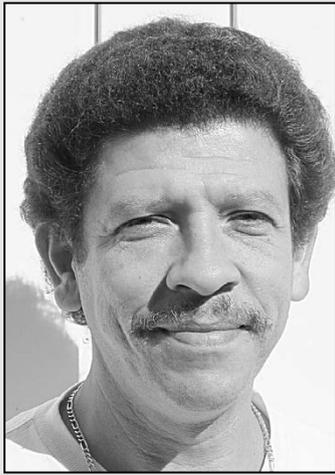
By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: William Alvarez

Job: Environmental engineer, AMCOM G-4 (Logistics and Environmental)

Where do you call home? Ponce, Puerto Rico

What do you like about your job?
Having the responsibility of environmental compliance for weapon systems.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

I do two things. I like track and field, and officiating football.

What are your goals?

I'd like to finish a master's in environmental science. That's my immediate goal.

What's your favorite type of music?

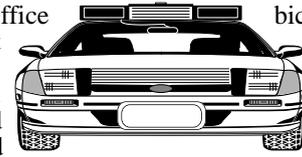
Salsa

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Oct. 5: Someone entered a government building and removed contractor-owned tools valued at \$900. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Oct. 9: Someone removed a child's



bicycle from the yard of a government quarters. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

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

Violation notices issued: 14 speeding, 1 failure to yield right of way, 1 improper lane usage, 1 no insurance.

Women's wellness fair scheduled at Fox center

Fox Army Health Center is sponsoring a "Women's Wellness Fair" on Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

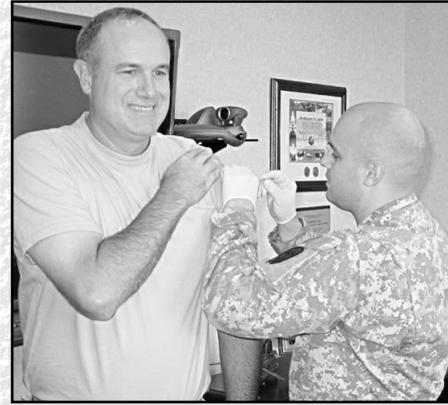
Military beneficiaries will be given a clinical breast exam and have their mammogram scheduled. Women will be informed on breast cancer awareness and other health promotion/wellness activities. Bone density screenings will also be available.

Health Promotion is encouraging everyone to team up with your friends and co-workers to fight breast cancer in the third annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run on Saturday, Oct. 21. The men's race begins at 8 a.m., the women's at 9 and a Survivors

Walk begins at 10 at the Huntsville Middle School track. Go to the following web site for more information and to sign up: <http://www.huntsvillehospital.org/educationandevents/ribbonrun/>.

"If all women age 40 and older took advantage of early detection methods – mammography plus clinical breast exam – breast cancer death rates would drop up to 30 percent," Army public health nurse Lt. Col. Angelique Likely said. "The key to mammography screening is that it be done routinely – once is not enough."

For more information call Preventive Medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1443 or 1026. (Fox Army Health Center release)



Photos by Skip Vaughn

Flu shots

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury receives his flu shot from Staff Sgt. Jorge Delgado, primary care NCO-in-charge at Fox Army Health Center. The general's wife, Becky, receives her flu shot from Army public health nurse Tamiriz Centeno. The Fox representatives administered annual vaccinations Friday at the Aviation and Missile Command headquarters.

Product office provides eye on the sky

Air Traffic Control manages airspace

By KIM HENRY

Staff writer

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In the summer of 1956, two planes took off from Los Angeles. One was headed for Kansas City and the other for Chicago. Each decided to deviate from the flight to show its passengers a spectacular view of the Grand Canyon. Unfortunately, neither was aware of the other until they collided killing all passengers.

This tragic event paved the way for the formation of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Air Traffic Control we know today.

“That would never happen today,” said Ronnie Tucker, assistant product manager for fixed base ATC equipment. “Flight planning is a vital piece of the process for the safe, orderly and expeditious flow of air traffic. The first step is that the pilot advises ATC of his intended flight path to ensure that his route of flight doesn’t conflict with others.”

The same rules apply for the Army. The Army Air Traffic Control product office is the materiel provider for fixed base and tactical ATC equipment. Fixed base ATC equipment supports the sustainment, training and force projection missions at Army airfields around the world. Tactical ATC equipment includes similar capabilities, integrated into tactical vehicles, and is deployed to provide air traffic services and airspace management in a combat theater.

“ATC supports the safe operation of aircraft in the airspace,” said Lt. Col. Chris Rush, ATC



Courtesy photo

SUPPORT ON THE GO— The Air Traffic Navigation, Integration, Coordination System sensor vehicle is an example of tactical Air Traffic Control Equipment. Tactical ATC equipment is deployed to provide airspace management in a combat zone.

product manager. Air traffic controllers manage Army, DoD, commercial and civil air traffic operations in the National Airspace System as well as tactical operations in the combat support role.

Army ATC has three functions. First it controls the movement on the airfield, which ensures a clear path for inbound and outbound air traffic at the airfield; the ATC towers provide this function. The second function is to provide approach control services to the primary airfield, which is done by an airport surveillance radar. Finally, it has an airspace management function, which is considered the en route control portion and provides flight guidance and situational awareness on the ground between airfields; the Tactical Airspace Integration System supports this function.

“From a functional and architectural standpoint you have to

provide for those elements in both the fixed base environment, that’s in the United States operating as part of the national airspace, and replicate that capability in a combat zone. That is what the tactical systems do,” Rush said.

Tucker, who spent 12 of his 26 years in the Army as an air traffic controller, likens the airspace to a wedding cake. The first layer of the cake is that which is normally within five nautical miles from the center of the airport and from the surface up to 2,500 feet above the airport. The radar and the eyes of the controller are used to separate all aircraft within those five miles. The second layer is from the surface to 4,000 feet within 20 nautical miles of the airport; this airspace is controlled by approach control equipment.

The final layer is that which is above 18,000 feet and it belongs to the ATC centers. Tucker notes

that anything below 800 feet and outside of controlled airspace is non-positive controlled – for example, a crop duster wouldn’t use the ATC equipment to dust below 800 feet.

“When you talk Air Traffic Control there is not a solid envelope of Air Traffic Controlled airspace over the entire United States,” Rush said. “There are controlled areas and there are areas where it is not controlled.” Visual Flight Rules apply in these areas, where responsibility falls to the pilot for separation from other aircraft.

“Air traffic controllers provide separation between aircraft – that is their ultimate responsibility,” Tucker said. The controllers have many tools to assist them such as radars and approach control, but ultimately their eyes and many years of training give them the capability to accomplish that mission. Tucker points out that all Army air traffic controllers are required to be FAA certified and licensed.

Of the tactical equipment managed by this office, the Tactical Terminal Control System is the first to enter the combat theater early in support of a mission. Once an airfield is established the Air Traffic Navigation, Integration, Coordination System, Tactical Airspace Integration System and Mobile Tower System are employed.

Of the tactical systems, TAIS has proven to be a dual function product. In the original concept, TAIS performed ATC and en route airspace management/deconfliction. Over time it has evolved into a battle command system giving the combat commander a tool from the brigade up that provides situational awareness of what’s going on in his airspace.

Fixed Base ATC equipment includes the Digital Airport Surveillance Radar, the DoD Advanced Automation System, Fixed-Base Precision Approach Radar and the Voice Communication Switching System.

Like their names indicate, each radar has a specific role. The DASR provides 360 degree surveillance and gives the controller an overall picture of what the airspace looks like, while the precision approach radar provides precision guidance to a specific aircraft to land in all weather conditions.

“The radar provides the digital picture of the airspace,” Rush said. “What we call, ‘DAAS’ is the processing, the software and the displays that are in the tower and the Approach Control that takes the digital information and visualizes it for the controllers. The VCSS communications suite is robust and ties in all of the radios, the communications in and out of the airfield, land lines, and civil emergency response teams; it is the entire communications package.”

With more than 40 tactical ATC systems deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, the product office has its share of challenges. The two most trying include incorporation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in the airspace and weight requirements for tactical systems.

With the proliferation of UAS in the airspace it is no wonder that positive control and situational awareness becomes a major challenge, plus many installations may not have the ATC equipment to support UAS. An interim step the product office has taken includes leveraging Blue Force Tracking capabilities to enhance situational awareness within TAIS.

See Sky on page 11

How to win friends and enrich life

Master networking delivering results

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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Success for Fran King and David Beddingfield – both in their careers and in their personal lives – isn't defined by how fast they climb the corporate ladder or how they can benefit from a friendship.

Rather, success for them is defined by what they can "bring to the table," how they can help others, and how they can have a positive impact in both their business environments and social circles.

The concept is called master networking. King and Beddingfield are so convinced master networking can make a difference in anyone's life that they recently packaged their experiences with the concept into a presentation for the Program Management Institute.

"Master networking is about giving to others," King said. "It's not about using people or climbing the ladder."

"A lot of people confuse business networking and master networking. Typically, in business networking you enter into it expecting other people to do something for you. In master networking, you are always trying to help other people with no expectation in return. Master networking is about building a network of friends who all help each other and share information. It's about enriching your entire life, not just the professional aspect."

The main rule of master networking is to be helpful and encouraging to everyone. The focus of master networking is on giving, Beddingfield said.

"It will return to you, but you don't go into it to get something out of it," he said. "You build a network. You meet others. But, you don't do it in a selfish way. In one day, you may give to 10 different people, whether it be advice, friendship, conversation, time, a personal gift, whatever. But, you may only make a connection with one person in that day who wants to give back to you."

King, a contract specialist on Black Hawk logistics with the Acquisition Center, and Beddingfield, a contract specialist on the CH-47 Chinook with the Acquisition Center, started experimenting with the master networking concept three years ago. Although they both had college degrees and were successful in their careers, they wanted more – new friends, community involvement, fun adventures and lots of social opportunities.

They began to branch out, using their growing concept of master networking to build their social skills, expand their circle of friends and become active in the local community. They began attending various social and community events, where they made a point of meeting new people and enjoying themselves. It wasn't long before they looked at every opportunity as a master networking goldmine. Once they tapped into the master networking concept, it became a part of everyday life.

"People are so busy," Beddingfield said. "Jobs and family keep us so occupied. But, this is something you can do no matter how busy you are. Master networking is not a separate hobby. It's something you incorporate in your daily life."

For example, while waiting in a long store line in the early shop-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

POSITIVE CONCEPT— David Beddingfield and Fran King, who both work for the Acquisition Center, discuss what they learned from several books they've read on master networking. The friends have used the master networking concept to have a positive impact on both their business environments and social circles.

ping hours on the day after Thanksgiving, King started up a conversation with a woman in line next to her. It turned out they were in line together for two and a half hours, during which they got to know each other quite well. The woman's husband even went out to get the new friends breakfast. Later, the two women discovered they were in the same graduate class together and King was able to help her friend through the class's difficult assignments.

"There are so many people in the technical world and in the business world who want a new way to present themselves to the world," King said. "They want to branch out in new ways. And, this is it."

King and Beddingfield view master networking as a way to dig people out of the isolation of today's technology and information era, and bring them into a

world that is filled with hundreds of possibilities and opportunities.

"We're such an information overload society and so technically focused that we no longer have the sharpened social skills we used to," Beddingfield said. "Our lives can be so much more enhanced with a social network."

Master networking is a national social movement that has been spurred by many leading motivational speakers and authors. King and Beddingfield have read several books on master networking, including *Masters of Networking* by Ivan Misner and Don Morgan, and *How to Make Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie, *The Likeability Factor* by Tim Sanders, *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell and *How to Work a Room* by Susan Roane.

"It can enhance not just your work environment and career, but also your personal life and your

children's lives," King said. "It can save you money. It can save you time and energy. It can open you to brand new opportunities and a world that you don't know about if you don't share with each other."

People can develop their own master network at their own pace and take it to the level they want. Anyone can master network, no matter their age or their experiences, as long as they want to meet new people and experience new things. The ultimate goal of master networking, King said, is to be able to apply the 12/155 rule to a person's social circle.

Twelve is the number of close family and friends a person should have. These are people they can rely on, go to for advice and confide in. The 155 number – which stems from the tested business principle that a stockbroker can't manage more than 155 accounts efficiently – refers to the number acquaintances, such as friends, co-workers, community contacts, that a person has a strong connection with, who they can share information with and who they feel comfortable with on a social level. The best 155 members of a person's social circle can change as interests shift and new contacts are made.

"It will be a network that is beautifully diverse with people who have different interests, hobbies and careers that you can draw from," King said.

King does have a few pointers for people who want to master network. First, they should discover their "stickiness factor," the things – hobbies, experiences, personality traits – that make them interesting to other people. When meeting new people, they should put their best features forward,

Faith

continued from page 1

totally incapacitated with fear,” he said. “I was mopping up the blood on my Humvee thinking ‘I’m never going to see my wife again. My son is going to grow up without a daddy.’ At that point, I did what any Christian would do. I began to pray. I prayed ‘God, I’m in deep trouble and I need your help.’”

He thought about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and how Jesus knew he would be crucified the next day on a cross.

“I thought ‘I don’t want to do this. I don’t want to go back in that city. I don’t want to die on this night,’” Struecker said. “But, then as Jesus said, I prayed ‘Not my will, but your will be done.’”

“Something changed that instant. From that moment on, I never worried what was going to happen to me for the rest of my life. Everything I believed and all that I knew rushed to the front. I’m a Christian. If I’m going to die, I’m going to heaven. I don’t need to worry. My life is not in my hands. God has control over the circumstances.”

That night, Struecker realized the outcome would be all right, no matter what. If he survived, he would go back to his wife and his future child. If he died, he would go “home to be with my Father in heaven. I can’t lose with what happens tonight.”

At that moment, Struecker became a witness for his Soldiers. He told one sergeant who expressed his fear about returning to the battle: “I don’t want you to think of yourself as a coward just because you’re afraid. Those men out there need us.”

Struecker prayed that God would not let another of his Soldiers die needlessly.

Though he felt God’s presence, Struecker and his unit ran into many obstacles as they tried to get to the crash sites. Somalia gunmen waited in ambush at every corner, roads were blocked by debris, the city’s dark streets made it difficult to maneuver. The only route they could take was to go around the entire city and come in to the crash sites from the back way.

“Two Special Operations Soldiers volunteered to move in by foot. Ultimately, they gave their lives,” Struecker said. “But, we were able to link up with 50 Rangers.”

The Rangers loaded up on Struecker’s vehicles and they returned to the airfield. Struecker’s unit was ordered back out

again to the city to continue rescue efforts.

“From midnight to 8:30 we exchanged gunfire, took casualties and loaded up anyone we could get out,” Struecker said.

By dawn, they were joined by UN troops from Pakistan and Malaysia, and additional U.S. troops to rescue the Soldiers at the first crash site. Chief Warrant Officer Durant, the co-pilot of the second Black Hawk that was shot down, was not rescued but was captured by the Somalis and held prisoner for 11 days before being released.

“It wasn’t the bullet holes (covering his Humvee) that had a profound impact on me,” Struecker said, recalling the feelings he had after his return to the American compound.

“It wasn’t the blood or carnage ... What had a profound impact on me was how badly shaken up the men I knew and worked with were that next day.”

Many Soldiers sought out Struecker, who they knew was a Christian, to find answers to their questions – How could this happen to the best trained Soldiers in the world? What happened to my friend who was killed? What will happen to me if I’m killed?

“For 24 hours non-stop there was a stream of men talking to me about my faith and what happened,” he said. “I told them the Bible promises that if you have faith you don’t have to worry about death. When you die, it is promised that you will spend an eternity with God.”

Although Struecker acknowledged that most men will not face a situation like the one he and other Soldiers faced in Mogadishu, he said every person will confront situations that will cause them to question their life and their faith.

“Every one of you in this room is going to deal with fear somewhere along the way,” he said. “It will shake you to your core. And, where are you going for help?”

“In the doctor’s office, you may be told it’s terminal. In business, you may be facing financial disaster. At home, your wife of 20 years may tell you ‘Sorry, there’s another man.’ Where are you going to go to find strength and courage? All of you will face death. And, when that happens, I hope you can boldly say ‘I know where I’m going.’”

When people experience Christ, Struecker said, “He will walk with you every step of the way. And in death, his promise is ‘I’m waiting for you on the other side.’ ... If you are a Christian, I pray that you will live such an incredible faith in Christ that you wake up every day and know ‘I can handle it. God, who controls the universe, is right by my side.’”

Family members view Soldier's promotion in Iraq

Video teleconference
a first for 59th brigade

By Sgt. ELIAMAR TRAPP

Staff writer

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Being on the other side of the world wasn't going to stop Lt. Col. Keith Barshinger from having his family present during his promotion from major to lieutenant colonel. So on Oct. 4, his wife, Lana, and daughter, Erin, were in an office at Redstone Arsenal in front of a set of televisions waiting for their Soldier to appear on TV.

The video teleconference was set up through the 59th Ordnance Brigade's security office making this the first time the brigade hosted this type of event. VTCs for deployed Soldiers and their families have become increasingly popular throughout the Army to help Soldiers and their families deal with deployments.

"I didn't think we would be able to pull this off, and it is something that I really wanted to see happen," Barshinger said. "I am very grateful that I have friends who were willing to put this together at the last minute. It means a lot to our family."

Barshinger is the deputy inspector general for the Multinational Corps-Iraq at Camp Victory, Iraq. Before going overseas he was stationed at Redstone with the 59th Ordnance Brigade. When he went overseas, his family stayed in the Huntsville/Madison area making it possible for the 59th security office to set up a video teleconference for his wife and daughter to watch his promotion live from Iraq.

"No one makes a career in the military by themselves," Barshinger said. "This is our promotion. We have all had to sacrifice in order to work toward this promotion. So it's important for me that my family is able to enjoy this special occasion with me and that they are equally recognized for what they have contributed."

The VTC began on time — 1 p.m. local time, 9 p.m. Iraq time — with Lana and Erin waiting anxiously. Less than a minute into the VTC, the connection was cut. It was cut again at least five times during the ceremony, but Lana and Erin were patient and equally excited every time Barshinger came back on the screen.

"Just being able to see him and hear his voice for a little bit is wonderful," Lana said after watching the screen go out once again. "It was a very proud moment for Keith, and I don't care that the connection cut in and out. I'm just very proud of him."

Barshinger left for Germany in June 2005 and deployed to Iraq six months later. He is scheduled to return to Germany in December. With the move to Germany and the deployment, his family has been with him for only seven weeks out of the past 18 months.

"Staying engaged with my family is



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

HOME TEAM— This is the view Lt. Col. Keith Barshinger had of his wife, Lana, and daughter, Erin, during his promotion ceremony Oct. 4. Lana and Erin were able to view Barshinger's promotion ceremony thanks to the first ever video teleconference set up by the 59th Ordnance Brigade. Barshinger is deployed to Iraq as the deputy inspector general of the Multinational Corps-Iraq.

the key to handling the separations," Barshinger said. "We try to communicate often and in different ways such as e-mail, photos, webcams and gifts. My wife and I have done really well at continuing to romance each other in creative ways and the family as a whole maintains a good sense of humor which is critical. I know how much my family is worth, so I do not take them for granted. Good relationships don't just happen; you've got to stay on top of them and maintain them."

Barshinger and Lana met at an English-speaking church in Walldorf, Germany, which is very close to the former Rhein-Main Air Force Base. Lana was visiting as a summer missionary from Texas A&M University, serving as a youth director. Barshinger was a second lieutenant working with the youth group, and their friendship grew from there. Lana went back to Texas at the end of the summer but returned the next summer for their wedding in Darmstadt, Germany. They've been married for 15 years.

"Being in the Army has been an adventure for all of us," Lana said. "We've enjoyed every place we've been to and have made some pretty close connections. We are very much a team, we have a good sense of humor and we have a very strong faith. I never let him get too serious about anything. You have to have laughter in your life. Why waste your energy being angry or upset about anything?"

Erin, who is home schooled, has also been a great support for her parents through the separation and "quite a trooper," Lana said. "I tell her that she can cry when she needs to, but she can never use it as an excuse." While her dad has been away, Erin has kept herself busy by starting her own dog walking and pet sitting business, and she recently began volunteering at a local Humane Society.

Twenty-year journey ends for provost marshal

Lt. Col. Brad Scofield
entering retirement

By LIRA FRYE
For the Rocket

Hard-nosed, tough, candid, respected – all words used to describe provost marshal Lt. Col. Brad Scofield.

With intensity and drive, he's carried out his duties during his four-year tenure as director of Emergency Services. He has worked to establish and to strengthen relationships with community emergency services partners and to develop new procedures to enhance force protection while addressing work force concerns.

Although he won't officially retire until January, he's passed the director's torch.

Looking relaxed and at ease, but still showing a hint of the intensity for which he's known, Scofield reflected on his 20-year journey with the Army and most recently his time at Redstone

When he arrived at Redstone in July 2002 after serving two years in Korea, Scofield said he faced unique challenges in balancing the security needs with the needs of the work force.

"They (Soldiers) are not so worried about inconvenience, because they know that inconvenience keeps people safe," he said. "Our largest challenge is doing a tightrope walk between security and convenience every day, and people here do a tremendous job working under the constraints we have."

That tremendous job overflows to the department's relationship with organizations outside the fence.

"I've been to a lot of communities, and I don't think in my 20 years I've ever seen better com-



Lt. Col. Brad Scofield

munity relations," he said. "Everybody throughout the community pulls together as a team. When we've pulled together, we've never had a problem that we couldn't solve."

Teamwork, energy and a sense of purpose seem a common thread throughout all of Scofield's military experiences.

"I started ROTC just for fun and had no intention of joining the military," he said. "After a year I was hooked. It was something I enjoyed doing. Something I excelled at. It took on a life of its own and I wasn't going to be the one to turn that off."

Scofield attributes his interest and success in ROTC to the officers and noncommissioned officers who ran the programs at his high school and at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, where in 1986 he earned a regular Army commission as a distinguished military graduate and a bachelor of science in criminal justice administration.

Although he said he has had many great tours of duty, there was one that rose above the others.

A self-described adrenaline junky, Scofield said his most memorable assignment was at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I got my fix every time I jumped out of a perfectly good aircraft," he joked. But more important to him was the camaraderie, the esprit de corps, the teammanship.

"It was a challenging and difficult mission," he said, "but everyone was pulling in sync."

Although he touts the Army's benefits, Scofield also acknowledged that the Army's a tough life.

"A lot of sacrifices you make are intangible; many you don't realize until later," he said. "Being a part of military service is a committed way of life. It's not part time. It's a commitment to be willing to give your life for a cause. You can't do this halfway. If you don't commit yourself fully, you don't do yourself or the service justice."

During Scofield's retirement luncheon, many of his staff, co-workers, friends and family gathered to celebrate his 20 years of service.

"He's been a shining star for all of us," Art Riley, the provost marshal's operations officer, said. "Not only a great professional, but a good boss."

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski commented on Scofield's stellar career.

"This is what right looks like, in an MP and a DES," Olshefski said. "If I was over in the fight, I'd want Brad Scofield as the 05 of my MP battalion."

"One of the greatest compliments you can give someone in our business is to say they're candid. That they can look the old man in the eye and tell him

how it is. But then salute and say yes sir. Know what he wants to hear, but don't tell him what wants to hear, just because he wants to hear it."

According to Olshefski, Scofield is that kind of man, that kind of Soldier.

As he moves on to his next chapter, Scofield said he has mixed emotions, but he also said he has no doubt that personally, this was the best decision for him and his family.

What will the next chapter bring?

"I'd like to continue my service with the government," Scofield said. "If that doesn't work out, there are a lot of other opportunities with local defense contractors."

From all accounts, they'd be lucky to have Scofield.

"He's chosen to go the path he has taken mostly for his family," Darrell Brewer, deputy to the Garrison commander, said. "It says a lot for his character. He's the best provost marshal I've ever worked with in 30-plus years – that's a fact."

Missile Defense Agency assigns test deputy

Maj. Gen. Chris Anzalone, currently the Missile Defense Agency's deputy for test, has been assigned to the position of deputy for test, integration and fielding.

In this new position, he will be responsible for the joint testing, interoperability and fielding of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. His office will serve as the agency's joint acquisition headquarters, intent on maintaining partnerships with the service war fighters throughout the acquisition process. In this capacity, he will become the senior uniformed representative of MDA in Huntsville.

The Ballistic Missile Defense System, which is envisioned by MDA, is designed to protect this nation, allies and friends

against all types of ballistic missiles in any phase of flight.

Anzalone received a commission to the Air Force through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Central Florida, Orlando. His former commands include a flying squadron, mission support group and an air base wing.

Prior to his service with MDA, Anzalone had a variety of joint service tours and has served as vice commander, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. At Robins, he was responsible for worldwide logistics support for a variety of aircraft, air-to-air missiles, avionics and surface motor vehicles. (Missile Defense Agency release)

Boeing missile defense team cited

The Boeing Company's Integrated Missile Defense Spares Acquisition Team has been honored as one of the government's best suppliers by the Defense Supply Center Richmond. The Boeing team, which provides spare parts for the Avenger short-range air defense system, received an Automated Best Value System gold medal during DSCR's annual business conference.

Firms that qualify as Automated Best Value System medalists must meet stringent quality and delivery requirements established by the Defense Logistics Agency. The Automated Best Value computerized system collects vendors' past performance data and translates it into a numeric score, ranging from zero to 100. By delivering products with zero defects

either on time or ahead of schedule, the Boeing Integrated Missile Defense Spares Acquisition Team received the top score of 100 to qualify for the gold medal.

"I am very proud of this team's hard work and commitment to consistently deliver quality products and services to our customer," said Debra Rub-Zenko, vice president and program director for Boeing Integrated Missile Defense. "This team has set the standard for performance, and we look forward to supporting our DSCR customer for years to come."

The Boeing Integrated Missile Defense Spares Acquisition Team, located in Huntsville, includes Roger Davis, Carol Day, Phil Lowery, Jennifer Marx, Michelle Strickland and Bobby Wells. (Boeing release)

■ Army controls skies for airfields, tactical operations

Sky

continued from page 4

"It is a huge challenge," Rush said. "Because we've had a rapid increase in the number of UAVs within the airspace the question becomes, 'how do we know they're there?' This is a challenge that many people are taking on and we are part of the solution."

The second major challenge is the tactical system's weight in light of the recent DoD decision to armor all Humvees for force protection. "All the current systems are at weight limit just based on payload without the armor," Rush said. "This will affect our tactical systems, three of which can't be put on a Humvee so we have to find an alternative solution."

The product office is looking at its options to solve the issue. Most feasible options include the use of a larger vehicle, possibly the Light Medium Tactical Vehicle 2.5-ton truck. Because MOTS is still in development it will be the first to implement a design change.

Though there have been challenges for the ATC, there have also been some major milestones for the product office. Within

the last year, the product office awarded two five-year production contracts for tactical equipment: TAIS and ATNAVICS to achieve the Army's procurement objectives. Also, the office awarded the development of a new tactical tower that is anticipated for fielding in fiscal 2010.

As for the fixed base equipment, the product office is proud to be on the verge of completing the installation of the Army's first two DASR radars at Fort Drum, N.Y., and Kwajalein Atoll. When it comes to installing the new radars, a lot of preparation has to be put into the process such as surveying the property, coordinating with the FAA and physically installing the radar. Including these two radars, planned procurement ranges from 10 to 13 radars.

Rush, whose background is in infantry, considers his position in Air Traffic Control a continuous learning experience and credits his office's success to his people and the teamwork displayed every day.

"I've got a great group of folks here who have years and years of experience and knowledge. I have a lot of support when making decisions on the future of ATC equipment," he said. Rush, a Herndon, Va., native, has been the ATC product manager since July 2005.

■ Master networking helps widen professional, social circles

Networking

continued from page 6

be genuine and sincere, and find things they like about other people.

Second, they should have personal contact cards that include contact information and possibly a famous quote or an interesting picture or background, and they should give these to the people they meet in any situation. Both King and Beddingfield have several different personal cards with varying amounts of information that they give out to new acquaintances. Free contact cards can be ordered through www.vistaprint.com for a small shipping fee.

Third, they should identify whether they are an information mover (someone who collects data and passes it on to others) or a people specialist (someone who loves to meet different people), or a combination of both, and then use that skill to master network with people from all walks of life, economic levels and social circles.

"Master networking has worked for me because I am here to share and help others, and everybody I meet I try to help because everybody matters," King said. "If you live by that then you'll find your network

growing by itself."

Master networking has drastically changed King's and Beddingfield's lives, and benefited them both professionally and personally. During their three-year experiment, King has gotten a double master's degree, competed in a triathlon and learned how to play the violin. Beddingfield has taken a side job as the senior editor of the arts and culture section of Huntsville's Culture & Leisure magazine.

"It's all about having no regrets," King said. "You know that dream or goal you want to achieve? Stop putting it off. Make it happen. All the big things that have happened in my life have happened with master networking. I'm really happy with where my life is."

King and Beddingfield are available weeknights, weekends and some lunch hours to share their master networking presentation for free with groups upon request. They also have compiled an e-mail list of master networking friends that receive their quarterly e-mail providing information about interesting community events and activities. To receive the e-mail or to contact King and Beddingfield about their presentation, call 851-9727 or e-mail them at masternetworking@hotmail.com.

Put safety first with power tools

Failing to properly use and maintain electric-powered tools causes thousands of cuts, punctures, pinches, amputations and electrocutions each year, according to the Garrison Safety Office. Following these guidelines, along with using your own good judgment, will help keep you safe:

- Do not use electric-powered tools in damp or wet locations.
- Keep guards in place, in working order, and properly adjusted. Safety guards must never be removed when the tool is being used.
- Avoid accidental starting. Do not hold a finger on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.

• Safety switches must be kept in working order and must not be modified. If you feel it necessary to modify a safety switch for a job you're doing, use another tool.

- Work areas should have adequate lighting and be free of clutter.
- Observers should remain a safe distance away from the work area.
- Be sure to keep good footing and maintain good balance.
- Do not wear loose clothing, ties or jewelry when operating tools.
- Wear appropriate gloves and footwear while using tools.
- Store tools in a dry place. (Garrison Safety release)

Huntsville Center contractor killed in Iraq

A U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville contractor employee killed in Iraq Oct. 11 has been identified.

Gerald Lambert, 46, from Brooksville, Fla., was killed when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an improvised explosive device. Lambert worked as a security specialist for Special Operations Consulting - Security Management Inc., which is headquartered in Minden, Nev.

Thirty-two contractors have been killed since September 2003 while working for the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program.

"Our condolences go out to the families," program manager Bill Sargent said. "Our personnel are highly trained and experienced and are doing a superb job,

but it remains a very dangerous mission."

The incident is under investigation.

Huntsville Center is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise for Military Munitions. Huntsville Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any other munitions posing a danger in Iraq. Storage and disposal of the ammunition is performed at several locations throughout Iraq. To date, more than 400,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq. (Huntsville Center release)

Get your laugh on Friday night

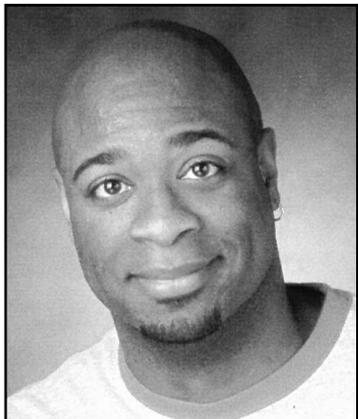
Officers and Civilians Club holds third Comedy Night

By VICKIE MARKS
MWR Sales and Marketing

Sometimes, it's hard to laugh after a long work week. At Redstone, it just got easier.

On Friday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m., three nationally-known comics are coming to the Officers and Civilians Club. This is the third show in the club's new quarterly Comedy Night series, and promises to be another winner.

Performing this time around



Warren B. Hall

is funny man headliner Warren B. Hall. A veteran of comedy clubs for many years, Hall has performed on several USO tours overseas, including Iraq and Japan. He is heard regularly on the nationally syndicated "Bob and Tom" Radio Show and is heard on XM Satellite Radio. He has a smooth, clean approach to comedy that allows all audience members to have a good time without offensive material.

The night's feature act is Tim Kidd, a Florida native who resides in Charlotte, N.C. Starting off as a member of an "improv" troupe, Kidd quickly rose through the ranks as an



Tim Kidd

audience favorite, and then went solo in his comedy career less than three years ago. Kidd is a high-energy comedy maelstrom who has one of the most impressive multimedia closing bits on the road today.

The show's emcee and opening act will be Milwaukee's own, the "Cheese Head" himself, Gene Renfroe. Renfroe's got the laughs; this performer started his career late in life, after raising a family, and puts a unique twist on funny. Personable and talented, he is quick-witted and amiable, leaving audiences happy and ready for the show.

Tickets are moving fast for Friday night's show.

"We are bringing the best performers in the country, hands down," said Steve Sabo, president of Inside Joke Productions, the company bringing this show to Redstone Arsenal. "These are comics you've seen on The Tonight Show, Comedy Central, HBO and Showtime. If you like to laugh, you will have a great time. Huntsville is really becoming a great venue for comedy shows. Audiences came out in droves to see the two previous shows, and we expect no less with this great lineup. We will find a seat for everyone, but for the best seats, get your tickets early and show up early!"

Joe Majchszak, promotions and operations director for Inside Joke Productions, said "It's an amazing feat to get some of these performers. Usually, to secure comics of this caliber, cities with bigger populations win out because of the larger venues and seating. However, Steve Sabo has the connections to bring bigger acts to even the not-so-big venues and the crowds show their appreciation with knockout attendance."

Advance tickets for all shows are \$8 per person. Tickets at the

door will be \$12. For information or tickets, call the Officers and Civilians Club at 830-2582 or the Diane Campbell Recreation Center at 876-4531. (*Morale Welfare and Recreation release*)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Benefit cookout

Michele Belo serves hamburgers and hot dogs during a cookout Thursday for the Combined Federal Campaign. The event outside building 5302 was sponsored by the Integrated Materiel Management Center.



Gene Renfroe

Army Ten-Miler team doubles its pleasure

Two 2nd place team awards
join 1st place individual honor

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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WASHINGTON — Team Redstone had its best finish ever in the 2006 Army Ten-Miler near the Pentagon. Redstone runners took a first-place individual award, two second-place team honors and had one runner finish in the top 100 males. The 22nd annual race was held on a cool, sunny morning Oct. 8 with 24,000 registered participants.

“I feel the team reached its potential through the eight weeks of hard training,” head coach Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs said. “Through all the hard training and practice, they accom-

plished their goal of finishing first or second in their categories. I think we met our goals and appreciate the support from the Garrison and MWR and AUSA. And we’re going to keep pressing in the future for our goal of first place in one of the competitive categories.

“It’s not just the run, it’s the journey and just getting to know each other and what functions we serve in the Army as well as jelling for a high-performance running team.”

The team received support from the Garrison, Morale Welfare and Recreation, and the Association of the U.S. Army.

Half the team competed in the all-comers category and the other half in the government agency division. The 16 members represented a cross section of the Redstone community — including civilians, active duty and retired

Soldiers. For the first time in years, the team included a female Soldier.

In all comers, Redstone One’s top four runners had a cumulative time of 4:03.58 for second place behind Third Army Road Racers (3:48:19) and ahead of Fort Sill Redlegs (4:13:42).

Redstone Two (4:20:34) was second to AHRC Patriots (4:07:41) and ahead of USAOTC Warriors (4:39:13).

Steve Rice, 57, a retired lieutenant colonel, won the male 55-59 age group in 1:01:14. Bill Taylor, 57, of Woodbridge, Va., was a close second in 1:01:35.

“It was good comfortable running conditions, ideal,” Rice said. “I felt comfortable the whole way. Ideal weather conditions — dry and cool temperatures.”

He said his finish time was “as good as I was hoping to do.”

Brett Addington, who works in the Integrated Materiel Management Center’s Scout Observation Directorate, was Team Redstone’s top finisher and 82nd overall in 58:36. He received a coffee mug as one of the top 100 male finishers. “My goal was to get a mug,” he said.

Redstone One included Addington, Randy McFarland (1:01:36), Maj. Morris Bodrick (1:01:53), retired Maj. Tim Vinson (1:01:54), Dale Cox (1:03:54), William Alvarez (1:05:03), assistant coach Alexander Steel (1:15:15) and Hobbs (1:18:18).

Redstone Two included Rice, Nathan Graham (1:02:49), Steve Solomon (1:07:23), Rob Jones (1:09:10), 1st Lt. Wade Preston (1:10:09), assistant coach Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight (1:21:54), assistant coach Skip Vaughn (1:24:15) and Maj. Christine “Chris” Hackett (1:25:25).

Jared Nyamboki, 30, of Fayetteville, Ga., won the race in 48:24.

Tennessee to topple Crimson Tide

Picker takes Vols
over Alabama



By SKIP VAUGHN
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Skip’s Picks went 176-55, 76 percent, for the first six weeks of the college football season. Here are my predictions this week:

- Air Force at San Diego State – **Air Force**
- Alabama at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
- Alabama A&M at Ark.-Pine Bluff – **A&M**
- North Alabama at Delta State – **UNA**
- Oregon State at Arizona – **Arizona**
- Stanford at Arizona State – **ASU**
- Ole Miss at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
- TCU at Army – **TCU**
- Tulane at Auburn – **Auburn**
- Kansas at Baylor – **Baylor**
- Boston College at Florida State – **FSU**
- UNLV at Brigham Young – **Brigham Young**
- Washington at California – **Calif.**
- Georgia Tech at Clemson – **Ga. Tech**
- Colorado at Oklahoma – **Okla.**
- Colorado State at Wyoming – **Colo. State**
- Miami at Duke – **Miami**
- Fresno State at LSU – **LSU**
- Chattanooga at Furman – **Furman**
- Mississippi State at Georgia – **Ga.**
- UTEP at Houston – **UTEP**
- Illinois at Penn State – **Penn State**
- Iowa at Michigan – **Mich.**
- Texas Tech at Iowa State – **Tech**
- Kansas State at Missouri – **Missouri**
- Louisville at Syracuse – **Louisville**
- N.C. State at Maryland – **N.C. State**
- Michigan State at Northwestern – **MSU**
- Texas at Nebraska – **Texas**
- North Carolina at Virginia – **N.C.**
- UCLA at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**
- Indiana at Ohio State – **OSU**
- Texas A&M at Oklahoma State – **A&M**
- Oregon at Washington State – **Oregon**
- Wisconsin at Purdue – **Wis.**
- Rutgers at Pittsburgh – **Rutgers**
- South Carolina at Vanderbilt – **S.C.**
- Southern Miss. at Virginia Tech – **Tech**
- West Virginia at Connecticut – **W.Va.**

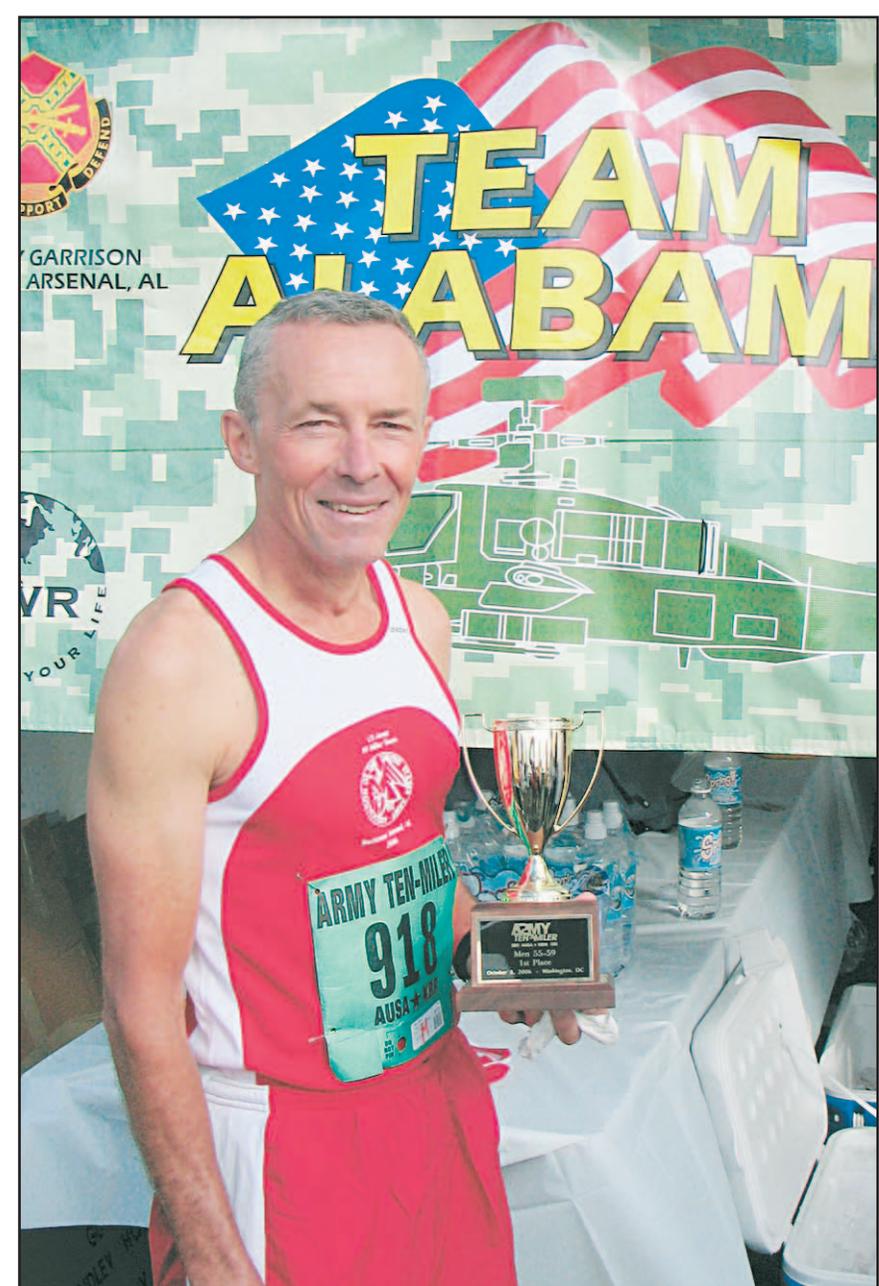


Photo by Skip Vaughn

FIRST IN AGE GROUP— Team Redstone’s Steve Rice won the male 55-59 age group in 1:01:14 at the Army Ten-Miler.



Photo by Talbot Hackett

WE ARE FAMILY— Members of Team Redstone include, from left in the front row, Randy McFarland, Maj. Christine “Chris” Hackett, Brett Addington, Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight, Steve Solomon, Steve Rice and Chief Warrant Officer Harry Hobbs. In the back row are Rob Jones, Skip Vaughn, Nathan Graham, retired Maj. Tim Vinson, Alexander Steel, Dale Cox and William Alvarez. Not pictured are Maj. Morris Bodrick and 1st Lt. Wade Preston.

Elite rank warranting a second look

Army recruiting warrant officers

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

In the “Army of One,” there is an enlisted Soldier rank that truly embodies this popular slogan – the Army warrant officer.

And, although the Army’s marketing slogan has recently

changed to “Army Strong,” the warrant officer continues as the Army enlisted corps’ number one technical expert, combat leader, trainer and adviser. The warrant officer is trained in an area of expertise not only to be an “Army of One,” but to also “Be All You Can Be.”

Chief Warrant Officer Adam Williams, one of six members of the Army’s Warrant Officer Recruiting Team, visits Redstone Arsenal once or twice a year to

talk to enlisted Soldiers about the opportunities of pursuing warrant officer rank.

Better advancement, the ability to stay within their area of expertise, and better pay both during service and after retirement are some of the reasons to pursue warrant officer rank, he said.

“Warrant officers get faster promotions, more technical training and education, extended career paths, challenging assign-

ments and the ability to perform their core duties longer,” Williams told seven Soldiers who attended one of three briefings at Heiser Hall on Oct. 11 and 12.

The Army has application shortages in several warrant officer specialties, including Special Forces; Military Intelligence Specialties, including source intelligence technician, counter-intelligence technician, human intelligence technician, traffic

analysis technician and intelligence electronic warfare maintenance technician; Special Agent; Ammunition Technician; Air-drop Systems Technician; and Electronic Missile Systems Maintenance Technician.

“We pull quite a few Soldiers from this area,” Williams said.

“Warrant officers are highly specialized officers who come from the enlisted side of the

See Rank on page 17

Four-star recognition for outstanding workers

Higher headquarters gives annual honors

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The commanding general acknowledged each person seated at the conference table for the Friday morning ceremony.

“You’re outstanding,” Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone, told the 10 honorees. They were runners-up for Army Materiel Command outstanding team and personnel of the year awards for

2005.

“You don’t know how gratifying it is as a commander to know the quality of the people that are there,” Pillsbury said.

These six people received the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, for exemplary service as members of the Utility Helicopters Sustainment Logistics Team: William Bidwell, Ellametrica Butler, Kathleen Carnell, Patricia Landefeld, Roberta Pate and Craig Zeisset. The team was selected as first runner-up for AMC’s Outstanding Integrated Product Weapon System Team of the Year.

Each member also received a four-star letter from AMC commander Gen. Benjamin Griffin.

The following four individuals

received a four-star letter from Griffin in recognition of their nomination as one of the Ten Outstanding AMC Personnel of the Year: Janice Hopkins, Mark Moe,

Emmitt Rodriguez and Albert Thompson.

“I look at you as the face of AMCOM,” Pillsbury told the entire group. “And AMCOM’s in great shape today.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SIMPLY THE BEST— Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of AMCOM and Redstone, presents awards from the Army Materiel Command.

Rank

continued from page 16

house and who stay on a selected track.”

They are self-aware and adaptive combat leaders, trainers, staff officers and advisers. They are competent and confident warriors, innovative integrators of emerging technologies, and dynamic teachers and developers of specialized Soldier teams.

“As a warrant officer you are a Soldier, a technical expert and a leader,” Williams said. “You are part of a small elite group. There are just under 14,000 active duty warrant officers. They make up 2 percent of the Army and 15 percent of the officer corps. We cannot select everyone that applies for the program. You’ve got to be persistent and you can make it.”

The Department of the Army selection board prefers to assess potential candidates for warrant officer between their fifth and seventh service years, Williams said. “The earlier you assess as a warrant officer, the more beneficial it is in pay. A CW3 at 16 years makes more than a specialist at 20 years. It was the right decision for me in terms of base pay,” he said.

Once chosen for warrant officer rank, candidates attend Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker.

“It’s got a reputation of being a tough course,” Williams said. “It’s tough, but fair. When I went through, there was a 30 percent graduation rate. Now, there is a 98 percent graduation rate ... Once that’s completed, you go on to get training in your specialty area and you become technically certified to do your job.”

Once on the warrant officer track, Soldiers are nearly guaranteed continual promotions. While only 37.7 percent of the sergeant first class ranks, 14.8 percent of the master sergeant ranks and 13.9 percent of the sergeant major ranks are selected for promotion each year, 99 percent of CW2 Soldiers are promoted, 99 percent of CW3 Soldiers on the technical side and 97 percent on the aviation side are promoted, and 91 percent of CW4 Soldiers on the technical side and 90 percent on the aviation side are promoted.

It takes about two years to be promoted from CW1 to CW2, and four to five

years to get promoted to higher CW ranks.

“We enjoy more liberal promotions,” Williams said. “We have to have a certain number of warrant officers on active duty at any given time. If you enjoy your job, do your job, you’re going to get promoted ... You’ve got 17 years from the day you pin on a as a W1 with 90 percent certainty or better you can be a CW5. Making command sergeant major in 17 years is a great goal, a noble goal. But, odds are against you.”

Warrant officers can also have longer careers with the Army, extending to just shy of 40 years.

“Soldiers tell me ‘Chief, I want to stay in the Army until they kick me out.’ I tell them ‘Fine, become a warrant officer,’” Williams said.

In addition, warrant officers maintain all the training and education benefits of any Soldier in the Army and can take advantage of opportunities focusing on their specialty area..

Of the 212 enlisted Military Occupational Specialties, there are only 43 warrant officer MOS’s in the areas of signal, military intelligence, ordnance, transportation, quartermaster, special forces, judge advocate, field artillery, adjutant general, military police, air defense artillery, aviation and engineering. In addition, there are five warrant officer MOS’s that don’t require a feeder MOS. They are rotary wing aviator, mobility officer, network management technician, information systems technician and signal systems support technician. Applicants must chose between the aviator track and the technical track.

Applying for warrant officer is “not tough at all,” Williams said. “It’s just how bad you want it.”

At the presentation, Williams was very much the chief warrant officer he trained to be. He spoke about how much he enjoyed his job specialty.

“It’s a pretty tremendous mission,” Williams said. “We’re always on the go. We’re always on TDY somewhere. We enjoy what we do. We love going out and talking to highly qualified Soldiers.”

For more information on the application process, contact Williams at Adam.Williams@usarec.army.mil or call (502) 626-0271.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

INTERESTING OPPORTUNITIES— Chief Warrant Officer Adam Williams talks about the benefits and opportunities of becoming a warrant officer with potential recruits, from left, Staff Sgt. Michael Lane and Staff Sgt. Ronny Smith, both of Headquarters and Alpha, and Staff Sgt. David Smith of Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 59th Ordnance Brigade.

Redstone observes disability employment month

Second annual luncheon
scheduled Oct. 25

By ANGELA MORTON
Missile and Space Intelligence Center

Each year during October, Americans acknowledge the employment accomplishments and potential of America's more than 50 million individuals with disabilities.

Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1988, Congress changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

President George W. Bush announces in his 2006 Proclamation, "To recognize the contributions of Americans with disabilities and to encourage all citizens to ensure equal opportunity in the work force, the Congress, by joint resolution approved as amended (36 U.S.C. 121), has designated October of each year as 'National Disability Employment Awareness Month.' The national theme for 2006 – Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce – highlights the fact that individuals with disabilities are an

underutilized and ambitious group of Americans eager to pursue their career dreams.

"Today, Americans with disabilities enjoy improved access to education, government services, public accommodations, telecommunications and employment opportunities. The landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 removed barriers and enabled many individuals with disabilities to find more opportunities to use their gifts and talents in the workplace. This progress has made our nation stronger, more productive, and more just. People with disabilities still encounter challenges, however, to their full participation in American society," Bush said.

According to the National Organization on Disability, only 32 percent of Americans with disabilities aged 16 to 64 are working, although two-thirds of those unemployed would rather be working. Employment offers greater freedom, independence, and the chance to fully participate in and contribute to society. In order to maintain and strengthen the ability of America to compete in an increasingly global economy, we must seek quality employees from non-traditional employee pools, including the millions of Americans who have dis-

abilities.

We have come a long way in the six decades since we began observing October as a month dedicated to opening employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities – but we still have far to go. Now, as we once again mark National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we should rededicate ourselves to the vision of a society open to the full participation of individuals with disabilities in the workplace.

Team Redstone joins the nation in celebrating and recognizing our more than 700 employees with disabilities at our second annual Disability Employment Awareness Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The keynote speaker will be Christine Griffin, a commissioner of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C. As one of the five members of the commission, Griffin participates with other commissioners on matters to include the development and approval of enforcement policies, authorization of litigations and issuance of commissioners' charges of discrimination. Most recently, she served as the executive director of the Disability Law Center in Boston from 1996 to 2005. The Law Cen-

ter provides legal advocacy on disability issues that promote the fundamental rights of all individuals with disabilities to participate fully and equally in the social and economic aspects of life.

If you are interested in attending, in lieu of selling tickets, please RSVP to any of the committee members. RSVPs are due not later than close of business Thursday. No cancellations will be accepted past noon Oct. 23. Reservations must be made in advance to attend this event. For requests for reasonable accommodation or dietary needs, call Allan Day at 544-4079. Admission is \$10.

Committee members include Belinda Bishop, MSFC, building 4200, 544-3988; Clarenza Clark, Garrison, building 111, 313-2825; Gena Cox, MSFC, building 4200, 544-6171; Demetria Cruz, AMCOM, building 5300, 876-6718; Allan Day, MSFC, building 4200, 544-4079; Johnetta Graves, SMDC, building 5220, 955-4008; Carolyn Manders, MSIC, building 4545, 313-7254; Sgt. 1st Class Monique Mixon, OMEMS, building 111, 876-8648; Angela Morton, MSIC, building 4545, 313-7271; Luereen Phillips, AMCOM, building 5301, 876-6942; and Julia Story, Garrison, building 4488, 842-7954.

Better maintenance means fewer aircraft needed

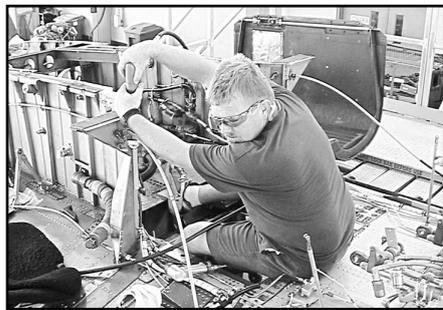
Black Hawks up,
thanks to support

By ANDY ROAKE
For the Rocket

Fort Rucker is reducing the number of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters needed to sustain their flying hour program by three aircraft, thanks to initiatives this year that reduced scheduled maintenance time and improved unscheduled maintenance quality for the aircraft.

Previously, models calculated that the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center at Fort Rucker needed 105 UH-60 Black Hawks to fly more than 44,000 hours to support the mission of training the Army's aviators, said Robert Hill, deputy commander for the Aviation Center Logistics Command at Fort Rucker. The USAAWC has been performing the training mission with only 86 UH-60s on hand and was in constant need of additional aircraft to support the number of required flying hours.

Now, only 83 UH-60s are needed to support those flying hours, thanks to a partnership effort by the ACLC; Army Fleet Support, the contractor that maintains the Fort Rucker helicopter fleet; and the Aviation and Missile Command's Integrated Materiel Management Center at Redstone Arsenal.



Courtesy photo

WIRE TO WIRE— Army Fleet Support employee James Childress works on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. The AFS contractor lean phase maintenance crew saved more than 32 days of scheduled UH-60 Black Hawk maintenance during the first Lean Six Sigma effort for aviation unit maintenance.

"The USAAWC will turn in the first of three UH-60 aircraft back to the Army by November," Hill said. He added that the other two aircraft will be returned to Army in early 2007.

The turn-in of aircraft back to the Army was a goal of AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury at the beginning of the Fleet Management Initiative when AMCOM took over the maintenance mission from Training and Doctrine Command in 2003.

"We at AMCOM felt that the incentives and performance measures implemented with the new performance based contract would provide the basis for major improvements with the goal of keeping more aircraft flying through better maintenance processes," O.V. Bonner, acting chief of the Field Operations

Division of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, said. "These improved tasks, coupled with the dedicated support to the new mission by AMCOM and PEO Weapon System teams, set the goal of aircraft turn back to the Army. The turning in of three aircraft is just a small step. We hope we can eventually gain additional efficiencies."

The ACLC recommended the reduction in aircraft; and Brig. Gen. William Wolf, USAAWC deputy commander, recently accepted the recommendation.

Four contributing factors led to the reduction.

The ACLC, under AMCOM's Fleet Management Initiative, and AFS partnered this year on the first Lean Six Sigma initiative for Army aviation scheduled maintenance. The initiative reduced the time each UH-60 spends in scheduled phase cycle maintenance by more than 30 days. This is a 67 percent improvement in phase flow efficiency from the previous average time of more than 50 days of phase cycle maintenance for the UH-60.

Another important factor is an increased initiative by AFS to do quality maintenance the first time. Hill said the contractor effort is a major factor in shortened scheduled and unscheduled maintenance times.

"The efficiencies gained by AFS were manifested in the Lean initiative," he said.

The third contributing factor was a commitment by the IMMC

to flow needed UH-60 parts to Fort Rucker.

"Support to the war fight is our number one mission," Bonner said. "But the acknowledgement by people across the command to support this expanded training mission has been key to the overall success as well; it is a team effort. It's a delicate balance, but people have been working hard to push parts to Fort Rucker before any need becomes critical."

"The AMCOM effort has continuously improved the process by which we are supported," Hill said.

Overhauling aging aircraft was the final key factor to reducing the number of required aircraft. Eleven aging UH-60s were selected out of the fleet of 86 and were sent to Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas, to be completely overhauled in the UH-60A to UH-60A recapitalization program.

"By getting those 11 back, we've got 11 aircraft that don't need as much maintenance care and are operationally performing better than the rest of the fleet," Hill said.

Hill explained the overall benefit of the initiatives. "Because of the efficiencies now in the maintenance flow, we have increased the overall readiness of the UH-60 fleet so that the Aviation Warfighting Center can do the mission with three fewer aircraft," he said.

He believes that additional savings may be in the future for Fort Rucker. "The key for the

future is if we get any more aircraft in the recap program. We're continually working to improve processes here at Fort Rucker, but if we can get more aircraft through the recap program, then we'll have a better fleet to support our customer's needs."



Photo by Tarah Hollingsworth

Flying lesson

Paul Bogosian, left, program executive officer for aviation, controls the Raven B Small Unmanned Aircraft System on Oct. 2 at a small demonstration for the PEO with help from Ken Fidler, right, a Raven expert. The demonstration included three Raven aircraft flying simultaneously.

Brotherly love extended to all animals each year

Blessing of Animals celebrated at chapel

By DAVE MACEDONIA
For the Rocket

Bicentennial Chapel celebrated its annual Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 7. The Blessing of the Animals has been celebrated at the chapel for more than 20 years. This year, more than 40 chapel patrons were in attendance.

Chaplain (Maj.) George Rzasowski led the blessing. He blessed more than 42 dogs, five cats, and numerous stuffed toy animals.

Oct. 4 is recognized by the Catholic church as the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Founder of the Franciscans, and patron saint of animals, St. Francis lived in Italy from 1181 to 1226. Francis came from a wealthy Italian family. After a traumatic

war experience, Francis began giving food and money to any beggar he encountered. This displeased his father greatly. Francis visited hospitals and ministered to the sick, giving away money freely. His father disinherited Francis. Francis then gathered a group of men of like mind. They agreed to take a vow of poverty and preach penance. Francis referred to all creatures as brothers, and legend has it that he preached to the animals.

In his honor a life-affirming ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals is celebrated at many Christian churches.

"The Blessing of the Animals reminds us of the sacredness of all life, and provides an opportunity to celebrate the animals who share our lives," Debra K. Brazzel of Duke University said.

Following individual blessings, each animal was treated to packaged animal food while their owners were treated to cake and punch.



Photo by Dave Macedonia

AWAITING TURN— Pets are accompanied by their owners in the line to receive blessings from Chaplain (Maj.) George Rzasowski, at far right.

Some drivers use roads for racing

Drivers

continued from page 2

of the line before changing lanes. After the quarter mile run, drivers turn to NASCAR racing, exceeding the posted speed limits in numbers. Near the turn around, traveling at 55 mph (cruise control), vehicles scream up behind you, drafting then slingshot out and around and quickly back in front, and yes, you guess it, without a turn signal — oh yeah, another car replaces the previous drafter. Those who are in the center and far right lane normally continue toward Marshall Space Flight Center, giving rise to the popular remark — there goes another rocket scientist — no offense to rocket scientists. Those who make the Toftoy Thruway turn toward the Sparkman Complex crowd up, drafting in formation, oblivious to the recommended one car length for every 10 miles per hour to make

their way to their destination. I would be remiss if I did not address those drivers who make the left turn from any roadway. This driver starts his turn so soon that a crash is inevitable due to his car crossing diagonally across the opposite lane of approaching traffic behind the "stop here" line.

And for a finale, for me, Go Cart racing. The oval track, I mean roadway, around the Sparkman Complex, which is posted at 25 mph; reduced from 30 mph several months ago, but it does not matter — vehicles still drive well above 25 mph and I would venture a guess off 55-plus mph for some. As I enter Sparkman Circle, with no vehicle in my rearview, at 25 mph cruise control, a car will eventually fly by. I know this is the Aviation and Missile Command and we deal with some pretty fast movers; oh well the missile folks do, but come on ...

Ricky E. Terrell
retired Army



Sports & Recreation

Halloween 5K/mile walk

The Acquisition Center will sponsor a Halloween 5K run and 1 Mile Walk for the Combined Federal Campaign. The event Oct. 31 is open to all employees on Redstone Arsenal. It starts at 8 a.m. for runners and 8:10 for walkers. Runner and walker check in will be at the entrance to building 5303 at the Sparkman Center. Numbers will be issued to runners beginning at 7:30. Please arrive early to check in. The 5K route will be along the running trail near the Sparkman Center. The walk route will be a 1 mile loop around the Sparkman Center. All donations will go to the Combined Federal Campaign. It is suggested that walkers and runners donate what they can to support the cause (\$5 is recommended). Costumes are encouraged. Prizes will be awarded to overall male and female runners, and best costume. To sign up, contact Maj. Ralph Borja 842-7535 or ralph.borja@redstone.army.mil.

Hunter safety

Outdoor Recreation is having a Hunter Safety Orientation this Thursday and Nov. 2 and 16. All classes will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711 on Aerobee Road. You must attend one of these classes to be eligible to hunt on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, call 876-4868 or 876-6854.

Youth basketball

Child and Youth Services' Sports is registering youngsters through Nov. 3 for the 2007 Youth Basketball League. Practices begin the week of Nov. 13. A preseason tournament for ages 7 and up will begin in December. League play starts in January and runs through February. Fees are \$45 plus \$18 CYS fee, if not already registered. The fee includes the uniform. Volunteer coaches are always needed and

greatly appreciated. A current Sports Physical must be on file at CYS CER or presented at time of registration. Confirmation of a Physical appointment from Fox Army Health Center at time of registration is also acceptable.

CFC golf tournament

The Big Oak Scramble, a Combined Federal Campaign fund-raiser sponsored by the Integrated Materiel Management Center, is 8 a.m. Oct. 27 at the Links at Redstone. All proceeds will benefit the Big Oak Ranch. The format is 18 holes, four-person captains choice. It costs \$50 per person which includes the cart, greens fees and lunch. Entry cutoff is Friday with a 30-team limit. For information call tournament director Taylor Vinson 313-1196.



Conferences & Meetings

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel have Bible studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. The morning Bible studies are at 9:30 a.m., the lunch Bible study at 11:30 a.m., and the evening Bible study at 6:30 p.m. Nursery care is provided for all Bible studies. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 489-3018 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30 at the Officers and Civilians Club, Regimental Room. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight 876-8036.

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.

Artillery defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the

Air Defense Artillery Association invites all active and retired ADA officers, members and friends of the association to its annual Dinner Dance Honoring the Army Air Defense Artillery Branch on Nov. 4 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The chapter will salute the Air Defense Artillery Branch and honor significant contributors to ADA through Order of Saint Barbara Award presentations. The scheduled speaker is Maj. Gen. Kevin Campbell, chief of staff for the commander of U.S. Strategic Command. The cocktail period begins at 6 p.m. with a pay-as-you-go bar. Dinner is served at 7:15. Dancing follows dinner. For those with special dietary con-



Courtesy photo

Horsing around

Warrant Officer Konstantinos Iosifidis and Sgt. Maj. Apostolos Dervilis, both from Greece, visit the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville. The International Military Student Office took five international soldiers on a Field Studies Program trip to Nashville on Oct. 6. They were from Jamaica, Philippines, Hungary and Greece. The students visited the Parthenon in Centennial Park and the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. They also had a guided tour of the Purity Dairy and had an opportunity to taste many of the flavors of ice cream produced by Purity Dairies.

cerns, an alternative vegetarian meal is available upon request. Cost is \$30 per person for members and their guests or \$60 per couple, and for non-members \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Payment options are either by check payable to ADAA RSA/HSV Alabama Chapter or by credit card against the RSA Club Card Account. Payment must be received by noon Oct. 24. No cancellations will be accepted after Oct. 27. Phone or e-mail your reservation by Friday to Janett Beasley 837-5282 ext. 1524, fax 830-0287, and e-mail Janett.Beasley@sparta.com.

Test/evaluation group

The Rocket City Chapter of the International Test & Evaluation Association will hold a membership drive meeting today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Radical Systems Inc., 289 Dunlop Blvd, Building 300, Suite K. Map provided upon request. Free lunch will be provided, sponsored by Radical Systems Inc. and Westar Aerospace & Defense Group. Lorrie T. Freeman, executive director of ITEA, is to speak on the vision and mission of ITEA, and the benefits of membership/scholarship opportunities. Radical Systems and Westar Defense Group will also present brief summaries of their capabilities. RSVP is appreciated. Call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

American legion

The Madison American Legion Post 229 will hold an open forum at its monthly meeting Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Madison Senior Center, next to Discovery Middle School on Hughes Road. Brad Jones, Crestwood Medical Center's chief executive officer, will have a presentation on the services provided by Crestwood Medical Center through the Tricare program to members of the active military, their families and veterans. He will also discuss "why a facility in the Madison area is desirable to meet growing needs," a prepared release said. The meeting is open to the public at large, as well as the active

and retired military and veterans communities.

Engineer society

The Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers will meet Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Tom Hargrove. For reservations for the buffet lunch, call Amber Martin 895-1834.

Fleet reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Oct. 28 at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565, Exit 3. For information call Gene Aittala 773-6283 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

University women

American Association of University Women will meet Nov. 4 for an open brunch at Bevill Center, UAH. Social hour begins at 9:30 a.m., brunch (quiche for \$14) at 10 and the program at 10:30. Audrey Salgado, Alabama AAUW president, will speak on "Strategic Visioning: a Catalyst for Change." Reservations are required. For more information, call Lois Guendel 880-8643.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Oct. 25 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Joe Martin, of Redstone Arsenal Fitness Center, is the scheduled speaker. For more information, call retired Maj. Steve Crawley 883-2323.

Federally employed women

You are invited to join the members of the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women for a networking lunch Oct. 25 at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club in the Regimental

Room. Have lunch and get to know other federally employed women who work at Redstone Arsenal and in the Huntsville area. A profile of women in two local Army commands will be presented as well as discussions on items of interest to the working woman. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Airborne association

The Vulcan Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Greenbrier Restaurant on I-565 in Limestone County. All active duty and veteran Airborne and Glider qualified individuals are eligible to become members and are invited to attend. For more information, call Barry Simpson 651-8665.

Future civilian leaders

The AMCOM Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders will hold its quarterly meeting Oct. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon at Bob Jones Auditorium. All Army civilian Interns, Fellows, and Student Career Experience Program employees should register through TIP using catalog number ATQM. Attendees will enhance professional and leadership skills through speaker presentations and networking with TAACL members. For information call Hillary Clay 313-1349.

Women accountants

American Society of Women Accountants will meet Nov. 14 at the Holiday Inn Select on Williams Avenue. Social begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 and the program at 6:30. Senior fund manager John Norris of Morgan Asset Management is scheduled speaker. Cost is \$16.50 for members, \$17.50 non-members and \$10 full-time undergraduate students.

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Courtesy photo

Space-bound

Strapped into a ride at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center are, from left, Sgt. Rohan Brown from Jamaica, Maj. Mahmoud Hekal from Egypt and Maj. Mohamed Shehata from Egypt. The International Military Student Office took four international soldiers on a Field Studies Program trip to Lynchburg, Tenn., and to Huntsville's U.S. Space & Rocket Center on Oct. 9.

Rocket Announcements

Reservations and cancellations are due by noon Nov. 10. Call 830-0377 or e-mail royerfe@juno.com.

Technical symposium

The ACDM Technical Symposium is Nov. 1



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Convention booth

Phillip Preston, in uniform while working the PS Magazine exhibit Oct. 9 during the Association of the U.S. Army convention in Washington, D.C., is visited by his son, 1st. Lt. Wade Preston. Phillip Preston manages the Army oil analysis program for the Logistics Support Activity at Redstone Arsenal. His son is commander of the 151st Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment in Fort Payne.

at the Holiday Inn Research Park (Madison Square Mall). Invited are government and industry configuration and data managers, software development professionals and practitioners, information technology professionals and practitioners, and project managers. Register online by Oct. 23 at www.acdm.org. Checks may be sent to the following address: ACDM Regional Symposium, c/o Cynthia Hauer, 481 Brenda Drive, Madison, AL 35758. Cost is \$100 per person, \$75 per person with three or more from the same organization. Checks or credit cards may be used to register. For more information, contact Cynthia Hauer hauercc@aol.com.

Strategic speakers

Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in room 3018 of building 5225 (Von Braun Complex). Toastmasters is a non-profit organization that assists with the development of communication and leadership skills. For more information, call C. Purifoy 651-3621 or 313-4696 or e-mail cpurifoy@bellsouth.net.



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National

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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 Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Civilian deployment

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

opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9-5 Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-12:45. The shop is accepting fall/winter items. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

Water cooler refills

The Thrift Shop has begun to stock water cooler refills as part of its goal to raise more money to give back to the community. Water cooler replacement bottles, 5-gallon jugs, are available at good prices at the shop. For more information, call Christi Graves 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

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Rocket Announcements

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.

Security awareness week

All AMCOM, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, PEO Aviation, and Missile Defense Agency employees are invited to fulfill their annual security awareness training requirement by attending the AMCOM G-2 Security Awareness Week from Nov. 6-9 in Bob Jones Auditorium. This year's theme is "Protecting Your I's from Thieves (Information and Identity)"; and it will focus on protecting professional information and personal information from identity thieves. Signers for the hearing impaired will be available at the 1-4 p.m. sessions on both Nov. 6 and 8. Any security related business that would like to set up a display during the week, or for more information, call Susan Bradshaw 842-6552.

Hispanic festival

The Alabama Hispanic Association invites everyone to its biggest cultural event of the year, the eighth annual Hispanic Community Festival on Saturday from 1-8 p.m. at Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville. There is no admission charge. You are encouraged to bring your lawn chairs or blankets, but no pets or outside coolers will be allowed on the festival



Courtesy photo

Student-to-student

Capt. Faisal Kanju from Pakistan talks with Zachary Ruiz, a first year Junior ROTC cadet at Austin High School in Decatur. The International Military Student Office took five international soldiers Thursday to brief students in Austin's JROTC program about life in their home countries.

grounds. The festival will go on rain or shine. For information on the association, call 325-4242.

Exceptional family members

If you are interested in being a part of a Redstone Exceptional Family Member Program parent support group, call EFMP manager Natalie Taylor at Army Community Service 876-5397.

Community play

"The Church" will be performed Oct. 26-29 at the Von Braun Center Playhouse. Show times are 7 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Prices are \$15 for general admission or \$18.50 VIP. Thursday is student night (for ages 13-18) at \$12 per ticket, \$15.50 VIP. Seniors age 55 and over have a discount of paying \$10 per ticket any night. "This play is fit for family viewing of all ages," a prepared release said. It's described as "comedy, drama, suspense." For tickets call Horace Wilson 417-0087 or Attitudes Day Spa/Salon 534-7007.

Halloween parade

A Halloween parade on the Huntsville Square will be held for military and area children Saturday at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. at Harrison Brothers Hardware, 124 South Side Square downtown. This event is sponsored by Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, and Historic Huntsville Foundation/Harrison Brothers Hardware. At 2 p.m., a second parade will be held; and the event will continue until 4. After each parade, attendees will go upstairs at Harrison Brothers Hardware for snacks, soft drinks and a story time. Reading their favorite Halloween or children's stories are Mayor Loretta Spencer at 10 a.m. and Becky Pillsbury, wife of Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, at 2 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded. Special recognition will be given to military children and deployed families. For reservations, please call 536-3631 or 530-0097 with numbers of attendees.

Physics lecture

The ninth annual Putcha Venkateswarlu Memorial Lecture is 3 p.m. Friday at the James I. Dawson Auditorium, Cooperative Extension Building, on the campus of Alabama A&M University. Nobel Prize winner Frank Wilczek of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is to speak on "The Universe is a Strange Place." He was a co-recipient of the 2004 Nobel Prize

in Physics. A reception will follow at 5 in the Clyde Foster Multi-Purpose Room in the School of Business. Everyone is invited. For information call professor Ravi Lal 372-8148.

Disability awareness month

Team Redstone's Cultural Awareness Committee will hold a luncheon to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month on Oct. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The ticket price is \$10. This year's theme is "Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce." Featured speakers are commissioner Christine Griffin of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Becky Pillsbury, vice president of Still Serving Veterans. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Monique Mixon 876-8648.

Logistics awards luncheon

The 2006 Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award luncheon/ceremony is Nov. 2 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Two awards will be presented: the Management/Executive Award to GS-13s and above (or military equivalents) and the Professional/Technical Award to GS-13s and below (or military equivalents). Tickets, which cost \$14.25, can be purchased through Oct. 30. For tickets call Kathy White 876-1757, Cindy Campbell 842-0848 or Jan Pickard 842-6625.

Dance classes

Morale Welfare and Recreation is offering Cha Cha ballroom dance classes on Tuesday evenings beginning on Oct. 31 and ending Dec. 12 (no classes on Nov. 21 or Dec. 5). The five classes will be taught by well-known local dance instructors Vince Guarin and Mary Jo Blount. Tuition is \$55 per couple. Classes will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711. No experience is necessary, but a dance partner is required. Deadline to sign up is Oct. 29 and tuition must be paid at time of registration. At least seven couples are required to conduct the course. Class size is limited to a maximum of 23 couples. For more information, call 876-4531 or stop by the recreation center Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

