

Redstone Rocket

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Over there



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Win or lose



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Sharing holiday spirit with families

Children of deployed troops bearing their gifts from event

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

Seven-year-old Tristan Coulter was speechless.

He had just seen Santa Claus arrive on top of a huge fire truck and had actually gotten to talk to the man in red on the steps of the Cahaba Shrine Temple in north Huntsville.

But, that's not all. Tristan had also just met some of his favorite cartoon characters – Mickey Mouse, Blues Clues, Winnie the Pooh and Tigger. And, he was just about to eat pizza, make a Christmas card, see a magician and get an animal-shaped balloon.

All the party fun was a bit overwhelming for this little boy with glasses who had traveled all the way from Ardmore with his grandparents to take part in Operation Christmas Bear. So, it wasn't surprising that he just didn't have much to say at the moment. But, his grandparents sure did.

"This is a wonderful party for young kids," said Tristan's grandfather, retired Airman Roy Coulter. "This is our first time here and we are sure glad we came."

"There are a lot of things here for the kids to do," added his wife, Doris. "We are really proud to be here with Tristan and I know his dad is glad Tristan is getting to do this."

Tristan is the son of Staff Sgt. James Coulter, who is deployed to Iraq as a member of the Alabama National Guard's 128th

Military Police. As the child of a deployed Soldier, Tristan was one of hundreds of local children invited by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition to be a guest at the coalition's third annual Operation Christmas Bear.

The event, a major annual project of the coalition, is a celebration for children of deployed Soldiers, and other local Soldiers who have or will be deployed. Besides all the party fun Dec. 9, each child received a teddy bear that carried a tag reading "My dad is my hero" or "My mom is my hero."

"We gave out over 300 teddy bears," said organizer David Carney, a retired National Guard sergeant. "We had nearly 1,000 people here when you count up all the family members who attended with the children and the volunteer force that made this happen."

Big players who assisted the coalition in

making Operation Christmas Bear possible included the Association of the U.S. Army, Bob Jones High School, Direct TV, SciQuest and The Arts Council/Panoply of the Arts.

The party atmosphere was evident as soon as children walked through the doors at the Cahaba Shrine Temple. The Rocket City Brass played festive holiday music while many of the costumed cartoon characters – Clifford the Big Red Dog, Elmo, Scooby Doo and Minnie Mouse, among them — danced with children. In one corner of the huge meeting room, free pizza, cookies and drinks were served to the attendees while in another corner the Amazing Mr. Russell Davis wowed kids with his incredible magic.

Clowns from the Cahaba Shrine Temple sculpted all kinds of shapes – doggies, pigs,

See Children on page 8



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WISH LIST— Sisters Hope, 4, and Faith, 6, Petrie talk to Santa about what they would like to see under their Christmas tree on Christmas Day. The two girls and their older brother and younger sister attended Operation Christmas Bear with their mother, Pam Petrie of Redstone Arsenal. Their father is Staff Sgt. Robert Petrie who deployed out of Fort Riley, Kan., to serve in Iraq.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HOLIDAY HUG— Brennan Drerup, 5, is all smiles as he gets a big hug from Minnie Mouse at the annual Operation Christmas Bear, a party for the children of deployed and local Soldiers that is sponsored annually by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition. Brennan is the son of Staff Sgt. Cynthia and Shannon Drerup.

An open lane random survey

What do you want for Christmas?

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

Debra Teamer
Secretary to the General Staff office
"To be healthy. And peace – world peace – because the war is taking so many lives."



Col. Tom Newman
AMCOM chief of staff
"I want my son – and all Soldiers overseas – to be safe on his upcoming deployment. (Capt. Tony Newman) leaves the 28th of December. If we don't have a single more casualty, I'd be a happy guy."



Mike Lonsberry
Legal Office
"To have the family together and for everyone to have an enjoyable Christmas holiday. For everybody to be safe and have a good time."



Charlotte Fuller
Office of Continuous Improvement
"A trip to Hawaii because I've always wanted to go. And my outlook on life is I'm going to do everything I want to and have as much fun as I can until I die."



Thanks for Christmas Bear party

I wanted to thank everyone who helped plan and volunteered at Operation Christmas Bear. My daughter and I truly enjoyed ourselves!
So many holiday events just aren't as festive for us; especially seeing other families all together. Operation Christmas Bear was a party that "just the two of us" finally felt we belonged.
All the volunteers were so kind and helpful. It was a stress-free day for me. Just before 4 p.m., I finally convinced my daughter to go inside to get her T-shirt and pictures. She had not made a picture frame yet and

walked over to the table. The volunteers were packing everything up.
Without skipping a beat, they welcomed her over, took her picture and helped her make a frame.
During my husband's previous deployments, our daughter was in DODDS school where most of the other children had a parent deployed also. At her present school, she feels singled out and no one really knows what it's like. Seeing all the other children Saturday (Dec. 9) made her feel so much better. She's not alone.
Next year I hope to be a volunteer.

Terri Long

Fire-safe holiday wishes

It was the morning of Christmas and all through the house
I ran a thrill of excitement as the kids were aroused.
As each was awaked, he jumped from his bed
To see if Old Santa had come with his sled.

They found 'neath the tree an abundance of toys,
Some dolls for the girls and a train for the boys.

Each package, when opened, brought squeal of glee.
The wrappings were thrown 'neath the Christmas tree.

The gifts were plentiful and after a while
The trash by the tree had become quite a pile.

Til a spark, from a short in the Christmas tree lights,
Set fire to the wrappings and put all to flight.

The family fled from their home in great terror,
Fire flashed from wrappings, to tree, ever nearer.

The fire? It was quenched by the firemen, too late,
Since the great thrill of Christmas had gone out the gate.

Now this is the plea that I send to you,
Make YOUR Christmas fire safe, and a happy one too.

Fire and Emergency Services

Flu shot rules draw reaction

I would like to know why retired military reservists and National Guard and their beneficiaries are excluded from receiving flu shots at Fox Army Health Center even though they have Retired Reserve Identification Cards, and the fact no mention of this exclusion was published in the *Redstone Rocket* article concerning the availability of the flu shots?

John Zuber
Installation Safety Division

Editor's note: Fox Army Health Center provided the following response. "According to Army Regulation 40-400, Patient Administration, dated Oct. 13, 2006, section 3-11, 'Family members of retired reservists who have not yet reached the age of 60 are not eligible for care in DoD medical treatment facilities or for Tricare coverage. The only exception to this rule is for surviving dependents of Reserve members who at the time of their death were eligible for retired pay but died before reaching age 60.' The reverse side of retired Reservists ID cards indicates their medical eligibility status."

Quote of the week

'Christmas is not a time nor a season,
But a state of mind. To cherish peace
and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is
to have the real spirit of Christmas.'
— Calvin Coolidge

Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. After today's publication, our first issue next year is Jan. 10. We hope you enjoy the holiday season.

Letter policy

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

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs

Job: Personnel proponent chief for the enlisted and warrant officer specialties that are taught in the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School

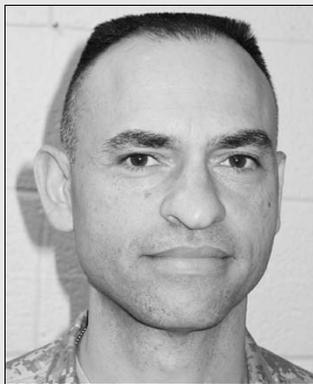
Where do you call home?
Louisville, Ky.

What do you like about your job?

The ability to be in the decision-making process with the accessions of warrant officers, and playing a part in the health of all the specialties that I have oversight for. It's just really an honor to represent the Ordnance Corps to the Army, to represent what the Ordnance Corps stands for to our Soldiers and to the community.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to be involved in church and community activities with my family, and of course fitness activities. I try to give back to the



community and stay in shape. I love to run. I like to try to solve the world's problems while I run.

What are your goals?

My goals are to complete my military career this summer, to retire in August with a little over 29 years. I'll retire Aug. 31 with 29 years and two months. And to start my career as a JROTC instructor at Columbia High School, and be an adjunct professor at night for the local colleges. And to continue to work with and be a role model for youth.

What's your favorite type of music?

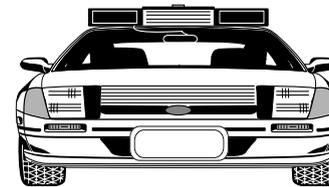
R&B and pop

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Dec. 8: A house fire was reported in post housing. Investigation revealed that there was a grease fire in the kitchen. Redstone Fire Department responded and the fire was contained to the kitchen, with some minor smoke damage to the stairwell area.

Dec. 10: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license after they stopped and said



they were lost at Gate 8. The individual was issued a violation notice and released.

Dec. 12: An individual was found to be operating their motor vehicle with a suspended license,

after being stopped on Skinner Drive for speeding. The subject was issued two violation notices and released. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

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

Violation notices issued: 9 speeding, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 2 driving with a revoked/suspended driver's license, 1 improper backing, 1 failure to maintain control.

Technology unites war fighters with their families

Video teleconferences available at request

Deployed Soldiers and civilian employees are far from home, friends and family, and holiday celebrations serving their country. Video teleconferences can bring deployed personnel a little closer to home and friends and family.

Redstone families have three options for video messages, according to Army Community Service. In addition, many families are using computer-based web cams to stay in touch almost daily.

The VTC Center at Sparkman is the contact to schedule families. They do it year-round and will be glad to help set up VTCs for units with VTC capability overseas. The family needs to have access to Redstone Arsenal to get to building 5304.

The units request post access for non-military ID card holders such as grandparents by putting a written request through Security listing the names of the people coming on post. Security can be reached at 876-4444 or e-mail the list with names, dates, gate number and contact to Susan Morgan at susan.m.morgan@redstone.army.mil. They need at least 48 hours during a business week to set things up.

To make things simple to set up a VTC, the units or the families can call Stephen Cataldo at 876-7670. They can also e-mail stephen.cataldo@redstone.army.mil, julie.armstrong@redstone.army.mil or melonie.morgenweck@redstone.army.mil.

If the deployed servicemember is in a location that has VTC capabilities, there is a possibility of setting up a live conference with them off post. The following message is from Bob Middleton, University of Alabama-Huntsville campus: "If you, or any of your Redstone families, would like to use or see our UAH VTC capability, just let me know. Here is an Internet link to all of the U.S. TV reviews that I also host on my UAH streaming video <http://media.eb.uah.edu/FreedomCalls/>." Middleton can be reached at middler@uah.edu, 824-3487 or cell 653-1302.

Operation Hello Honey allows family members to make a two-minute recording that is sent to the servicemember's AKO account. It's a free service and available at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Army Community Service is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If a family readiness group wants to set up a group session, call Mary Breeden or Kathleen Riester at 876-5397 for more information. (ACS release)



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

Warranting merit

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Orville Wilson, of the Administration and Operations Division, Missile Systems and Electronics Training Department, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, is promoted to chief warrant officer 5 by his sister, Orvietta Shannon, left, and wife, Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Hall, during a ceremony Dec. 1 at the MSETD auditorium.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

General visit

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury briefs Gen. William Wallace, commander of the Training and Doctrine Command, during Wallace's visit to Redstone Dec. 13.

Corps makes Iraq a safer place to live and work

Over 400K tons of ammo destroyed since 2003

By **ANDREA TAKASH**
Engineering and Support Center

In 2003 U.S. military commanders in Iraq turned to the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville for help after realizing the magnitude of stockpiled ammunition spread across Iraq.

Now three years later, Huntsville Center's Coalition Munition Clearance Program has destroyed more than 400,000 tons of ammunition and has logged more than 21 million man hours.

As the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Military Munitions Center of Expertise, Huntsville Center applied its vast knowledge in safely removing military munitions from formerly used defense sites and military training ranges in the United States to the CMC program in Iraq.

"Since we are involved in cleaning up formerly used defense sites in the United States, we already had six contractor teams with the necessary skills," Dr. John Potter, chief of Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, said. "This made our job a little easier."

With the right people and equipment in place, the CMC team set forth with demolition operations on Sept. 11, 2003. The diverse team consisted of Corps employees, Iraqi citizens and civilian contractors.

"When we first went into Iraq, the Combined Joint Task Force-7 identified six ammunition depots throughout the country to be used as collection centers for ammunition that the military and CMC team found and recovered," CMC program manager Bill Sargent said. "The team

brought the caches of ammunition that they found in the field to these six depots. The team either destroyed the ammunition or initiated storage operations to save it for the new Iraqi Army."

The CMC team also maintains the responsibility for providing security at the worksites. In 2005, Huntsville Center acquired the Electronic Surveillance System for Force Protection, better known as Eagle Eye.

"Site security is critical to prevent munitions theft for use as improvised explosive devices and clearance team protection," Michael Lanier, Huntsville Center project manager for the Eagle Eye system, said. "The system allows for 360-degree coverage day and night, all weather surveillance of the area. We have one fixed site system and 10 mobile systems. Our biggest challenge has been the desire to have more of these systems deployed to support various missions."

Not only has the Eagle Eye system benefited the CMC program but it also has been used to help U.S. Soldiers.

"In August, a U.S. Army Apache helicopter experienced mechanical problems and went down," Sargent said. "One of our Eagle Eye systems saw the crash and watched the area to reassure the pilots and make sure insurgents didn't come in on them. The CMC team was the first on site and helped secure the area."

Even though the CMC team faced challenges over the past three years, they have cleaned up and turned over five of the original depot sites to the Iraqi Army. The CMC team is finishing cleanup work at Buckmaster Depot and anticipates completion by the end of December. Only the Arlington Depot will remain open as the national depot for the



PRE-DETONATION— Coalition Munition Clearance Program team members prepare a stack of artillery shells for detonation.

Courtesy photo

Iraqi Army. The plan is to train Iraqis to run the depot and properly store and handle ammunition. The training phase is sched-

uled to begin in the spring.

"We have 13 mobile teams in country, whose mission is to destroy ammunition at sites that

the U.S. Army identifies and clear collapsed bunkers," Sargent said. "We will continue this work as long as we are needed."

UAH researching unmanned aerial vehicles

University combining tools to improve situational awareness for first responders

University of Alabama-Huntsville researchers sit in a darkened basement conference room at Von Braun Research Hall. A projector flashes an aerial view of the UAH campus on the screen. The Google Earth image has been enhanced by software that has created three-dimensional buildings on the south end of the campus.

A small image appears in the northeast corner of the aerial photograph, representing the university's unmanned aerial vehicle — the Flying BASSETT. Minutes earlier, the UAV had dropped off an unmanned ground vehicle nicknamed the Rover, which was slowly trudging toward what could be a hazardous spot.

As Rover approached the suspicious location, a sensor issues an alert. The alert pops up in the corner of the display screen — cyclohexane. It is a colorless liquid that is flammable and is deemed harmful for the environment.

As the scientists track the movements of Rover from a safe distance, the path of the UGV changes from white, to yellow and finally to red. The screen is refreshed every two seconds to provide real-time tracking. The ground vehicle has provided valuable information to the researchers by giving them a location, but also what types of danger they may face. The UGV also carries a camera that can provide a close view of the site. Simultaneously, the UAV continues to hover overhead and provide streaming aerial video of the location.

Dr. Gary Maddux, a research scientist and the director of UAH's Systems Management and Production Center, said the UAV could use sensors, but they are more practical on the ground vehicle because most chemicals are heavier than air.

Researchers at the University of Alabama-Huntsville developed the UAV and UGVs in their laboratories. And, while the development of unmanned vehicles are proving to be valuable, the real innovation is how these vehicles can work together with an information network to provide real-time data to first responders or Soldiers in the field, according to Maddux.

"The real value in our research is our ability to integrate these unmanned systems," Maddux said. "I view our unmanned aerial and ground vehicles as extended nodes of a large information network."

The first "node" of this network revolved around the development of the Flying BASSETT — UAH's first unmanned aerial vehicle.

The BASSETT was developed initially through a grant from the Department of Justice in support of homeland security. UAH researchers interviewed first responder organizations across North Alabama prior to devel-

oping hardware. "We were able to establish the concept of a global view of homeland security through interviews we conducted in 2003 and 2004," Maddux said.

This autonomously guided helicopter can operate in flight by either responding to pilot directions or through programmed Global Positioning Satellite coordinates. The system carries the latitude and longitude coordinates to eight decimal points making the location highly accurate. Maddux said the Flying BASSETT can carry up to 20 pounds, hover for 60 minutes and potentially make a trip of 25 miles.

The BASSETT's capabilities include the ability to "see" real-time images through a Sony digital camera, an infrared camera, and a three-channel video switcher.

UAH's Systems Management and Production Center has also developed Rover, a lightweight, unmanned ground vehicle. The four-wheel-drive vehicle is a foot long and weighs about three pounds. The light weight of the Rover allows the UGV to be transported and deployed closer to a troubled site by the Flying BAS-

SETT, and the two unmanned vehicles work in tandem to transmit live data and video feeds to a control station at a safe distance from a problem site.

Maddux sees the two unmanned vehicles as "tools" to give vital information to emergency personnel who may be called out for a disaster, whether it is a toxic chemical spill, a nuclear disaster or some other type of emergency.

"Situational awareness is a key part of responding to a disaster," Maddux said. "We want to provide as much pertinent information as possible for Soldiers, police, fire or medical personnel."

The combination of the two unmanned vehicles working together and getting real-time information using Google Earth satellite images gives Maddux the confidence to say that UAH's capability in this arena is unique. "We believe we can demonstrate capabilities that don't exist anywhere else," he said. "Our researchers continue to look at how all of these pieces fit together and work seamlessly as a system. That is our objective. That is the real value of this system for first responders." (UAH release)



Courtesy photo
FLIGHT PLAN— UAH student Heath Phillips makes some adjustments as he prepares the Flying BASSETT unmanned aerial vehicle for flight.

Program invests in leadership skills for future

Sixteen workers graduate from uplifting session

Participants in the second session of the Leader Investment for Tomorrow-Level I graduated Dec. 11 at the Aviation and Missile Command headquarters.

Prior to the graduation, the participants briefed Dr. Richard Amos, deputy to the commanding general, and other senior leaders on their team projects.

The 16 participants were put into two teams and each team selected a topic of their choice as their group project. One project, "Workforce Awareness of Lean Six Sigma" focused on the Lean Six Sigma initiative. They conducted a survey to determine the level of awareness, knowledge and participation in LSS. Their analysis of the survey data led to two areas that can positively affect interest and participation in LSS — increased marketing and establishment of incentives based on completion of LSS projects.

The second project, "The Next Step – Leader Development Enhancement Plan" highlights the leadership core competencies that AMCOM's future leaders must possess for the 21st century. It reinforces the current



GRADUATES— In the front row, from left, are Shania Burrows, Eric Shull, Diane Helser, Carolyn Wolfe and Debra Foley. In the back row are Dennis Lowery, Bob Branin, Kevin Rodriguez, Margarette Martin, Larry Bowlin, Kim Stenberg, Debra Henderson, Jessica Dunaway, Dan O'Boyle and Wilbert Brownlow. Rene Gregory is not pictured.

Courtesy photo

work force development leadership programs by incorporating those leadership core competencies into the leader selection process and holds leaders accountable for developing the work force to assume senior leadership roles.

The Leader Investment for Tomorrow-Level I was an eight-month program which began March 22 and met one full day per month. The program was designed for employees at the GS-11-13 level or the equivalent. It included formal leadership ses-

sions with guest speakers, practical applications, leadership assessment, selected leadership readings, group project, staff ride, and homework assignments.

Participants were engaged in focusing on Army values, effective decision making, metrics, risk management, selling ideas through presentations, conflict resolution, situational awareness and ethics.

"I felt the LIFT program is one of the better leadership programs offered at Redstone," Rene Gregory of PEO Aviation

said. "It allowed me to meet new people and work on a challenging task, but with guidance. I learned many important skills from people that I don't interface with on a daily basis, but that I respect. It was a great experience."

"In terms of benefiting me, LIFT I has been a tremendous, value-added component in my ability to assume a team leadership role in 2006," Dan O'Boyle of Public Affairs said. "We hear a lot of talk about the so-called 'soft skills,' but my experience in LIFT has not only added depth and

detail to that term, but also aided me in putting some better-honed leadership techniques to use."

"The course was very challenging and covered a wide range of leadership topics," Bob Branin of TMDE said. "AMCOM has found a way to reinvest existing resources and use them to build leadership qualities within the work force. This is a groundbreaking program that will serve as a model to other commands and empowers workers with the tools to build the bench."

Participants represented the Integrated Materiel Management Center, Acquisition Center, Program Executive Office for Aviation, G-8 (Resource Management), G-1 (Human Resources), Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment, Command Group, G-3 (Operations), and Public Affairs.

Due to the high interest in the LIFT I leadership program, there will be two sessions running concurrently in fiscal 2007. Both programs will begin in March. The G-1 is accepting applications through Jan. 19 for the next sessions of LIFT I. For more information on the LIFT I program, visit the G-1 (Human Resources) web site at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/porta.do?sp=301150> or call Jackie Timme at 876-6061.

Children

continued from page 1

swords, dolls – from balloons, to the children's surprise. Other volunteers painted Christmas decorations on children's faces.

Six-year-old McKenna Wittkop had a Christmas wreath painted on her cheek with a twist – instead of a red bow and balls, the wreath was decorated in pink, her favorite color.

"She's having a wonderful time," said McKenna's mother, Cathe Wittkop of Huntsville. "We received four e-mails about Operation Christmas Bear, so there was no way we could forget to come to this party. And, we're glad we didn't!"

McKenna's father, Staff Sgt. James Wittkop, is a Marine Corps reservist who is stationed in Iraq. The Wittkop family is part of a volunteer network of local Marine Corps families who keep each other posted on family events and other support activities.

Nearby, balloon swords crafted by Cahaba Shrine clowns sparked the imagination of 5-year-olds Brennan Drerup, son of Staff Sgt. Cynthia and Shannon Drerup; Travon Truesdale, son of Staff Sgt. Ronald and Marilyn Truesdale; and Jalonni Gadist, daughter of Staff Sgt. Tina Paton and Lee Gadist. The three friends danced around with the swords before going on to visit Santa Claus.

Kids also had fun creating spinning art, Christmas cards for their deployed Soldier and family Christmas T-shirts.

Sisters Emily Hawkins, 11, and Sarah Hawkins, 5, got their hands all wet with paint to create a spe-

cial one-of-kind holiday T-shirt for their dad, Reserves Maj. Gary Hawkins, who is deployed to Iraq. The girls were with their mom, Julie Hawkins of Monrovia.

One Soldier – Sgt. Michael Wolonsky of Fox Army Health Center — helped his daughter, 3-year-old Sierra, paint a T-shirt. Wolonsky returned just over a year ago from a deployment in Iraq and expects to be deployed again in early 2007. His wife, Jennifer Wolonsky, said her family is focusing on having a very special Christmas this year.

Nearby, 4-year-old Madeline and 5-year-old William Richardson made Christmas cards for their dad, Staff Sgt. Coley Richardson, who is deployed to Iraq. Their mom, Rebecca Richardson of Harvest, watched her two oldest children as their little sister, 5-month-old Abigail, slept in her stroller.

Dancing with cartoon characters was a lot of fun for 3-year-old Tye Gibson, whose grandfather, event organizer David Carney (aka Uncle Sam) held him in his arms while they danced with Tigger. Tye's favorite part of the party was sliding down the big slide blow-ups just outside the Cahaba Shrine Temple.

The event's traditional displays – such as Mrs. Claus' living room complete with a Christmas tree and Mrs. Claus, and a holiday train display – were also fun for the children. But, the hands-down favorite was the time they got to spend with Santa Claus.

For the Petrie family of Redstone Arsenal, visiting Santa created a mix of emotions.

Six-year-old Faith and 4-year-old Hope, decked out in matching red dresses, loved sit-

ting on Santa's lap. They were all smiles when Santa gave them each a bear with a tag that read "My dad is my hero." But, when their 10-year-old brother Michael tried to put their 13-month-old sister Grace on Santa's lap, the baby wouldn't have any of it. She cried and struggled until her brother put her back in the arms of her mother, Pam Petrie.

The Petrie family is living at Redstone Arsenal while their husband and father, Staff Sgt. Robert Petrie, is deployed to Iraq.

Although most families were not escorted by their Soldier father or mother, their Soldier was present in their hearts. Many were also displayed in pictures posted on a special wall. Children were given the picture of their mom and dad before they left the party.

"I think the main thing about Operation Christmas Bear is that it shows the community cares about these families and their deployed Soldier," Carney said. "Many of them are just glad somebody cares. That's the big thing."

Corporate sponsors who assisted the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition in making Operation Christmas Bear possible were: Alfredo's; Army Community Service; The Arts Council/Panoply of the Arts; ASDMA; Atlanta Bread Co.; Association of the U.S. Army; Bob Jones High School; Brewbakers; Blue Plate; The Brook; Cahaba Shrine Clowns; Chick-fil-a; Crestwood Hospital; Direct TV; Domino's Pizza; Enchanted Masquerade; First Command Financial Services; Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant; W.L. Halsey's; Harvest



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WORK OF ART— Sgt. Michael Wolonsky and his daughter, Sierra, 3, concentrate together on the work of art they are creating on their family's Christmas T-shirt. Children participated in several craft projects as part of Operation Christmas Bear. Wolonsky, who works at Fox Army Health Center, returned just over a year ago from a deployment in Iraq and expects to be deployed again in early 2007.

Self Storage; Huntsville Fire Department; Huntsville Hospital Clowns; Huntsville Police Department; Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company; Optimist Club of Madison; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Regions Bank; Redstone Arse-

nal Garrison; 59th Ordnance Brigade; Redstone Federal Credit Union; Rocket City Brass; SciQuest; Southerland Station; Sparkman High School; Tennessee Valley Voiture Clown Unit; Wal-Mart; and the Warrant Officer Association.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FACE VALUE— Volunteer Carol Jones paints a Christmas wreath with pink ribbons and balls on the cheek of McKenna Wittkop, 6. Jones has volunteered at all three Operation Christmas Bear parties to show her support for the troops and their families. Her husband is retired Soldier Jeff Schrepple. McKenna is the daughter of Cathe and Staff Sgt. James Wittkop of Huntsville. Her dad is a Marine Corps reservist deployed to Iraq.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

FULL OF FUN— Carlo Esparza, 4, can't contain his excitement over the doggy balloon that a Cahaba Shrine clown made for him. Carlo attended Operation Christmas Bear with his mom, Tara Esparza of Huntsville. His dad, Spc. Gus Esparza, is deployed to Iraq with the National Guard's 128th Military Police.

Sponsors boost Redstone's morale events

Companies show support by funding activities

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

On every Army post, there is a Morale Welfare and Recreation organization that coordinates services, activities and events for the welfare and betterment of its military community.

And, on every post, there are a host of sponsors who help MWR get the job done.

That's no exception at Redstone Arsenal. Located in a community known for its patriotic pride and unabashed appreciation of the local military presence, Redstone Arsenal's MWR program works with about 30 local company sponsors to bring a vast array of support and leisure services — including Child and Youth Services activities, Oktoberfest, the spring block party, golf and bowling tournaments, the annual Christmas tree lighting and the summer concert series — to the Arsenal's community.

"It's important to us to have sponsors for our events," said Derrick Gould, director of MWR at Redstone Arsenal. "They add a little bit of extra to the activities we offer. Whether they make in-kind or cash contributions, our sponsors make our events better for the Redstone Arsenal community."

It's a given that sponsors support various activities in the community because they hope those activities will have a positive impact on their bottom line and their corporate image. But, Gould said, sponsoring activities on Redstone Arsenal goes beyond a company's goal to expand its customer base.

"There's a strong sense of support in Huntsville for anything military," Gould said. "It is in the health and best interest of companies to want to be associated with Redstone Arsenal and MWR because our main focus is the Soldier and the military community. Our sponsors, first, want to be good patriots by showing their support for programs that support our Soldiers."

Up through 2002, MWR partnered with local companies at the "director level" to bring such big-name community events like Oktoberfest and the summer concert series to Redstone Arsenal. These events are unique because they are open to the entire North Alabama community.

"Companies have long supported Oktoberfest and the concert series because these are high-profile events that draw 10,000 to 15,000 people to the Arsenal," Gould said.

But, just over three years ago, MWR began recruiting sponsors for what are called "program level or activity level" organizations and events exclusive to the Redstone Arsenal community, said Adrian Baker, MWR marketing director.

The move allowed MWR to open up 40-plus activities aimed directly at the needs of the Soldier and DoD civilian community at Redstone Arsenal. Events such as the Salute to the Military, Super Bowl Party for Troops, Outdoor Recreation wild game cookouts, customer appreciation events at the car wash and Auto Skills Center, flying club open houses, and the annual neighborhood block party all became events that could be augmented by sponsors.

"Sponsors do things like purchase uniforms for our sports teams, supply paper products for Child and Youth Services, and provide food and prizes for our golf and bowling tournaments," Gould said. "We would still offer these activities, but sponsors help bring everything up a notch."

Activity level sponsorships on the Arsenal have gained momentum every year under the management of Andrea Mattox, MWR Commercial Sponsorship. Although defense contractors are not allowed by federal law to sponsor events on Redstone Arsenal (they can, however, advertise at MWR events), commercial companies are stepping up to provide the sponsorship support needed by MWR.

"We absolutely could not do our events as big as we do without our sponsors," Mattox said. "This is still a new program to the Arsenal. It is still developing. And, it's letting us do a lot more for our Soldier and civilian community than was ever possible before."

Of the top 15 corporate sponsors, one sponsor has stepped up and made an annual contribution that is allowing MWR to expand its services. Bill Heard Chevrolet, a \$45,000 sponsor in 2006,



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SCRAMBLE FOR EGGS— Businesses provide support for events such as Redstone's annual Easter Egg Hunt coordinated by MWR's Child and Youth Services at Vincent Park on the Saturday before Easter.

has increased its 2007 sponsorship by 33 percent to \$75,000.

"That's a lot of money for the programs we do here," Gould said. "I was surprised, but very pleased they were willing to come in here in such a big way. It's the biggest ever sponsorship. And, we have a handshake — a soft promise — that there will be more increases in the future."

In return for the sponsorship, MWR has given Bill Heard Chevrolet exclusive rights as the car dealer of Redstone Arsenal. The dealership's vehicles are displayed at most every MWR activity, and Bill Heard employees are often invited to events to talk to potential customers about their products.

"They are a huge contributor

right now. Bill Heard is our largest cash sponsor," Mattox said. "That's why you'll see Bill Heard everywhere on the Arsenal."

Bill Heard Chevrolet will participate in every event on the Arsenal in 2007, said the company's executive manager Earl Hudson.

"Redstone Arsenal is like a city in itself," he said. "Just as we want to be connected with the people of Huntsville and Madison County, we also want to be associated with Redstone Arsenal. We want to build relationships with the customer base at Redstone Arsenal both from a business standpoint and a personal standpoint."

Because of the large employee base on the Arsenal, Hudson

said his company's success can be attributed in a large part to the success of Redstone Arsenal.

"We could not be what we are today without the support of the employees of Redstone Arsenal," he said. "It's an elite honor for us to be welcomed into the Redstone Arsenal community."

Hudson said his company especially likes the family-oriented focus of events on the Arsenal. The \$75,000 MWR sponsorship is part of the \$500,000 the company plans to donate to community organizations in 2007 in its quest to be a good corporate neighbor.

"The amount of our donation is based on more than the size of our company," Hudson said. "It is based on our heart. It is based on what we feel is the correct way to respond to a need and on what we are able to do as a company."

Other sponsors touch the Redstone Arsenal community in various ways. Papa John's is the title sponsor at Oktoberfest and a supplier of pizza for various events. WZYP conducts live remotes at various events. Clear Channel/WDRM helped bring country star Carrie Underwood to the Arsenal in 2006. Redstone Federal Credit Union supports family and child activities on the arsenal while Office Max Government Solutions is providing office supplies for Child and Youth Services.

Other sponsors include The Huntsville Times, Fox 54, Home Depot, Knology, Coca Cola, Crestwood Hospital, Carrabba's, the Post Exchange and Commissary, and Supreme Beverage, among others.

Sponsorships are valuable to companies because they allow for a personal connection with customers.

"The point is they want to get in front of and interact with their customers in a favorable situation," Baker said.

"But, sponsors are not just underwriting events to get their name out. Everyone knows who Bill Heard Chevrolet or Papa John's is. Sponsors want to go beyond awareness and build relationships. They want to affect customers in such a way that they will be more inclined to buy their product at some future date."

For instance, Home Depot discovered they can reach a lot more people in a weekend at Oktoberfest with their bird house project than they can through bird house classes offered on Saturdays in their Huntsville stores.

"They may reach 30 people in a Saturday class at their store while they reach upwards of 1,500 people in a few days at Oktoberfest," Baker said.

Roll call for 2007 sponsorship

MWR sponsors will help make the following events possible in 2007 on Redstone Arsenal:

- Directorate Level Events — Oktoberfest; Army Summer Concert Series.
- Activity Level Events — The Links at Redstone Arsenal, Golf Tournaments; Officers and Civilians Club — Beer Tasting, Ragin' Cajun and Wine Tasting; Redstone Lanes Bowling Center — Youth Appreciation and Bowling Leagues; Redstone Arsenal Flying Activity — Open House; Sports and Fitness — Health Fair and Felix Milar Active Duty Post Championship; Auto Skills Center — Open House; Arts and Crafts Center — Antique Tool Sale; Youth Educa-

tion Support Services — Principals' Breakfast; CYS Sports and Fitness — Baseball, Basketball and Soccer; Army Community Service — Army Family Team Building Training, Army Family Action Plan Conference and Volunteer of the Year Recognition Luncheon; Recreation Center — Super Bowl Frenzy, Salute to the Military and MWR Retiree Appreciation Breakfast.

- Year-Round Sponsorship for Child and Youth Events — School Aged Services and Youth Services Welcome and Farewell Celebrations, Month of the Military Child Block Party, MWR CYS Fine Arts Program, National Kids Day, Easter Egg Hunt and Character Counts program.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Program birthday

Army Family Team Building, a volunteer program conceived and developed by Army families for Army families, turned 12 years old Saturday. Helping to celebrate Friday at the Post Exchange are, from left, AFTB instructor Moses Nervis, master trainer and advisory council member Sharon Samuelson, program manager Cathy Hays and master trainer Jennifer Enriquez.

Put safety first for holiday parties

During the holidays, traffic accidents and deaths increase dramatically because of alcohol consumption. Fortunately, there are several steps you can take to avoid being involved in an alcohol-related accident or having a guest who is involved in one, according to Garrison Safety.

To avoid intoxication, remember the one-one rule: one drink per hour. Your body takes about one hour to rid itself of each half ounce of alcohol.

If you drink alcohol during the holidays, or if you are around others who do, try to follow the one-one rule and encourage the people around you to do the same.

If you are hosting a party, discourage your guests from indulging in straight-shot drinks. Be sure you supply plenty of snacks which can help absorb alcohol in the stomach. Stop serving drinks at least one hour before the party ends.

Consider serving mixed drinks made with fruit juice instead of carbonated bev-

erages since carbonation accelerates the effects of alcohol.

Encourage your guests to choose designated drivers before they come to your party. Make sure there are plenty of non-alcoholic beverages in plain view so that your guests have a choice. Designated drivers must be willing to stay sober and drive others home.

If you plan on attending a holiday party and plan to drink alcohol, follow the same guidelines as outlined for your guests:

- Don't drink alcohol in excess of the one-one rule.
- Never drink alcohol on an empty stomach.
- Don't drink if you are pregnant, trying to conceive, using medication or if you have had difficulty drinking moderately in the past.
- Feel free to refuse alcohol for any reason – regardless of pressure or encouragement to drink. *(Garrison Safety release)*

■ Businesses promote attendance at community activities

Sponsors

continued from page 10

“At the Home Depot tent at Oktoberfest, parents and children use Home Depot supplies to build bird houses and to create good memories of building something together. Hopefully, those good memories will stay with them when it's time to buy building supplies for a home project.”

Many of the company decision-makers who agree to sponsor events on the Arsenal have personal connections to the military. MoJo, the WZYP DJ who only goes by his nickname, not only saw sponsorship as a good business decision but also as a way to stay connected to an institution that guided him to his current career.

“I always did some form of entertainment as a side job when I was working as a light wheel vehicle mechanic in the Army,” MoJo said. “I have a lot of fond memories of the Army. I entertained in military clubs all over the country and in West Germany. Becoming a DJ was a natural thing for me to do once I left the military.”

While he personally wants to be involved in activities associated with the military, MoJo said the numbers of people from all walks of life who live and work on the Arsenal provide “great exposure for our station ... But, we don't do this sponsorship just to get exposure. We do it because we want to be patriotic. We want to support our troops in any way we can.”

Likewise, the company decision-makers at Redstone Federal Credit Union are a long-time sponsor of Arsenal activities because the company considers the Arsenal “home.”

“Redstone Arsenal is where our roots are. That's where we started,” said Mary Grace Evans, assistant vice president of business development at Redstone Federal.

“We originally started to serve the military. Our customer base has expanded from there. But, the military and Redstone Arsenal are still very important to us ... Our sponsorship shows how proud we are of Redstone Arsenal and that we want to be a part of everything on the Arsenal. We are the Redstone Arsenal credit union and we are there to serve them.”

As a business leader in the Huntsville community, the credit union encourages

other companies to support the Arsenal.

“The growth of the whole economic base has come from Redstone Arsenal,” Evans said. “This is a way we can give back. We recognize the contributions of Redstone Arsenal with our support, and we hope because of our support other companies will support the Arsenal as well.”

The newest Redstone Arsenal sponsor is Coca Cola, which is coming on board in 2007 as part of the company's “inside the gate” concept.

“We saw a lot of opportunity and value in this partnership,” said Jake Jacobson of Coca Cola's worldwide military customer team based in Atlanta. “It's kind of hard to justify a sponsorship if we can't connect with our customers. This partnership involves the image we are building with our ‘inside the gate’ concept that focuses on the right brand, the right product, the right location.”

As an MWR sponsor, Coca Cola will become the exclusive soda of choice at MWR events. They will also sponsor monthly promotional activities at various MWR facilities.

“Our consensus is we want to be at locations where we can reach our customers,” Jacobson said. “Redstone Arsenal is such a location.”

Knology is also a national company that has found a niche as a Redstone Arsenal sponsor.

“The Arsenal is a big customer, but it is sort of isolated from the Huntsville community,” said Knology general manager Jerry Strasser. “We want to be a good corporate neighbor to the Arsenal community while also helping our troops.”

Although Redstone Arsenal Soldiers and employees aren't required to patronize MWR sponsors, MWR officials hope the Arsenal community will recognize the good will of sponsors and consider using their products and services.

“It's a real win, win situation for everybody,” said Jon Samuelson, the Redstone Arsenal golf course manager.

“Because of all the sponsor support we can offer extremely good prizes and food at our tournaments. Our sponsors let us do a lot more at every event we have. We've seen an increase in the number of people we've had at the golf course. I think that's partly because of our sponsors. In return, our growing numbers mean more people are seeing our sponsors and learning about our sponsors.”

Army unveils light utility helicopter Lakota

UH-72A aircraft to serve domestic missions in U.S.

By Lt. Col. MARTIN DOWNIE
and KIM HENRY
Army News Service

COLUMBUS, Miss. — Gen. Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff of the Army, and Joe RedCloud, a chief of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Lakota Nation, accepted the Army's first Lakota Light Utility Helicopter, UH-72A, in a ceremony here Dec. 11.

"The Light Utility Helicopter — from concept development to material fielding to rapid deployment — is not only serving as a catalyst for change across the Army, it is also accelerating the speed of Army aviation modernization and integration with other services and government agencies," Cody said.

The Army has a long-standing tradition of using American Indian names, such as terms, tribes and chiefs for its helicopters. In the case of the Lakota aircraft, the linkage is between the Lakota legacy as stalwart defenders of their homeland and the nature of the aircraft's intended domestic missions.

"We're pleased that you honor our tribe by naming this helicopter Lakota. You are not only honoring our past, you are recognizing that we are still here, joint partners in the heritage of the promise of America," RedCloud told the audience.



Photo by Patrick Sheahan

TRIBAL SUPPORT— Members of the Lakota Nation participate in the ceremony for the Army's first Lakota light utility helicopter. They represent the Oglala Sioux and Rosebud Sioux Tribes. From left are John Chief Eagle Robinson, Roy Stone, Rodney Bordeaux, Joseph RedCloud, Michael Lapointe, John Spotted Tail and Lisa White Face.

See **Lakota** on page 19



Photo by Daina Dowdy

LUH LANDS— Army Aviation Technical Test Center pilots Alvy Chapman and Michael Weis land the first light utility helicopter Nov. 29 at Cairns Army Airfield, Ala. For the next few months, ATTC and other agencies will conduct testing and develop the aircraft's rated and non-rated aircrew training program and aircrew training manual, and then the LUH will be sent to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., joining an LUH fleet slated to replace some UH-60A Black Hawks.

Light utility helicopter carries load for future

Fort Rucker pilots develop training for light utility helicopter fleet

By ELIZABETH GARCIA
Army Flier staff writer

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — Six Fort Rucker pilots graduated Nov. 24 from two weeks of commercial flight training for the Army's newly acquired light utility helicopter.

One LUH arrived here Nov. 29, and they must now complete aircraft testing and develop the aircraft's rated and non-rated aircrew training program and aircrew training manual.

The LUH program was established to replace aging OH-58 A/C Kiowas and UH-1H Iroquois aircraft that are being retired from the Army inventory. The LUH is a commercial off-the-shelf aircraft which is currently being used worldwide. Civil EC-145 helicopters are used in roles ranging from law enforcement, emergency medical transportation, search and rescue, offshore utility operations and corporate transport, according to the EADS American Eurocopter web site.

The Soldiers — Lt. Col. Pat Mason, Chief Warrant Officer Sean Higgins, Chief Warrant Officer Mike Chickilly, Chief Warrant Officer Doug Savell, Chief Warrant Officer Rucie Moore and Army civilian Mike Weis — acquired their initial key personnel training at the American Eurocopter facility in Grand Prairie, Texas.

See **Future** on page 19



Photo by Patrick Sheahan

Early birds

Paul Bogosian, far right, the program executive officer for aviation, congratulates members of Stetson Troop, 4/3 Cavalry as they arrive from Fort Hood, Texas, after dark Nov. 28 with five UH-60M aircraft at Redstone Airfield. They had just completed a successful test of the UH-60M Black Hawk, the Army's new helicopter.

Army issues major contract for cruise missile defense

Raytheon Company awarded five-year, \$1B-plus for work

The Army awarded a five-year, \$1.43 billion contract modification Thursday to Raytheon Company, Tewksbury, Mass., for system development and demonstration of the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor Systems.

The system provides over the horizon detection and tracking of incoming cruise missiles with sufficient warning to enable air defense systems to engage and defeat the threat. Each JLENS consists of a long-range surveillance radar and a high performance fire control radar, each integrated in a large aerostat connected via tether to a ground based processing station. System testing is scheduled to begin in 2010, with first unit equipped in 2011 and program completion in 2012.

JLENS is managed by product manager Lt. Col. Jeffrey Souder as part of the Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office.

"This award marks the end of months of detailed work to define just how the JLENS government/industry team will design, build, test, train and field the system," Souder said. "I really appreciate their spirit of collaboration and hard work. The team always had the war fighter's needs in mind and if past performance is any indication of the future — and in this case I think it is — this team is going to deliver an incredibly capable defensive system to that war fighter on time and within budget. We need JLENS, and this team is going to make the program a success."

The Space and Missile Defense Command, Contracting and Acquisition Management Office awarded the contract modification in support of the CMDS Project Office.

Contractor opens local office for unmanned aircraft systems

AAI Corporation held an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony in late November to celebrate the opening of its new office in Research Park. Mayor Loretta Spencer attended the ceremony along with dignitaries from the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office and local officials.

Manufacturer of the Shadow tactical

unmanned aircraft system, AAI Corporation designs, produces and supports defense systems. In addition to unmanned aircraft systems its products and services include training and simulation systems, automated aircraft test and maintenance equipment, armament systems, logistical and engineering services, and other technology solutions for defense needs. (AAI release)

Engineering intern helps keep helicopters flying

Recent college graduate volunteers for Iraq tour

By MERV BROKKE

AMRDEC public affairs

Travis Massa, a native of Western Kentucky and recent college graduate, was looking for a way to pay off his college loans and earn a living. Never did he imagine he would become an Army civilian and then volunteer to serve in Iraq.

After graduating with honors from the Florida Institute of Technology, earning a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering in May 2005, Massa accepted a position with the Army Materiel Command as an AMC Army Civilian Training, Education and Development System intern in the program of systems planning, research, development and engineering.

"I have to admit that I took the job not because I wanted to serve my country, but because I was a young college graduate itching for that first paycheck," Massa said.

However, it wasn't long before Massa gained a new appreciation for what his chosen career path would mean to his country and him.

"On my first day as a DA civilian I soon understood my responsibility to fully support our Soldiers as I took the oath of office. Today, it is a job which I take pride in and it is worth more than just a paycheck," he said.

Massa works for the Maintenance Engineering Division in Corpus Christi, Texas, which is part of the Aviation Engineering Directorate of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center at Redstone Arsenal. His division is responsible for providing maintenance engineering support to aviation maintenance activities throughout the world. One of their largest customers is the Corpus Christi Army Depot which is the Aviation and Missile Lifecycle Management Command's overhaul facility for Army helicopters and components.

"Our division also staffs liaison engineers throughout the U.S. and OCONUS (outside the continental U.S.) to provide direct engineering support to Army aviation units. Since 2003, our division has staffed an engineer in Balad, Iraq to handle any request coming from Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"This single engineer is responsible for all maintenance engineering calls which originate from these three countries and for other engineering related issues on all of the Army's helicopters in theater. The

LE position is voluntary and the tour is for four months," Massa said.

In 2006, the Maintenance Engineering Division created an assistant liaison engineer position and Massa volunteered.

"On Sept. 11, 2006 I arrived at Camp Anaconda in Balad, Iraq as the assistant liaison engineer. Exactly five years after the 9/11 attacks I landed in a foreign country to help support the Global War on Terror. Never in my wildest imaginations would I have thought that I would be in Iraq five years after those devastating attacks.

"As a civilian, it was a once in a life time opportunity to go to a war-stricken country and provide direct support to Soldiers fighting the war on terror," Massa said.

Massa's service overseas has been in keeping with that of his fellow AED employees who served before him.

"I have the greatest respect for Travis and his willingness to volunteer for this critical assignment," said Kevin Rees, maintenance engineering division chief. "He is serving as the tip of the spear for AED and is delivering outstanding engineering support to the flight line in a very hostile environment. Travis exemplifies the outstanding dedication and technical knowledge that we look for in an AED engineer. He, and the other 18 volunteers that preceded him, have made a huge difference to the readiness and safety of our deployed aviation forces."

Massa's duties in Iraq have him working at least 12 hours a day, seven days a week to accomplish the mission.

"Life here at Camp Anaconda is intense and our work is demanding because of the sheer number of Army helicopters in Southwest Asia. Our living quarters and work area are very nice. There is only one thing that you have to focus on here and that is your work. Your food is taken care of and your clothing is always the same: desert camouflage uniforms," Massa said.

Despite the long hours, or maybe because of them, he feels proud to be part of something bigger than himself.

"I feel that this job is important and worth the intensity. I can lay my head down on my pillow at night and rest assured that I am making a difference, whether it is a small one or a large one. Supporting the Soldiers and the Global War on Terror is a privilege and an honor," Massa said.

The AMC internship is a two-year program in which Massa was hired as a GS-7. After one year he became a GS-9 and at the end of the program he will be promoted to DB-3. In addition to his duties on the job, Massa is to complete Defense Acquisition, Leadership and SPRDE courses both online and on-site as well as other local training.



Travis Massa

Greek students enjoy time at Redstone

Pair attends ammunition course from September to December

Two members of the Greek Army didn't know what to expect when they arrived for training in September.

Sgt. Maj. Apostolos Dervilis and Chief Warrant Officer Konstantinos Iosifidis attended the Ammunition Specialist Course from Sept. 16 through Dec. 12. It was their first visit to the United States.

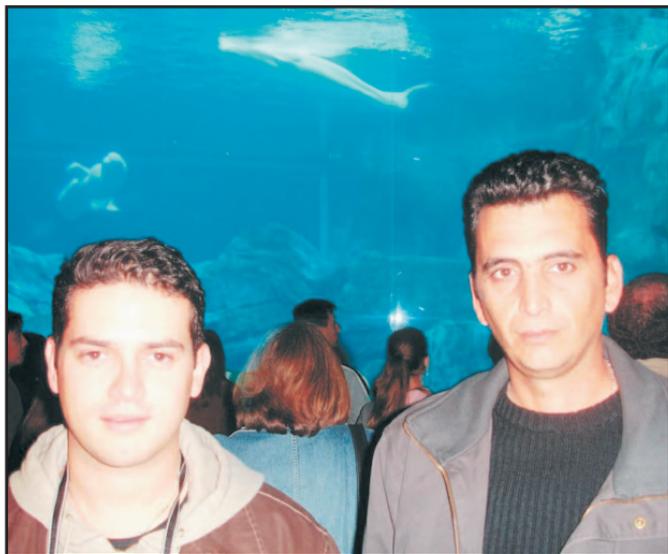
"From the first day here I was impressed with the high standards of the facilities and the hospitality of the people on and off the base," said Dervilis, the distinguished honor graduate of his class.

"Redstone Arsenal facilities provided me everything that I would need," Iosifidis said.

The International Military Student Office provides field trips and other activities for students from outside the United States.

Dervilis said he particularly enjoyed visiting Stone Mountain Park in Georgia.

"I visited many places with the IMSO (Atlanta, Nashville, Chattanooga, etc.)," Iosifidis said. "My weekends were full of events so I would not be bored and feel uncomfortable as a foreigner."



Courtesy photo

WATER WORLD— Sgt. Maj. Apostolos Dervilis and Chief Warrant Officer Konstantinos Iosifidis, both of the Greek Army, visit the Georgia Aquarium in downtown Atlanta on Nov. 18-19.

'The Lord sent me there'

Contractor worker helps victims of fatal school bus accident

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

It's been said that the turns you make on the road of life can take you to unexpected places.

For Brenda Ford, a right-hand turn in downtown Huntsville on a cold November morning took her to the place where the Lord needed her the most.

Ford, who works for Phoenix Janitorial Service in building 5308, had taken Monday, Nov. 20, off from work to attend to personal errands. It soon became a day she will never forget.

She had a choice that morning as she finished her first errand – turn left and end up on Memorial Parkway or turn right and travel the side streets of downtown Huntsville. Ford chose to turn right, deciding to make a brief visit at her daughter's house on the way to her next errand.

But, after making the turn, traffic slowed down and an ambulance rushed passed her, its sirens blaring. Then, a fire truck sped by.

"I thought 'What's going on?'" Ford recalled. "I thought they were having one of those big drills under the overpass. Then, another ambulance came around me and I thought 'What in the world? Something has happened.' I thought maybe someone had gotten shot."

Ford didn't know it then, but she drove up on one of the most horrific accidents in Huntsville's history. It was the morning when a bus filled with Lee High School students came crashing down from the interstate overpass, falling to the ground just off Church Street.

"When I got a little closer, I could see the bus by the side of the fence," she recalled. "I remember thinking 'Lord, let everything be all right, don't let anyone be hurt.'"

"I thought the bus had run off the road or had hit something."

Passersby were standing on the side of the road in shock. There was a lot of confusion. There were students standing around and a few bodies lying on the ground. Ford stopped her car and got out to see if she could help.

"My head was getting numb. My feet were getting numb. My hands were getting numb," she said. "I started running. I was crying and praying. I didn't know where the bus was from."

Ford has given her grandson money that morning to go on a school field trip. At first, she thought maybe it was his bus in the accident. It quickly became apparent that the accident didn't involve her grandson's class.

"I saw the firefighters and the police officers and the medics over by the bus," she said. "I saw three bodies – three girls – laying a little ways away from the bus on some rocks."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

GAVE COMFORT— Brenda Ford, an employee with Phoenix Janitorial Service, is considered a hero by many for her efforts to help victims of the Lee High School bus accident Nov. 20. Ford had taken that day off to run errands in Huntsville when her travels took her to the bus crash site just minutes after the accident occurred. She offered comfort to three bus crash victims while they waited to be helped by medics and then transported to the hospital. Ford said it was the Lord who led her to the crash site that fateful day. She is wearing the jacket that she balled up to use as a pillow for one of those victims.

Ford stepped through the fence and went to aid the girls.

"One of the girls said her arm was hurting," she said. "I asked her 'What happened?' She said 'I don't know what happened.'"

The weather was "ice cold" that day. Although the girl had a blanket, Ford was worried about her comfort. She slid part of the blanket under the girl's arm and took off her coat to use as a pillow under the girl's head. Ford was afraid to move the girl from where she laid.

"I asked her 'Has anyone called your parents?' She said 'No. Can you call my mother?'" Ford said. Although she didn't have a cell phone, Ford was able to borrow one from a man nearby and make the call.

"I explained who I was," she said. "But, I was also praying 'Lord Jesus ...' I didn't know if I would say the wrong thing. I wanted to be very, very careful with what I said to her. I prayed 'Lord, help me be calm.'"

She told the mother there was an accident on the bus and where her daughter was. The mother hung up and Ford went back to the girl.

"She asked me 'Are you going to stay with me?' So, I stayed," Ford said.

Ford also checked on the other two girls nearby – one couldn't move because her back hurt, the other complained of her legs hurting.

Again, this time at the request of the second girl, Ford located a cell phone and

called her mother.

"I was trying to dial, but my hands were so cold. I was finally able to do it and I put the phone to the girl's ear so she could talk to her mother," Ford said. "It was hard holding the phone because it was so cold."

Two medics then came over and Ford helped to lift the second girl onto a stretcher.

"They were very kind, very polite," Ford said. "They explained to her what they were doing. They were well organized. They all worked as a group."

Ford held the hand of the third girl, trying to comfort her.

"She said 'I called my mother and she isn't home. Could you call again?'" Ford said.

Ford was concerned about how the cold was affecting the two remaining girls. She went back and forth between them, giving them hugs and holding their hands. She pulled the sleeves of one girl's shirt over her hands in an attempt to keep them warm. She got a blanket from a medic and used it to cover one of the girls.

But, above all, Ford stayed calm, thanks, in part, to the safety training she has received through her job as a Phoenix janitorial crew leader. Unable to do much to relieve their physical discomfort, Ford wanted to befriend the girls as best she could until emergency personnel could care for them.

"I was very careful of what I said to them," Ford recalled. "They were alone and afraid, and they didn't know what was

going to happen.

"When I had seen medics working on a kid, I just turned around and started praying. I started crying. But, I was able to stay calm for the kids. I stayed there until basically all the kids were out. All the time, I didn't know how the accident happened. I was helping the kids and that's all that mattered at the time."

Eventually, she learned from others at the scene that the bus was from Lee High School. Right before she left, a woman told Ford the bus has fallen off the interstate.

"I just said 'What?' I couldn't believe it," she said.

Ford's actions in helping the girls were seen by many, who watched the horrific rescue efforts unfold on television news reports. One of those viewers was Ford's son, who had stayed home sick from school that day. Later, when she called him, her son said "Mom, you are all over the TV."

Many of those who did see Ford helping the girls have called her a hero for lending aid at the accident scene.

"When you see kids hurt, your heart goes out to them," Ford said. "No, I'm not a hero. The heroes are the medics and the police officers and the firefighters, and the Soldiers who fight for our country. They are heroes. I'm just a person. The Lord sent me there. That's the way the Lord wanted me to go that day."

It was images of her own three children and five grandchildren that led Ford to act on that fateful day.

"If it was one of my kids, I would hope someone would do the same exact thing," she said. "I would hope someone would talk to them, let them know someone cares. I couldn't move the three girls who were lying on the rocks. But, I was there to give them comfort."

Now, Ford said, she wouldn't even recognize the girls if she were to meet them. But, she has been recognized by at least one accident victim.

"One of the boys in the accident was in the Dollar General with his mother," Ford said. "She recognized me. She thanked me and hugged me, and said 'I'm glad you were there and you could talk to the kids.'"

After the accident, Ford drove to her daughter's home. Once there, the reality of the situation hit her.

"It was so cold outside. I kept thinking about those girls' faces and how they were lying in those rocks," Ford said. "I asked myself 'Could I have done more?' I did the best I could do. The whole thing could have been worse than it was. We have to put it behind us and go on."

Editor's note: Four students were killed and about 30 others injured when the bus carrying Lee High School students to a technical school plunged over the Interstate 565 overpass near Church Street after colliding with a 1990 Toyota Celica driven by another Lee student. The accident occurred shortly after 10 a.m. Nov. 20.

Learning, teaching and growing in Iraq

Corps of Engineers helps Iraqis build their future

By NORRIS JONES
Army News Service

BAGHDAD — Projects under the U.S.-led reconstruction program in Iraq were initiated in the understanding that in an asymmetric war, progress is most clearly witnessed at the local level.

For both the Iraqi people and the Coalition engineers and Soldiers involved, reconstruction efforts to restore essential services and develop the capacity for future economic growth have also come as a learning experience.

With Soldiers, contractors and Iraqi residents often working side by side on construction, the groups gain an understanding of each others' cultures and viewpoints at the same time as they create a stake for the surrounding communities in seeing the national stabilization effort succeed.

For 1st Lt. Dawn Harrison, a Mississippi Army reservist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the work is a crucial part of the overall struggle to stand up the nation.

"These structures directly benefit the Iraqi people and are among hundreds of such projects our staff is overseeing to improve essential services and help turn this country around," she said.

With oversight of \$45 million of construction in Baghdad, her projects include the Academy of Health and Science, the Secure Documents Storage Facility, and the Al Mamoon telecommunications complex.

"Our workload is demanding, averaging 12 hours each day," Harrison said. "But I do enjoy the job, interacting with the Iraqis, learning their culture and



Photo by Suzanne Fournier

GUARD POST— Construction activities are ongoing to build an Iraqi coast guard forward operating base in order to provide security to the Umm Qasr Port at lands end in Iraq.

customs [and] just being part of this effort to help them establish a democracy."

The \$4.6 million Academy of Health and Sciences will feature a health clinic including treatment rooms, dental exam rooms, pharmacy, X-ray room, and a vaccination area, as well as classrooms, an auditorium and a library. The facility will train students interested in becoming healthcare providers.

"That structure is very important because it's where future doctors and nurses will train, as well as a facility where local residents can get medical care," Harrison explained.

Supporting Iraq's criminal justice system, the Secure Documents Storage Facility will provide a safe storage area for courthouse documents, including records from the Saddam Hussein trials.

The \$22.7 million Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunications Center will serve as a hub to connect Iraq to the world by means of several floors of communications switch gear. The Iraqi Ministry of Communication offices will be located there, as well as a post office, auditorium, exhibition hall and

numerous conference rooms. The center is expected to be completed next year.

And like many reconstruction projects, the Al Mamoon complex relies heavily on local labor. About 400 Iraqis serve on the construction crew. Harrison explained their involvement comes with its own set of challenges.

"On these projects, Iraqi contractors don't necessarily follow the same standards we follow in the United States. That's where mentoring plays a key role, and for the most part they're very receptive," she said. "They're proud of their work and want to do the best job possible."

Harrison also described how mentorship and interaction in such a contained environment has brought unexpected results. Her team includes three females — two Iraqi quality assurance representatives and herself. Both Iraqi women are trained engineers.

"They're smart, detail oriented, and eager to learn," Harrison said. "Iraqi women don't normally get an opportunity to be on a work site as they're usually assigned office duties such as design work. We've got great

camaraderie and the contractors respect the knowledge we bring to the job."

Harrison feels she, too, has benefited from her role in Iraq, aside from just cultural exposure.

"Every day is a learning opportunity and there's no question the experience I've had here would take 5 to 10 years to accumulate stateside," she said.

The Mississippi native pointed out her projects deal with a variety of engineering challenges, including excavation, backfilling, foundations, erecting steel columns, rebar and concrete placement.

While the obstacles to the reconstruction program have been well documented, especially in Baghdad and the surrounding area, projects like Harrison's continue to make progress. Their

completion — even the act of building in many cases — serves as an important part of the Iraq stabilization effort.

Iraqi involvement in the projects generates employment, imparts skills and knowledge and builds camaraderie with Coalition Force, while the construction enables the Iraqi government to provide services to its people and expands the country's capacity for growth.

"In some areas, we started with an empty lot full of brush and weeds," Harrison said. "In others we had to remove a bombed-out structure, but in all cases we're helping the Iraqis build their future."

Editor's note: Norris Jones is with the Gulf Region Central District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

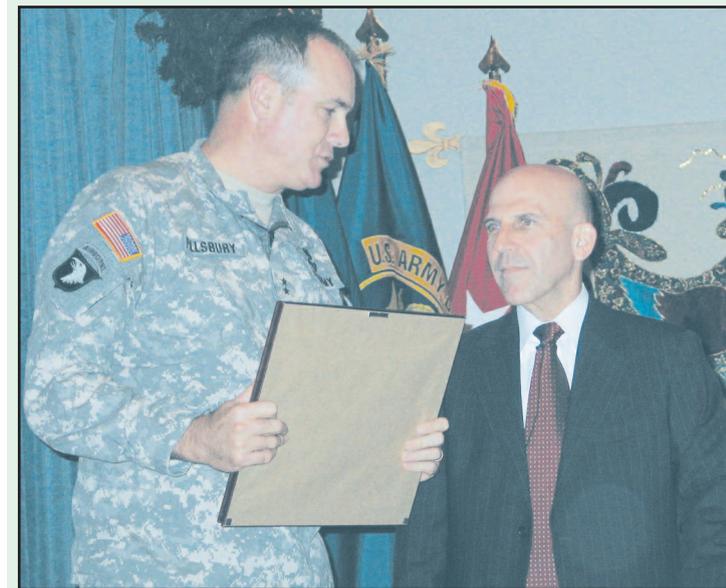


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Retiring spokesman

Al Schwartz, chief of public affairs for AMCOM and Redstone, receives an award during his retirement ceremony Monday at the Officers and Civilians Club from Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command. Schwartz will retire Jan. 3 with 36 years service, the past 10 at Redstone.

REDSTONE ARSENAL ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN CONFERENCE REDSTONE OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS CLUB

FEB. 27-28, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

REGISTRATION FORM

DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974; AUTHORITY: 5 USC 301, 10 USC 3013,
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Identification of participants in the Army Family Action Plan Conference.
ROUTINE USES: Used to record the names and addresses of attendees at the Army Family Action
Plan Conference. Used to contact participants. DISCLOSURE: Disclosure is voluntary. If the
requested information is not provided, registration for the conference may not be possible.

1. FIRST NAME: _____ MI: _____ LAST NAME: _____
MAILING ADDRESS: (Line 1) _____
or OFFICE SYMBOL (Line 2) _____
CITY _____ STATE: _____
ZIP: _____
DAYTIME PHONE: _____ FAX: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Do you require Daycare: _____ If So, Ages of Children: _____
You must register at the Child Development Center to use their facility.

COMPLETE ALL THAT APPLY:

2. YOUR MILITARY AFFILIATION?
(If not applicable, go to item 3.)
3. YOUR DA CIVILIAN AFFILIATION?
(If Active Duty Military go to item 4.)
- a. Are you a:
 Soldier or Retiree
 Spouse of Soldier or Retiree
- a. Are you a:
 DA Civilian Employee
 Spouse of DA Civilian
- b. Are you or is your sponsor:
 Active-duty
 Reserve
 National Guard
 Retired
- b. Are you or is your sponsor:
 APF (GS, WG)
 NAF (NF)
- c. Rank: _____
d. Job Title: _____
- c. Series/Grade: _____
d. Job Title: _____
4. YOUR MARITAL STATUS?
 Single Married Widow/Widower
5. YOUR FAMILY TYPE?
 Dual-Military Sole-parent Traditional Other
6. YOUR CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION?
 Delegate Admin support
 Facilitator Issue Support
 Recorder Youth Delegate
 Subject Matter Expert
7. HAVE YOU EVER PARTICIPATED IN AN
AFAP CONFERENCE? WHERE / WHEN?
 Installation level; what year(s)? _____
 MACOM level; what year(s)? _____
 DA Level; what year(s)? _____
 Never participated at any level
8. YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST (pick 3 and indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice):
- _____ Medical/Dental
_____ Family Housing/Facilities Maintenance
_____ Traffic/Transportation/Personnel(civilian & military)/Finance
- _____ Commissary/AAFES
_____ Morale, Welfare and Recreation Activities

Please return this form to your organization's AFAP point of contact or send to: Cathy Hays,
IMSE-RED-MWA, Bldg 3338, Redeye Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35758-5000 or fax to 955-9171
or e-mail: cathy.hays@redstone.army.mil or visit www.redstonemwr.com to register and submit a
Quality of Life Survey.

Army Family Action Plan Conference Quality of Life Survey

This is your opportunity to make suggestions or express concerns about programs, services, or benefits affecting you and your family. These will be discussed at the Redstone Arsenal Army Family Action Plan Conference scheduled Feb. 27-28.

Consider what could be improved in the following areas to include but not limited to: Medical and Dental Services, AAFES, Commissary, Military or Civilian Pay, Allowances, Entitlements, Relocation, Housing, Traffic, Travel, Transportation, Education, Child Care, Morale Welfare and Recreation.

(Please type or write legibly)

How would you improve the Army's programs, services, or benefits?

(Be specific and recommend solutions. Give brief examples. Issues can be anything affecting the quality of life at Redstone or impacting the total Army family. Issues must have attainable solutions. Personal complaints will not be addressed. Comments may be continued on a separate sheet. One issue per page.)

Please include the following in the event we need clarification:
(Optional)

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Send your completed survey to Army Community Service, building 3338, Redeye Road, Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation, U.S. Army Garrison, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000 or fax to 955-9171.

If you would like to participate as a conference delegate, please contact your organization's AFAP point of contact or send to Cathy Hays at 876-5041, fax 955-9171, or cathy.hays@redstone.army.mil or visit www.redstonemwr.com to complete the registration online and complete this Quality of Life Survey. Surveys for the AFAP Conference will be accepted until Jan. 23.

Team Redstone exceeds cost reduction goal

Savings mark surpassed for 21st consecutive year

The Value Engineering and Operations and Support Cost Reduction programs have once again had an outstanding year in cost cutting initiatives, according to Dr. Richard Amos, deputy to the commanding general.

Fiscal 2006 VE efforts saved \$216.8 million, attaining 240 percent of the savings goal of \$90 million.

"These achievements are the results of personnel dedicated to improving our savings of current funding and the containment of future operations and support costs," Amos said. This is also the 21st year in a row that Team Redstone has surpassed its VE goal.

The Army Materiel Command VE Achievement Awards were presented to the following: Field Command – Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command. Team Award – The Utility Helicopters Project Office, (Randall Harkins, Vicki Loewen, Stephen Monaco, Steve Mason and Walter Viall).

The following Team Redstone organizations received VE award plaques for achieving their FY '06 savings goals: Research Development and Engineering Center, Apache Attack Helicopter Program Manager's Office, Corpus Christi

Army Depot (Texas), Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office, Integrated Materiel Management Center, Letterkenny Army Depot (Pa.), Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office, Robotic Systems, Joint Project Office, THAAD Project Office, PM TMDE, Unmanned Aerial Systems Project Office, and the Utility Helicopters Project Office. Value Engineering certificates were also presented to VE coordinators for their FY '06 accomplishments.

Fiscal '06 was another good year for the AMCOM Supply Management Army-OSCR Program. A total of eight projects were funded with a total initial investment of \$5.7 million. Field savings for these projects are estimated to exceed \$78.7 million over the next 10 years. Currently 104 projects have been funded in the SMA-OSCR program since FY '96. This includes a total of \$51.9 million invested in redesign funds with 10-year projected field savings of \$1.2 billion.

The following Team Redstone organizations received OSCR award plaques for their fiscal '06 accomplishments: Research Development and Engineering Center, Apache Attack Helicopter Program Manager's Office, Cargo Helicopter Project Managers Office, Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project

Office, and the Utility Helicopters Project Office. Operating and Support Cost Reduction certificates were also pre-

sented to key OSCR personnel for their accomplishments. (*Value Engineering release*)

Letterkenny worker receives Tarquine Award

Annual recognition given for value engineering

Jack Stewart of Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., has received the 10th annual Robert B. Tarquine Value Engineering Achievement Award.

Stewart, a management analyst in the Resource Management Directorate at Letterkenny, has a primary leadership role in the depot's successful VE program. His continued support to the program during the past five years has resulted in Letterkenny regularly exceeding its annual VE savings goals. During this time, the depot has successfully completed 17 VE proposals generating more than \$26.1 million in total savings to the government.

Other nominees for the award included Joseph Bodiford, an engineer in Production and Configuration Management Directorate in the Lower Tier Project Office, Daniel Grzelecki, an aerospace engineer in the Aviation Engineering Directorate, and Julie Smith, an engi-

neer with THAAD Obsolescence Program.

The award was presented Dec. 11 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Named after the late Robert Tarquine, the award is presented annually by the Command VE Office for outstanding achievements in VE. Tarquine was a key participant and contributor to the early success of the Command VE programs.

Past recipients include Mrs. Robert Tarquine, wife of Robert Tarquine; Jean Grotophorst, Army TACMS-Bat Project Office; Robert Yanulavich, Army TACMS-BAT Project Office; Sylvia Budd, Integrated Materiel Management Center-Corpus Christi Army Depot (Texas) Maintenance; Joel Ellis, THAAD Project Office; Jamie Martin, Lower Tier Project Office; Richard Spence, Short Range Air Defense; Clayton Vance, Aviation Engineering Directorate; and Larry Easterwood, director/supervisor of the Manufacturing and Product Assurance Directorate in the THAAD Project Office. (*Value Engineering release*)

■ Lakota light utility helicopter joins fleet

Lakota

continued from page 12

The fielding of the LUH is part of an ongoing Army-level effort to transform its aviation capability through the deliberate reinvestment of funds from the canceled 2004 Comanche program.

The Army National Guard will receive the majority of the 322 new aircraft. Initial aircraft will be sent to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif. for medical evacuation missions in January. The UH-72A Lakotas will replace UH-60 Black Hawks, which will be transferred to the National Guard for operational missions.

"The Lakota heralds a new beginning for our Army and for our communities across every state," Cody said. "It is our nation's responsibility and the Army's duty to provide our National Guard Soldiers with the tools they need to respond fully and rapidly to homeland security missions and national disasters.

"This exceptional platform will fly for years to come in America's skies. It is an aircraft we needed and we are proud to see it take flight," he said.

The UH-72A is a commercial aircraft designed to conduct light general support tasks in permissive, non-combat environments. Those tasks include civil search and rescue, personnel recovery, evacuation, counter-drug and limited civil command and control operations in the conduct of Homeland Security.

Editor's note: Lt. Col. Martin Downie serves with the Office of the Chief Army Public Affairs. Kim Henry works in the Aviation and Missile Command public affairs office at Redstone Arsenal.

■ Fort Rucker pilots complete training on new helicopter

Future

continued from page 12

"The Army picked a winner," Savell, LUH training developer, Directorate of Training and Doctrine, said of the LUH. "I thought it was an incredible aircraft. Its performance is excellent."

Savell, whose aviation background includes AH-1 Cobras, UH-1V Hueys, OH-58 A/C Kiowa and OH-58D Kiowa-Warriors, said the LUH is the most technologically advanced aircraft he has flown. He added that one of the most unique features on the aircraft is the autopilot program.

"(The autopilot) allows the pilot to fly without touching flight controls and perform various instrument approach procedures to include instrument landing system and global positioning systems," Savell said. "(The autopilot) gives the pilot the capability to concentrate on procedures while maintaining altitude, vertical speed, course and air speed."

The first LUH arrived Nov. 29 at Cairns Army Airfield.

"We'll have the aircraft here for potentially two months, and then it will be gone," Win Miller, LUH chief engineer, Army Aviation Technical Test Center, said.

Miller said during those two months, ATTC will perform the initial safety testing for the aircraft, making sure there are no safety issues involving any Army-specific maneuvers the

aircraft might be subjected to.

"No one has ever flown this aircraft with night vision goggles," Miller said. "It is a Federal Aviation Administration-certified aircraft, but there is no FAA certification for NVGs. In an Army-specific role, we do things differently than a commercial (airline) would do."

In addition to NVG safety procedures, Miller said the medical community will also be looking at the aircraft's medical equipment set, making sure medics have access to equipment to treat patients.

"Everything needs to be set in there correctly so they can do their work," Miller said. "We'll do a flight with a full MES."

Soldiers from DOTD as well as the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization will also be working in synchronization with ATTC to develop LUH training and the standardization of that training to include evaluations for future aircrew members. In addition, they must also write the LUH Aircrew Training Manual.

"My ultimate goal is to make sure aircrew members are adequately trained and have the best training they can get to operate (the LUH) safely and accurately so a unit can successfully perform its mission," Savell said.

Higgins, UH1/LUH branch chief, DES, said developing the training plans will be a challenging task for all involved.

"We have a lot of (work) coming

up," Higgins said. "We're going to go out and find out what's right for (Soldiers) to be successful."

Maj. Courtney Cote, product director for LUH production, Utility Helicopter Project Office, Redstone Arsenal, said the LUH provides the flexibility to respond to Homeland Security requirements, conduct civil search and rescue operations, support damage assessment, support test and training centers, perform generating force missions, augment the HH-60 Medical Evacuation aircraft and provide support to continental United States counter drug operations. He added the LUH conducts general support utility helicopter missions and executes tasks as part of an integrated effort with other joint services, government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Cote said the LUH that arrived Nov. 29 will only be here until January. He added the aircraft will then be sent to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., joining an LUH fleet slated to replace some UH-60A Black Hawks.

"The LUHs are being fielded to NTC and the Black Hawks that the NTC has right now will be given to the National Guard," Cote said. "It's all part of aviation modernization."

Cote added Fort Rucker is tentatively slated to receive six Medevac LUHs to replace the current UH-1 Flat Iron aircraft in fiscal year 2009.

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the Army Flier newspaper at Fort Rucker.

Marines take advantage of final opportunity

Win three games in one night for flag football championship

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

The Marines were apparently eliminated from the flag football playoffs, but they got another chance.

HHC 59th had to forfeit its 7-6 overtime win to the Marines for using an ineligible player. This enabled the Marines to advance to the losers bracket final against 326th Chemical Company. The winner would face Charlie Company for the championship.

The Marines took advantage of their opportunity.

They won three straight games Thursday night to earn the title at the field off Patton Road. The Marines beat 326th Chemical 22-6 and then swept Charlie in the final 26-6 and 22-16.

“Our defense was really our anchor,” Marines coach/quarterback Lee Burket said. “The defense as a unit has played well all year and played exceptionally well (Thursday night) in all three games. And our offense was clicking.”

Trailing Charlie 16-14 with 1:14 left in the final game, the Marines drove 58 yards in five plays. Burket threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to slot receiver Chris McNally with 12 seconds left; and connected with McNally again on the two-point conversion which ended the scoring.

Charlie took the ensuing kickoff to midfield at the 40 but time expired after two passes fell incomplete, one batted down by linebacker/safety Dustin Kershaw. “He’s really anchored the defense and kept us in the game,” Burket said.

Other key players for the Marines (14-2) included wide receivers Sean Newsom and Marvin Fletcher. Offensive linemen Kershaw and Timothy Collins helped slow down Charlie’s pass rush.

“Charlie has great athletes. They have a lot of team speed,” Burket said.

Quarterback LaQuaine Bess raced 38 yards for a touchdown to give Charlie its final lead of the game with 1:14 left. The Wolfpack (12-3) added the two-point conversion and led 16-14 before the Marines responded with their game-winning drive.

“We were missing some key components on the Charlie team,” Wolfpack running back/linebacker Mashaun Asikari said. “And (we had) lack of attention to detail.”

The Marines got their shot Thursday after they protested HHC 59th’s win for using an ineligible player. They won their protest, negating the 326th Chemical’s win over HHC 59th in the losers bracket final.

“We as an organization, as a detachment, as a team, really appreciate the Sports and Fitness people looking at what was done and doing what we believe was the right thing to do,” Burket said. “They looked at the rules and what was right. We should not have been eliminated by a team that played outside of the rules. It was just awesome for them to be able to do that. They did the best job possible to keep it fair.”

Postseason tournament results included:

• **Dec. 7** – 326th Chemical def. Bravo 14-13, Charlie def. Headquarters & Alpha 20-13 and HHC 59th def. NCO Academy 12-6.

• **Dec. 11** – Charlie def. Marines 6-0, 326th Chemical def. HHC 59th 20-12 and NCO Academy def. Bravo 25-6.

• **Dec. 12** – Charlie def. 326th Chemical 14-12, Marines def. NCO Academy 44-8 and HHC 59th def. Headquarters & Alpha 26-0.

• **Dec. 13** – HHC 59th def. Marines 7-6 in overtime and 326th Chemical def. HHC 59th 29-28 in overtime. But HHC 59th had to forfeit to the Marines for using an ineligible player.

• **Dec. 14** – Marines def. 326th Chemical 22-6. Marines def. Charlie

26-6 and 22-16 for the championship.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

COIN TOSS— Meeting at midfield for the coin toss before the losers bracket final are, from left, 326th Chemical Company’s Eddie Bryan, referee Todd McAllister, the Marines’ Sean Newsom and referee Glen Hayden.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

NUMBER ONE TEAM— The Marines prepare for their first of three games last Thursday night en route to the flag football championship.

Flag flies at Salerno marathon

Captain wins race in Afghanistan

The 30th annual Rocket City Marathon happened Dec. 9 in two places – Huntsville and halfway around the globe.

Some 10 and one-half hours before the local race and 7,000 miles away, the FOB (Forward Operating Base) Salerno Rocket City Marathon was held in Salerno, Afghanistan. Eighty Soldiers had registered to run the 26.2 mile race as either individuals or as part of a relay team with two or four runners. They endured four laps on a 6.5 mile course.

Capt. Aaron Flagg won in three hours, six minutes and 13 seconds. 1st Lt. Leah Mock was the first female and ninth finisher overall in 3:48:44.

“The weather was very cool and overcast at first,” Master Sgt. Howard Valentine said in an e-mail after finishing his first marathon in 4:44:23. “The sun broke through the clouds about halfway through the race and the day was absolutely beautiful.”

Joseph Chirlee won Huntsville’s race in 2:23:32; and Janet Cherobon took the women’s division in 2:51:47.





Sports & Recreation

Jogger safety

The Garrison reminds joggers that they shouldn't run on any roads where the speed limit is greater than 25 mph – this includes the shoulder, gravel portion. Joggers should use the jogging trails. Security officials cite AMCOM regulation 210-2 for jogging on post.

Youth sports

Join Child and Youth Services' Sports for its Start Smart Sports Development Class, Jan. 6 through Feb. 10 from 10-11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. This class is open to Redstone community youth ages 3-5. It teaches the basic motor skills that are necessary to play organized sports without the threat of competition or the fear of getting hurt. The cost is \$30 and includes a T-shirt, manual and equipment. For more information, call 313-3699.



Conferences & Meetings

Sci-fi readers

The Post Library is co-sponsoring the Bailey Cove Science Fiction Book Club which meets on the first Thursday of each month discussing classic and contemporary novels. On Jan. 4, the pick is "Tara-Aiyem Krang" by Alan Dean Foster. All gatherings are at the Bailey Cove Library, intersection of Weatherly Road and Bailey Cove Road, at 6 p.m. Walk-ins are always welcome. For information call 881-0257.

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.

Space society

HAL5, National Space Society, will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 4 at Huntsville Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie 509-3833.

University women

The American Association of University Women will meet Jan. 6 at Bevell Center, UAH. Social hour begins at 11 a.m., with soup/salad lunch to follow. Lee Roop, a columnist with The Huntsville Times, will speak on immigration issues. Reservations are required. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Lois Guendel 880-8643.

Transformation conference

The Defense Acquisition University South Region will hold its fourth annual conference "Transforming Acquisition in Support of the Warfighter" Feb. 21-22 at the Huntsville Marriott. This event supports transformation through a series of speakers, panels and workshops designed to provide all members of the acquisition work force with increased awareness of and insight into Department of Defense

transformation in action. The event is open to all members of the AT&L work force, other federal employees and industry regardless of career field. For more information regarding the agenda and registration, visit the conference web site at <http://www.mssi-online.com/DAU> or e-mail DAUSouth.Conference@dau.mil.

Defense summit

The second annual Joint Integrated Air & Missile Defense Summit will be held March 5-8 in Huntsville. This event is being planned by the Tennessee Valley Chapters of the National Defense Industrial Association, Women In Defense, and the Huntsville Chapters of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association and the International Council On Systems Engineering. For information on the summit, visit the web site www.JIAMDsummit.org.

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.

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 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 Warrent 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

See Announcements on page 22

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.gsauctions.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, which will be closed Dec. 26-28, 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 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.

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is accepting applications for Merit Awards. Eligibility is as follows: dependents, or members in good standing as of Oct. 17, 2006; high school senior/GED (must be a graduating high school senior or have obtained GED); undergraduate student, pursuing an undergraduate degree; graduate student, pursuing a graduate degree; member or spouse, pursuing an undergraduate degree. Forms are available at the OCWC monthly luncheons, Education Center and Army Community Service. For more information, call K.C. Bertling 541-0450 or e-mail samnkc@knology.net.

Grissom High reunion

Grissom High School Class of 1977 is planning a reunion in July. Organizers are looking for all graduates from that year. If you are a grad or know one, please e-mail GHS77@comcast.net.

Aviation challenge

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America is sponsoring two Aviation Challenge 2007 Scholarships in conjunction with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Children and grandchildren — between the ages of 9/attending or completed fourth grade and 18, not started college — of individuals who are Tennessee Valley AAAA Chapter members by Dec. 31, 2006 will be eligible to compete for the scholarships. The scholarships will be awarded in the form of certificates for use during 2007. Applications for scholarships and membership and more information on Tennessee Valley AAAA Aviation Challenge Scholarship application procedures will be available at the chapter Christmas social as well as on the web site www.tennvalleyquad-a.org. Applications are due Jan. 31. For information call Tom Harrison, chapter vice president for scholarships, 319-0100.

Weather closings

If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: radio — WDRM 102FM, WEKR 1240AM, WEUP 1600 AM, WGSV 1270AM, WJAB 90.9FM, WLRH 89.3FM, WRAB 1380AM, WTKI

1450AM, WVNN 770AM, WWIC 1050AM and WZYP 104.3FM; television — WAAY (Channel 31), WAFF (Channel 48) and WHNT (Channel 19). Two additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures: you can call 955-8445 to hear a recorded announcement, or you can find adverse weather announcements on the Team Redstone Internet site (<http://www.redstone.army.mil>) by clicking on "Links" and then Adverse Weather; on the AMCOM Portal Intranet site (<https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/>) by clicking on Adverse Weather under Key Sites; or the AMCOM Internet site (<http://www.amcom.redstone.army.mil>) by clicking on Adverse Weather.

Science apprentices

The Science and Engineering Apprentice Program announces applications for 2007. The Defense Department initiated the SEAP in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are U.S. citizens and 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 4, 2007. The apprentice program is divided into 8, 10 and 12 weeks. Applications should be available from senior counselors at all public, private and parochial high school and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at the Army Garrison-Redstone Arsenal include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for applications is Jan. 31. If the student is unsuccessful in getting an application from the high school senior counselor or college placement service, call Julie Lumpkins of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center 313-4834.

Health center holidays

Here's the Fox Army Health Center holiday schedule — subject to change because of mission requirements — for the rest of fiscal 2006: Dec. 25, Christmas — closed. Dec. 26 — Open from 8 a.m. to noon; extended hours clinic and pharmacy are open. Jan. 1, New Year's — closed. Jan. 2 — Open from 8 a.m. to noon; extended hours clinic and pharmacy are open. Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day — closed. Feb. 19, President's Day — closed. May 25 — Open from 8 a.m. to noon; extended

hours clinic and pharmacy are open. May 28, Memorial Day — closed. July 4, Independence Day — closed. July 5 — Open from 8 a.m. to noon; extended hours clinic and pharmacy are open. Aug. 31 — Open from 8 a.m. to noon; extended hours clinic and pharmacy are open. Sept. 3, Labor Day — closed. The Primary Care Extended Hours Clinic is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon for scheduled appointments. The health center is closed Sundays. Advice nurses are available 24 hours a day, at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531, to provide care advice. Fox has no emergency room or emergency medical services. Dial 911 to activate EMS.

King observance

Team Redstone will have a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Program on Jan. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at Bob Jones Auditorium. Scheduled speaker is U.S. District Judge U.W. Clemon of the northern district of Alabama, who in 1980 became this state's first black federal judge. Members of the Redstone/Huntsville community are invited. For more information, call Demetria Cruz 876-9718.

Green to gold

The Army ROTC at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana seeks talented young enlisted Soldiers who want to earn baccalaureate degrees. If you are a quality enlisted Soldier with officer potential and have served at least two years on active duty, then you are allowed to voluntarily participate and enroll in Army ROTC through these Green to Gold Programs. For more information call toll-free (877) 863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu, or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/>.

Lateral entry

If you are qualified prior service or a member of the National Guard or Reserve and wish to become an officer, the University of Illinois Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program may be for you. The Lateral Entry Program allows eligible students to contract into the Reserve Officer Training Corps as cadets when they are academic juniors, seniors or graduate students with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation. For more information call toll-free (877) 863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu, or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/>.

Admin professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 12th annual seminar, "Pathways to Professional Excellence," on Feb. 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Judy Kehr, educator for Hoover High School, will speak on communicating across cultures and generations. For the afternoon sessions, attendees can select two of the six developing topics by local presenters. The course is in TIPS for the course number PPE ; and the vendor name is International Association of Administrative Professionals. Tuition costs \$125; and student rates are \$50. You do not have to be in the administrative career field to attend. For more information, call Susan Douglas 842-6795 or Ellen Mahathy 842-9888.

Tax assistance volunteers

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees, and their dependents prepare and file federal, state and local tax returns each year. Last year's center had more than 3,000 returns prepared, resulting in over \$2 million in refunds. It is now accepting volunteers for the upcoming 2007 tax season. Scheduling will be flexible and volunteers are needed in both the tax preparation and front desk operations areas. No prior experience is necessary because comprehensive training will be provided. To volunteer or for more information, call Capt. Paul Laracy 313-6782 or Randy Duff 420-3223.

Quarterly retirements

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is scheduled Jan. 16 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are required to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. To arrange participation, call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969. Dec. 27 is the sign-up deadline. Retirement ceremonies are also scheduled March 22 and June 21.

Christmas trees

All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area north-east of the Ammunition Supply Point which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees should not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use. This area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. Travel will be limited to the single pasture trail along the east side of the open pastureland. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Extreme caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside of the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees should be cut through Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For further information and a location map, contact personnel at the Outdoor Recreation Office, building 5132, phone 876-4868.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comptrollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. This scholarship is open to high school seniors, undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found at <http://www.asmconline.org/national/nationalawards.shtml> or you may call Judy Smith 313-2379 or Debbie O'Neal 876-2671. Application deadline is Feb 28. Packages may be mailed to AMCOM, Attn: AMSAM-RM-FD, Judy Smith, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898 or taken to Smith in building 5300, third floor, work station 53B062.

Losing weight

Sparkman Center workers who want to lose weight can join the Sparkman Center Weight Watcher group which meets each Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5308, room 8124. A new Weight Watcher session will begin Jan. 18; and there will be a weight watcher open house Jan. 11. The new session will last 17 weeks. The cost will be \$176, which is a special rate – if 20 members sign up. For more information, call Ferne Wlodarski at 876-5640 or e-mail m.ferne.wlodarski@us.army.mil.

New Year's Eve

Join the Officers and Civilians Club for its annual New Year's Eve Gala on Dec. 31 at 6 p.m. There will be a dinner, a continental breakfast, champagne for toasting, and dancing. The "4-Door Rambler" will perform. This event is open to the entire Red-

stone community. Tickets are on sale for \$45 per person. For more information, call 830-2582.

Winter break camp

Child and Youth Services is accepting applications for youth to attend its School Age Services, Middle School, and Teen programs for winter break, Dec. 25 to Jan. 5. Youth are required to have a complete shot record and physical before registration. For more information, call 876-3704 or 313-3735.

Logistics course

To help local logisticians prepare for the May 2007 Certified Professional Logistician examination, the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics will provide a logistics course beginning Jan. 8. This course will be held Mondays from 5-7 p.m. and will run through April 30. The fee is \$100 for this 15-week course. For more information and to sign up, call Mike Osborne 842-3342.

Call for papers

A call for papers has been issued for the "Workshop on Algorithms for Autonomous & Aided Target Recognition" June 6-7 at Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Angie Cornelius at Angie.Cornelius@us.army.mil.

PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange will operate with the following hours Dec. 24-25: Main Store,

7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Concessions, closed Dec. 24-25. Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Barber Shop in building 3479, closed Dec. 24-25. GNC, noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Furniture, closed Dec. 24-25. One Stop, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 25. Service Station, closed Dec. 24-25. MCSS, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Food Court – Cinnabon, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Anthonys, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Robin Hood, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Baskin Robins, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and closed Dec. 25. Churchs, closed Dec. 24-25.

Items for bid

Morale Welfare and Recreation has listed

some items on eBay. You can bid on items like computers, printers, fax machines, monitors, sporting memorabilia and more. Also coming Jan. 8, MWR will list lots of exercise equipment. For details visit www.redstonemwr.com.

Veterinary clinic

The MWR Vet Clinic has a 13-week-old female puppy that needs a good home. “Lexi is a very playful and cute puppy,” a prepared release said. “Her shots and procedure to be spayed have already been paid for. She was a stray found here on Redstone Arsenal.” For more information, call 876-2441 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Unity breakfast

The Delta Theta Lambda Education Foun-

dation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. will hold the 22nd annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast on Jan. 15 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, is the scheduled speaker. The Birmingham native is a noted lecturer who has co-authored two books, “Beating the Odds” and “Overcoming the Odds.” The two bestsellers focus on parenting and high-achieving African-American males and females in science. For ticket information, call Timothy Richmond 859-3964 or Herman Thornton 852-8428.

Club dining hours

The Officers and Civilians Club has new dining hours. Lunch will be served Tuesday (German and ROCC) from 11 a.m. to

1 p.m.; Wednesday (German only) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday (ROCC only) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Friday (ROCC only) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dinner will be served Friday (ROCC) from 6-9 p.m., Friday (German) from 5-9 p.m., Saturday (ROCC) from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday (German) from 5-9 p.m. For more information, call 830-2582.

Dance classes

Register now through Jan. 9 for Single and Triple Swing Dance Classes. The cost is \$66 per couple. You must have a partner to take the class. Instruction is at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711 on the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads on Thursday nights at 7-9 from Jan. 11 through Feb. 22. For more information, call 876-4531.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?											
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U

AS OF 14 Dec 06

THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL

SCBK06660499	Lead Gen Engr	20-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06660499D	Lead Gen Engr	20-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06654652	Mgmt Assistant	20-Dec-06	Acq Supp Ctr	GS-0344	7	7	35,375 - 45,985		X				X		X	X	X	X		
SCBK06654652D	Mgmt Assistant	20-Dec-06	Acq Supp Ctr	GS-0344	7	7	35,375 - 45,985	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06692240	Electrical Engr	21-Dec-06	Acq Supp Ctr	NH-0855	3	3	62,751 - 97,003	X	X											
SCBK06692938	Logistics Mgmt Spec	21-Dec-06	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X												
SCBK06687111	Logistics Mgmt Spec	21-Dec-06	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X												
SCBK06670709	Lead Materials Engr	22-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0806	4	4	88,178 - 134,838		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06670709D	Lead Materials Engr	22-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0806	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06680385	Supv Gen Engr	26-Dec-06	Garrison	GS-0801	13	13	74,621 - 97,003			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06696252	Contract Spec	26-Dec-06	IMMC	GS-1102	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X												
SCBK06706348	Budget Analyst	27-Dec-06	SMDC	GS-0560	11	11	52,355 - 68,066		X											
SCBK06706038	Supv Contract Spec	27-Dec-06	SMDC	GS-1102	14	14	88,178 - 114,631			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06714110	General Engr	27-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	3	3	62,751 - 97,003		X											
SCBK06674805	Lead Elect Engr	28-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	88,178 - 134,838		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06674805D	Lead Elect Engr	28-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06658251D	Operations Research Analyst	28-Dec-06	USAASC	GS-1515	13	13	74,621 - 97,003	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06704240	Nursing Assistant (OA)	28-Dec-06	MEDDAC	GS-0621	4	4	25,525 - 33,187		X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06704240D	Nursing Assistant (OA)	28-Dec-06	MEDDAC	GS-0621	4	4	25,525 - 33,187	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06699071	Financial Sys Spec	28-Dec-06	AMC	GS-0501	11	11	52,355 - 68,066		X											
SCBK06724170	Logistics Mgmt Spec	28-Dec-06	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	65,832 - 97,003			X				X						X
SCBK06691196	Electrical Engr	31-Dec-06	Corp of Engrs Huntsville	GS-0850	13	13	74,621 - 97,003		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06731994	Electronics Engr	2-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	62,751 - 97,003		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06731994D	Electronics Engr	2-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	62,751 - 97,003	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06654490	Secretary (Steno/OA)	3-Jan-07	SMDC	GS-0318	9	9	43,271 - 56,258			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06693928	Lead Gen Engr	5-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06693928D	Lead Gen Engr	5-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06710896	General Engr	8-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838		X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06710896D	General Engr	8-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06698222	General Engr	10-Jan-07	TMDE	GS-0801	14	14	88,178 - 114,631	X	X											

THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOBS.OPM.GOV

SCBK06660499D	Lead Gen Engr	20-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06654652D	Mgmt Assistant	20-Dec-06	Acq Supp Ctr	GS-0344	7	7	35,375 - 45,985	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06670709D	Lead Materials Engr	22-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0806	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06674805D	Lead Elect Engr	28-Dec-06	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06704240D	Nursing Assistant (OA)	28-Dec-06	MEDDAC	GS-0621	4	4	25,525 - 33,187	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06658251D	Operations Research Analyst	28-Dec-06	USAASC	GS-1515	13	13	74,621 - 97,003	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06731994D	Electronics Engr	2-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	62,751 - 97,003	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06693928D	Lead Gen Engr	5-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK06710896D	General Engr	8-Jan-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	88,178 - 134,838	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)

- A** - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
- B** - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
- C** - Compensable Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
- D** - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
- E** - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements)
- F** - All Federal Employees serving on a career or career-conditional appointment (SF-50 documenting service required)
- H** - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)
- I** - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.)
- R** - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.)
- T** - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (SF-50 documenting service required)
- V** - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).
- U** - All U.S. citizens

NOTE: If you are interested, carefully read the announcement for the official area of consideration, qualification requirements, and application procedures.

NOTE: The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e. Cashier, Food Service, Custodial, Bartender, etc. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the web at www.redstonemwr.com or you may telephone 876-7772.

Resumes are now being accepted for [AMC Fellows](#) and [Business Enterprise Solutions Trainee](#). Visit www.amccareers.com or www.cpol.army.mil, search for **Vacancy Announcement Numbers: NEAEJ04710482 & NEAE04756647**, for more information.