

Redstone Rocket

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License plate registration on site

Madison County office
opening satellite at PX

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

Redstone Arsenal will soon be the newest home to a satellite of the Madison County License Department.

A county licensing satellite is tentatively scheduled to open March 1 in the Commissary/PX shopping mall.

But, if that news isn't big enough, here's something else to consider: The county licensing satellite is just one piece of a one-stop shopping plan Garrison officials have on the drawing board.

"Col. (John) Olshefski (the Garrison commander) has really been pushing the envelope to provide the Redstone Arsenal work force with the tools they need," said Todd Hutto, chief of plans, analysis and integration for the Garrison.

"We need more fast food, we need another gas station. We want more child care facilities. We're making a case that we need even more and more, specifically, along the Martin Road corridor. We are focused on the needs of the employees working here at Redstone Arsenal. The county licensing office is part of our plan for one-stop shopping."

The satellite became a possibility about six months ago when space at the Commissary/PX became available. The space is located just inside the door near the Commissary and includes two windows for transacting county license and tag business.

"A lot of people worked together to make this happen," said Carol Shattuck, an SAIC contractor who is a member of the BRAC Support Team.

"There was a lot of work and coordination by a whole team of Garrison staff and directorates to get this project up and going."

Shattuck served as the project's liaison between officials from the Arsenal's directorates of Morale Welfare and Recreation, Public Works and Emergency Services, and the Army/Air Force Exchange Service and Mark Craig, the Madison County license director, and his office. Redstone Arsenal is offering the office space in the shopping mall for the satellite to the Madison County License Department, which will equip and staff the office.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SELLING TAGS ON POST— Todd Hutto, chief of plans, analysis and integration for the Garrison, and Carol Shattuck, an SAIC contractor who is a member of the BRAC Support Team, are making plans for the opening of a Madison County License Department satellite on Redstone Arsenal. The satellite will be located in the Commissary/PX shopping mall. Its tentative opening is set for March 1. The satellite will provide easier and more convenient access to the Madison County License Department for Arsenal residents, Soldiers, civilian workers, contractors and retirees.

"We're excited about this new satellite," Craig said. "When we were approached about it, we thought it was a great idea and it just came down to working out the details ... This is the first satellite we've opened since the Meridianville satellite about five years ago."

Like Madison County's other five satellites, the Redstone Arsenal location will be able to register new vehicles and boats and issue tags, all for Madison County residents only. It will

also issue Alabama hunting and fishing licenses, and renew current Alabama driver's licenses.

It will not be able to issue new driver's licenses, reinstate expired driver's licenses or issue driver's licenses to out-of-state transferees, and it will not be able to conduct driver's license or boating license tests. Those services are provided by the State of Alabama through its Department of Public Safety located at 1115A Church St. in Huntsville.

"Negotiations are ongoing with the state to potentially get initial issue of driver's licenses," Hutto said, adding that if the state does add services to the satellite it could be on a part-time basis.

Craig said he is working with Arsenal officials and the state to get a state examiner assigned to the Arsenal location, particularly to help new Redstone Arsenal employees coming from out of state.

"We are pushing to have a state examiner there a couple of days a week to do out-of-state transfers," he said. "The satellite can do driver's license renewals from any county, but, right now, out-of-state transfers must go to the state examiner's office on Church Street. If the state comes into it, they will probably also be able to do state driver's license exams at the satellite."

Craig said state officials are planning an on-site visit to Redstone Arsenal. He hopes the state will make a decision by the satellite's March 1 opening date.

"Like with us, their decision will come down to a staffing issue," he said.

Even without state services, the satellite should still save Redstone Arsenal employees the time and trouble it takes to travel to the Madison County Courthouse or other satellites during work hours to conduct county business. Currently, Arsenal employees must either travel downtown to the Madison County Courthouse or to one of its satellites located in Huntsville at Parkway Place Mall and Southern Family Market on Bailey Cove Road, and in Meridianville, New Hope and Madison.

"We want to help make employees more productive," Hutto said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to take care of business right here on the Arsenal."

Hutto visualizes Arsenal employees traveling to the new satellite on their lunch breaks and other times of the work day to conduct their business quickly and easily.

There has long been a need for such a service on the Arsenal, Hutto said, because Redstone Arsenal draws thousands of employees and retirees every day. And, with those numbers growing as BRAC employees transfer to Redstone Arsenal, the demand for convenient services will grow.

"Right now, there are about 225,000 customers in an 80-mile

See Tags on page 9

An open lane random survey

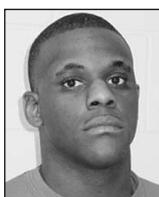
What do you think of this year's Super Bowl?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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*Christal Howard
Morale Welfare and Recreation*
"The Bears are going to win, because they've got a good team this year."

*David L. Wyatt
retired colonel*
"I think the Colts are going to win – maybe big. It won't surprise me if they win by 30. I hope they win by at least one (laugh). I think mainly the quarterback (Peyton Manning)" will be the difference.



*Sgt. Marvin Fletcher
Marine Detachment*
"It's amazing to see two African-American coaches actually in the Super Bowl. And this shows a lot."

*Maj. Tim Collins
commanding officer,
Marine Detachment*
"It's not who I wanted it to be (the San Diego Chargers), but it should be a good matchup. I favor the AFC (American Football Conference with the Colts)."



Quote of the week

'Great discoveries and achievements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds.'
— Alexander Graham Bell

Different view of band

Were there two New Year's Eve parties at the Officers and Civilians Club? I am not sure if my wife and I attended the same New Year's Eve party as Mr. Davenport (Jan. 17 letter to the editor). Our experience was exactly the opposite of his.

We enjoyed the music provided by the 4-Door Rambler. This band was voted the number three Blues band in the Tennessee Valley in 2005. If one does not care for this type of music, just say so. Don't demean the band members. Mr. Davenport might have avoided disappointment had he merely inquired about the band that was going to perform when he purchased his tickets. However, he probably just assumed that it would be a tired, old swing band performing the same tired, old music.

Further, to criticize the service and

food quality is beyond the pale. While we did not sample all the food that was presented, the menu was varied, well prepared and of sufficient quantity. Our server was polite and made sure our needs were met by checking with us often.

In regard to the ROCC management knowing their audience, perhaps what is needed in the ROCC is a bit younger crowd — I am only 60 years young and I had a great time. I will continue my membership and the threat not to is, in my opinion, a bit lame. I doubt that one membership, more or less, is going to cause the ROCC to go south.

Keep doing what you are doing, Bob (Howell, club manager), it was a great evening!

Harold F. Swanson
Navy retiree

St. Louis has hometown appeal

The article titled "Looking back at BRAC after a decade" (Jan. 17 *Rocket*) left me somewhat irritated. I felt that a slightly different view could also be offered.

I too was forced by the BRAC (base realignment and closure) to either relocate to Alabama and maintain a certain standard of living or decline and take my chances in a greatly diminished job market in St. Louis. However, while I can embrace some of the positive changes offered here I can surely do so without disparaging the city that I consider home.

During the last decade, Huntsville has grown by leaps and bounds. However, consider that growth is due in no small part to the infusion of 1,600 people from St. Louis, the accompanying support contractors and associated businesses and the considerable income that came with them.

I also miss the amenities that can be offered by a major city, i.e., the "real" Italian restaurants, real Chinese food that doesn't contain peas and carrots in the "fried" rice, the mass transit system, and the variety of entertainment venues that cater to every age group and culture.

Given the recent media coverage which focused on St. Louis at its worst, I think a lot of people have bought into the hype. Stereotypes are developed in much the same way.

I worked at the Goodfellow Boulevard facility from 1980 until we moved in 1997. I parked my car on all of the parking lots that served the facility. I never had a vehicle stolen, vandalized or otherwise damaged in that time. I've walked across the street to the parking lot in the early morning hours and in the late evening hours and never been accosted, with the possible exception of nearly being run over by some of the employees in their frantic attempt to access the interstate at whatever speeds necessary. I also don't recall anyone being shot or shot at while at work or on the parking lot.

St. Louis is a major city with urban problems like any other major city but it also offers a multitude of things that make it unique and appealing; such as the Gateway Arch, St. Louis Zoo, the Planetarium, Forest Park (not Forrest Gump), the Annie Malone Day parade and Fair St. Louis (formerly the Veiled Prophet or VP Fair), to name just a few.

I am very family oriented and I visit often, this is what makes it home to me — family, even when we are spread all across the country, St. Louis is the focal point and where we gather when we go home. So though there may not be any "misty eyed" sentimentality for some doesn't mean that it has no appeal for others.

Lula Adams

Angels to the rescue

Just when you need them most, caring people seem to miraculously appear out of nowhere. Jimmy and I would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Judy Rodriguez and Mr. Dave Sparks for coming to our rescue on the morning of Jan. 24. When our vehicle died on Neal Road, God supernaturally dispatched these two angels to our rescue. Thanks so much for caring and sharing.

Jimmy and Nita Lee

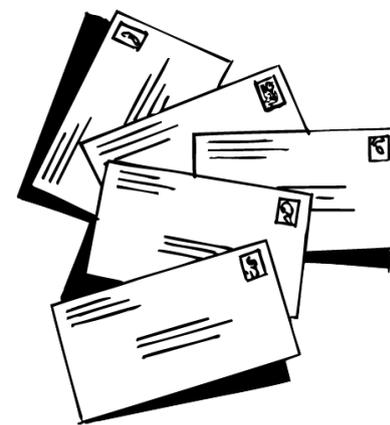
Wine of month club

Iwant to thank the MWR and especially Mr. Robert Schumann of the Redstone Officers and Civilians Club for their excellent support of the Redstone community. In particular I want to make sure everybody is aware of the new wine of the month club they are offering. Each month the ROCC will present selected bottles of a red and a white wine along with appropriate recipes for a meal. As many of you may or may not know, Alabama currently is one of the few states that makes it nearly impossible to join the various wine of the month clubs that are available in the U.S. I urge anybody who has interest to call Robert Schumann at 830-2582.

Bob Mulkey

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
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Name: Capt. Paul Laracy

Job: Officer in charge of the Tax Assistance Center, and a judge advocate in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

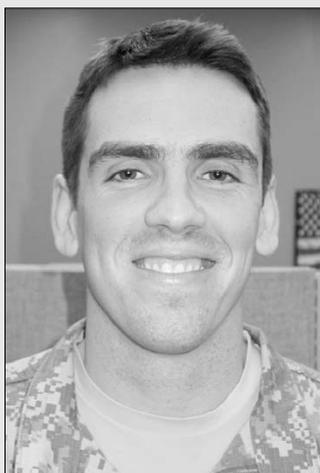
Where do you call home?
Jersey City, N.J.

What do you like about your job?

As a lawyer, I like providing sound legal advice, giving people peace of mind. And at the tax center, preparing people's returns gives them one less thing to worry about.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Most important thing is I like to spend time with my wife (Margaret). And I like to hike and to run – train for and run marathons.



What are your goals?

Right now I just want to get as many experiences as a judge advocate as I possibly can.

What's your favorite type of music?

Classic rock. I love Bruce Springsteen.

Hotel staff honored

The Air and Missile Defense Command and Control Systems has recognized the Candlewood Suites in Huntsville for its support during a training mission at Northrop Grumman Corporation.

"They have worked with us in many ways to ensure that all of the Soldiers being deployed needs are met during their stay," Michelle Roden, administrative assistant for CAS Inc. at C-RAM/AMDCCS Program Office, said. "They are always friendly, helpful and made the accommodations great."

Brocato convicted for his mother's death

30-year prison sentence follows guilty plea

The son of a Redstone worker was sentenced to 30 years in prison Jan. 23 for her murder two years ago.

Ryan Anthony Brocato, 19, was convicted after he admitted beating his mother to death Feb. 2, 2005 at their home in south-east Huntsville.

The body of Toni Brocato, 45, was found wrapped in a blanket that afternoon in the garage, according to published reports. Ryan, then 17, was arrested the next day in Manassas, Va., at the home of his father, B.C. Brocato.

Toni Brocato was remembered by Redstone acquaintances as a likeable person, hard worker and good mother. An employee of Computer Sciences Corporation, she was the group leader for the network support task at the Threat Systems Management Office. She had worked at that office for more than three years. Before that, she spent four years with NCCIM on the contract for personal computer network support at the Sparkman Center.

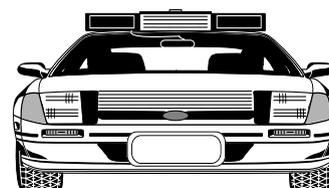


Courtesy photo
HAPPIER TIMES— Toni Brocato is shown with her son, Ryan, who pleaded guilty last week to her 2005 murder.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Jan. 23: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license when he was stopped on prior information. When a check was conducted, a warrant for his arrest existed from Guntersville



Police Department. He was arrested by Redstone Police; and after

receiving a citation, he was released to Guntersville Police Department.

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

Violation notices issued: 18 speeding, 1 driving with a suspended/revoked driver's license, 2 parking violations, 1 no proof of insurance.

Catholic community celebrates Mardi Gras

Party scheduled Feb. 16 at club

By DAVE MACEDONIA
For the Rocket

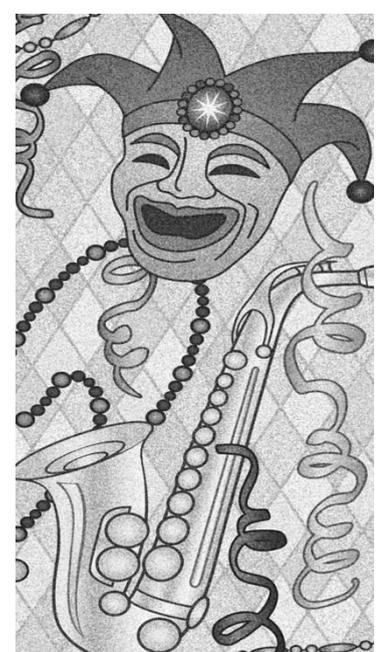
Members of the Redstone community are invited to the second annual Mardi Gras party hosted by the Catholic community of Bicentennial Chapel on Feb. 16 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The event will start with a social hour at 6-6:45 p.m. and dinner at 7.

What is a Mardi Gras? Although historians do not know the exact origins of Mardi Gras, this holiday came to New Orleans through its French heritage in 1699. Early explorers celebrated this French holiday on the banks of the Mississippi River.

The Mardi Gras season begins on Jan. 6 and continues until Fat

Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" and of course is celebrated on that day of the week. The date can fall between Feb. 3 and March 9 depending on the lunar calendar, used by the Catholic Church to determine the date of Easter. Mardi Gras is always 47 days before Easter Sunday.

A \$10 donation at the door is encouraged with the proceeds going to the Catholic High School Capital Improvement Fund. Sit down dinner; costume judging, silent auction and door prizes will be featured. For reservations, please call Demy Robley at 882-6064 (leave your name and phone number and state the number of people attending) or e-mail her at puaaloha@bellsouth.net. Cutoff for sign up is 4 p.m. Feb. 13. Please join us to help make this a very successful event.



Safety advice fit for office consumption

Ergonomics simply means fitting the work to the person. In the office, good ergonomics means selecting and properly using furniture, computers, lighting and telephones to fit the workers who use them, according to a manual provided by Garrison Safety.

Use of a desk, chair, computer and telephone requires that you practice good ergonomics or suffer discomfort, rapid fatigue and loss of productivity.

If your back aches because your chair does not support your lower back, your productivity and health will suffer. Your chair, desk, telephone, keyboard, monitor and mouse must all be positioned properly for you to be comfortable, productive and healthy.

The following tips will help you to adjust and use your office workstation for optimal comfort and health:

- Use a comfortable chair that supports your lower back. The edge of the chair should not cut into the backs of your thighs.
- Your feet should be flat on the floor or supported by a footrest.
- If available, adjustable armrests should be used. At a minimum, armrests should be comfortable and not in your way.
- Face your work straight on and avoid twisting your neck or torso. Your computer monitor

should be directly in front of you and not off at an angle.

- Your desk should be at a comfortable height for writing. Your computer keyboard and mouse should be at a comfortable height for extended usage; if necessary, use an adjustable height and tilt keyboard-mouse platform.

- When using the keyboard and mouse, keep your wrists straight and unbent in a comfortable, relaxed position.

- Adjust the monitor height so that the top of the screen is at or just below eye level. Insert books under the monitor for a quick,

easy way to raise the monitor.

- The monitor screen should be positioned approximately 24 inches from the eyes.

- Adjust lighting, window shades, and the angle of the monitor to minimize glare.

- Do not cradle the telephone between ear and shoulder. Hold it properly or use a headset or speakerphone. Headsets are recommended for workers who spend a lot of time on the phone.

- Lastly, control your weight, get plenty of exercise to maintain good muscle tone, and get regular vision exams.

Cold facts about saving energy

The Redstone Arsenal Energy Management Office wants to attune consumers to some common misconceptions:

Myth: Switching to electric room heaters will reduce your energy bill.

Fact: This is true only under some circumstances. If you have central electric heating, then using room heaters will most likely save you money. But, if you have central gas heating (which is cheaper per unit of useful heat), you can easily match or even exceed your heating bill by switching to electrical units.

Myth: Electric heating is more efficient than fuel-based heating.

Fact: It's true that all, or almost all, of the electricity that goes into an electric heater is transformed to useful heat in your home. However, making electricity is an inefficient process, with as much as two-thirds of the input energy (coal, natural gas, etc.) being lost in the process. This is why electricity is so much more expensive for the consumer than direct fuels.

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

Veteran builds place for Soldier stories

Museum founder named
Veteran of the Year

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Randy Withrow spends his days amidst the guns, swords, tanks, jeeps and uniforms displayed at the Veterans Memorial Museum.

Although not a historian by profession, Withrow is in his element at the museum, a walking encyclopedia of Soldier stories and military moments. His lifelong passion for collecting military artifacts and hardware, which he shared with his father, led to Withrow's work as the chief organizer and volunteer of an historical landmark that has been named Alabama's official veterans' museum by the state's House of Representatives.

Withrow is known in local veterans' circles for his dedication to preserving the history of the nation's Soldiers. Since 2000, he has led a small group of volunteers who have established the Veterans Memorial Museum, organized historical hardware, artifacts and documents into a vast array of interesting displays, obtained and repaired military vehicles and aircraft, and managed the museum's operating hours and special events, such as veteran reunions, school field trips and community gatherings. The group also recruits the manpower to make the museum's hardware available for Huntsville's Veterans Day Parade and other local events.

For his efforts, Withrow was named the 2007 Veteran of the Year by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition at its annual



Photo by Kari Hawkins

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VETERANS— Randy Withrow, founder of the Veterans Memorial Museum, poses with one of the favorite pieces of museum hardware — a regulation World War II jeep that he and his father purchased in 1977. The jeep is named “Big Job II,” and is featured in a “Willie-n-Joe” display that is tribute to World War II cartoonist Bill Mauldin.

meeting Jan. 17.

“We are fortunate to have a multitude of veterans that continue to serve this community,” said coalition president David Carney during the award presentation. “But, there is one veteran who stands out each year.”

This year, as the museum moves toward plans for a facilities expansion, the coalition recognized Withrow as a veteran who continues to serve by leading efforts to make the museum a place where veterans and the community can visit artifacts of

military eras and learn about the nation's military history.

“None of this is really about me,” said Withrow, trying to deflect any attention the coalition's award may draw to him.

“It's about all veterans and their families, and what they've done for us as a country. I am overwhelmed to get the award because it recognizes the work the volunteers here have done. We're focused on supporting our veterans and our country. We are all volunteers at the museum because we want to do the same

thing — pay tribute to the country's Soldiers.”

Withrow was born and raised in Gadsden. Even as a young boy, he admired Soldiers and the stories they had to tell.

“When I grew up, most everyone's dad or uncle was a World War II veteran,” said the 59-year-old retired lieutenant colonel, whose uncle served as a Soldier in the Pacific.

“I grew up in the shadow of World War II veterans, and I became inspired by them and interested in military history.”

Although Withrow's father had worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps and tried several times to join the Army during World War II, his height — 6-foot-9 — kept him from being a Soldier.

“He was too tall,” Withrow recalled. “So, my dad went to work for Republic Steel in security. He then changed to Goodyear, where he met my mom who joked that she was a ‘Rosie the Riveter.’ She made fuel cells for B24 liberator bombers.”

Collecting seems to have run in Withrow's family. His dad loved collecting Model A's and other antique cars. For himself, Withrow fell in love with the idea of owning a German helmet from World War II. But, it was a German sword that actually started Withrow's collection.

“I was in fifth grade and a classmate of mine brought in a German sword from World War II for his show-n-tell,” Withrow said. “I went home with him and talked to his dad, and he gave me that sword. I, later, got a German helmet and then one of each kind of German helmet. I actively collected German things. But, then after awhile, I realized I should be collecting American things.”

That realization started a 40-year-long hobby of collecting U.S. military artifacts that followed Withrow throughout his own military career.

As a young adult, Withrow wanted to take on the “ultimate job of a carrier pilot” in the Navy. But, he couldn't pass the eye test, so Withrow went on to graduate from the University of Alabama and work for the Pillsbury Company. He was considering joining the Army when his draft number was called. In November 1970 Withrow joined the Army

See **Veteran** on page 5

Veteran

continued from page 4

and was accepted for the Officer's Candidate School. But, OCS appointments were suspended because the Army was downsizing its officer corps as veterans were returning from Vietnam.

Withrow went on to work for the Inspector General's Office at Fort Lee, Va., and then, as a private first class, he worked in Germany for the deputy chief of staff for Intelligence. But, because his OCS appointment remained suspended, Withrow decided to leave the Army on the early release program. He obtained his MBA from Jacksonville State University, went to work for the U.S. General Accounting Office in Atlanta and continued to serve his country through the Reserves.

In 1974, with OCS once again an option, Withrow rejoined the Army. He graduated from OCS in 1975, and went to work for the Chaparral/Forward Area Alert Radar at Redstone Arsenal. Later assignments included serving in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division and in Germany with the 3rd Infantry Division. He also worked on the Hellfire/Ground Laser Designator Program, and as the chief of Combined Arms and Tactics at the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, both at Redstone Arsenal.

One laser designator assignment took Withrow to Beirut to train Marines in 1983. He completed the training and left Beirut just days before terrorists blew up the Marine barracks, killing 241 Marines.

Withrow had another close call in 1990 when he was serving as chief of the MICOM Field Office in Kuwait.

"I came home on my midterm leave in July and Kuwait was invaded in August and fell in two days," Withrow recalled of actions that led to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Unable to go back to Kuwait, Withrow was assigned to the MICOM Emergency Operations Center, where he coordinated logistics support for military hardware going to Saudi Arabia in support of U.S. efforts to free Kuwait. Later assignments were with the Intelligence Security Directorate, the SMART Weapons Management Office and the Defense Systems Management College at Fort Belvoir, Va., where he was a professor teaching program management, test and evaluation, and systems engineering courses.

In 1996, Withrow retired with just under 26 years in the Army. He settled with his wife Margaret, who is also a retired lieutenant colonel, and his daughter Sarah, in Huntsville. It was time for Withrow to focus on his family, and a vast collection of military artifacts that needed to be organized and displayed.

Over the years, Withrow and his dad had developed quite a collection, which was housed primarily in a pole barn at his parent's property. But, a 1993 blizzard caused the barn's roof to collapse and the collection was moved to a warehouse on Redstone Road. The collection was a stringboard for the museum.

One piece in the collection that was a special favorite to Withrow's dad was a regulation World War II jeep made by Ford.

"My dad wanted a World War II jeep," Withrow recalled. "There were 300,000 of them made by Ford. That sparked his interest in World War II and military vehicles."

The father and son bought a jeep in 1977 from a veteran who had purchased it at Fort McClellan in November 1945 during a Veterans Preference Sale. It is all original, except for the engine, which had to be rebuilt so the jeep can be used in parades.

"We had 13 things in this year's Veterans Day Parade," Withrow said. "We always supply AUSA with a truck up front so they can pass out flags, and we loan a truck to the 8th Air Force from World War II. And then we take as many jeeps, tanks and trucks that we can. This year we drove a World War II half track in the parade."

The museum opened on Veterans Day 2001 in an unused city hangar building just off Airport Road.

"We had started working on the museum in 2000 and we were making progress," Withrow said. "But, when 9/11 occurred, we worked hard to open on Veterans Day. We felt a need to do that to pay tribute to our veterans."

Now, plans are being discussed to add another building to the museum. Withrow would like to develop a museum archives and a learning center. He would like to display artifacts up to World War II in one building and artifacts from World War II to present in another building.

"I've been told we have more World War II representation for our size than anything short of the Patton Museum at Fort Knox (Ky.)," said Withrow, look-

ing over the hangar area that includes displays of Sherman tanks, a World War II M36 Tank Destroyer, a Vietnam Era AH-1 Cobra helicopter, a Vietnam Era Patrol Boat and the "Merci" 40 and 8 Boxcar.

"The purpose of all these vehicles and artifacts is to show people firsthand what their relatives served with and served in," Withrow said.

"This is not a war museum. It's not about war. What we're about are the veterans and respect for the veterans. Our displays help people learn about veterans and what they did for our country."

The museum is also the site for several local events, including the Madison County High School Social Science Fair in March, Army Emergency Relief Car Show in April and Historical Military Vehicle Rally in May. It hosts social gatherings, school tours, teacher workshops and veteran activities. It conducts interviews with veterans and stores them on DVDs, with copies going to the Library of Congress.

"We do basically anything we can to support veterans and educate the public," Withrow said.

The museum is self-sustaining, and relies on donations and community support. Its bylaws do not allow it to incur any debt. Withrow said plans for a second building will require a lot of financial and volunteer support to become a reality.

But, this Veteran of the Year is undaunted by this new task set before him. He attacks it with the precision and persistence of a Soldier with a mission.

To learn more about the museum or to volunteer, check out its web site at www.memorialmuseum.org or call 883-3737.

Marine boot camp leaves mark on defense civilians



Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert Beaver

OBSTACLE— Under drill instructor supervision, Redstone Arsenal's Sharon Mueller-Myers back crawls through a covert obstacle while conducting the bayonet assault course, as part of the Executive Leadership Development Program Jan. 9 at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. Mueller-Myers of Redstone Technical Test Center went to get a taste of Marine Corps boot camp as part of the Executive Leadership Development Program.

Recruit training depot visit part of exec development

By Lance Cpl. CHARLIE CHAVEZ
MCRD's publication "Chevron"

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, San Diego — Breaking away from the daily grind, 48 Department of Defense worldwide employees found themselves on the yellow foot prints of the depot in a small taste of Marine Corps recruit training Jan. 9-12.

The Executive Leadership Development Program is a DoD sponsored program designed to broaden leadership capabilities and provide a general understanding of the current military. Several of its members stopped at the depot and Edson Range, Weapons Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif., to witness the making of Marines.

The group battered the depot's bayonet assault course, hiked three miles, practiced Marine Corps martial arts and underwent simulated weapons training at Edson Range.

"I expected it to be difficult, and it was," said Love Rutledge, deputy branch head programs and resources, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. "This was a great experience for us to get firsthand knowledge about the common war fighter so we can learn how to help them better."

Business manager has 'awesome' time with Marines

Getting overview of military by touring defense agencies

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Sharon Mueller-Myers was still reveling in the memory of her experience at the Marine Corps boot camp.

Mueller-Myers of Redstone Technical Test Center joined other defense workers in January at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego as part of the Executive Leadership Development Program.

"I have to tell you this was really awesome,"

Visiting various military installations in the country, the group welcomed the chance to understand the difference between the services and their mission focuses.

"The entire focus of Marine Corps training seems very productive to the (central theme of) every Marine a rifleman," said Air Force Maj. Joe Dingman, pilot, Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

The transition recruits undergo between the moment they arrive for training and the day they graduate exemplifies the evolution from being an individual to working together as a team, Dingman said.

Air Force Maj. Steve Boatwright, pilot, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., said he was glad he was in the Air Force, because he was beginning to understand the extreme physical fatigue and mentally exhausting tasks Marines endure.

"I have all the respect in the world for Marines and what they do," Boatwright said.

During the third day of their visit, the group attended the depot's Morning Colors Ceremony and witnessed the graduation of the Marines of Company F.

"The small taste of Marine Corps boot camp will always be a significant experience to everyone who took part in the ELDP," Dingman said. "The Marines represent the tip of the spear for the military; they do their mission well and lead the way for other services to follow."



Sharon Mueller-Myers

said Mueller-Myers, chief of the business management office at RTTC. "The time we spent with the Marines we got a certificate that said we completed the first two minutes of Marine Corps recruit training."

That was enough to show her that their mindset is "absolutely amazing," she said.

The defense employees experienced the assault course that young Marine recruits go through. Mueller-Myers had her picture taken while crawling through a covert obstacle

during the bayonet assault course on Jan. 9, her 58th birthday.

See Camp on page 7

Art auction benefit with Western flair

Community invited to annual event

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY

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It's time once again for the Officer and Civilian Women's Club Art Auction. The annual event will be held Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Officers and Civilians Club. This year, bidders will be yelling "Ole!"

The auction is a fund-raiser for the women's organization which provides monies and services to the Redstone community, such as scholarships for military family members and donations to charities such as Army Emergency Relief and the Red Cross. It is their biggest event of the year. It is being billed as a fun and festive night-out for anyone in the community.

This year the event has a Southwestern flavor. Food and drink will be fiesta themed, as is the dress.

"People can come dressed in Western wear if they want. It's going to be a little more of a party atmosphere than before," Teri Holly, Art Auction co-chairman, said. "We're going to have a margarita bar."

While the art vendor supplying the main attraction has changed a couple of times over the past few years, this year will see a return to an old favorite, the Perry Berns Gallery of Dallas, Texas.

"We've had Perry in excess of 20 years, though we did not have him the past two years," Holly said. "He's returning by popular demand."

All artwork up for auction comes framed and matted, which is often the most costly part of purchasing new artwork. Pieces are also expected to sell in



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

SAMPLE FOR SHOW— From left, Lynn Carden and Teri Holly, Art Auction co-chairmen, show off some of the artwork available for bidding at the OCWC annual Art Auction with Evelyn Teats, Craft and Services Auction co-chairman, and Chris Swart, OCWC president.

many different price ranges, ensuring there should be something for every budget available.

"It's very affordable," Holly said.

The event is slated to begin at 5:30 p.m., with items ready for preview while attendees mingle and munch before the live auction begins at 7. Also during this time, the OCWC will hold a Craft and Services silent auction. Items for the silent auction have been donated by area businesses and individuals.

"It will go on before the art auction begins," Holly said. "Everyone will have to get their bids in on that before 7 o'clock."

Holly encourages the entire community to attend, even if they're not necessarily in the buying market.

"It's a lot of fun to just come out, support a great organization and just look even if you're not bidding," she said.

Dessert will follow the auction at 9. Tickets to the event are \$10 per person. For information call Teri Holly at 772-4245 or Lynn Carden at 533-6368.

War fighter training proves fun and educational

Camp

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"It was as realistic as it could be in a short time for novices," she said.

Mueller-Myers, who returned home Jan. 12, is traveling throughout the world for the Executive Leadership Development Program, a 10-month program which gives an overview of the Defense Department agencies. She and the other workers have already been to Korea for the Air Force and Army, to Hawaii for all the armed services, to San Diego for the Marines and Navy, and on Saturday traveled to Colorado Springs, Colo., for the Air Force.

"If it (Colorado Springs) is half as good as it was with the Navy and Marines it'll be truly awesome," she said.

The 48 defense workers are getting an overview of the Defense Department and the war fighter, and what leaders are

doing to help the war fighter. "This is really giving me a new perspective on the big picture," Mueller-Myers said.

The program will culminate in June in Washington, D.C., when the workers do a briefing to the secretary of defense or his deputy.

Mueller-Myers and her husband, Chuck, who does foreign military sales for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, have two daughters. Tiffany Myers-Craven, 29, resides in Huntsville; and Nichole Cavin, 28, lives in Orangeburg, S.C.

Mueller-Myers started working for the government in 1985, arrived at Redstone in 1987 and joined RTTC in 1991. She applied for the Executive Leadership Development Program and was accepted.

"I think this is really cool because this is a great program," she said. "How could somebody not want to do this?"

Laughing, she said, "It's not just fun, I really am learning something."

Tax assistance center open for business

*Free preparation service
for military community*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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People have already started converging on building 3489 at the corner of Ajax and Zeus Roads.

That's the home of the Tax Assistance Center, which had its grand opening Jan. 22. The center, open until April 16, provides free tax preparation and filing assistance for active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents.

"We're excited to get started," Capt. Paul Laracy, the officer in charge, said. Last year's center saved clients more than \$400,000 in tax preparation and filing fees and helped obtain almost \$2.5 million in refunds.

"I think this is great," Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski said during the grand opening. "I love what you all do here."

Col. Kathryn Sommerkamp, the staff judge advocate, said she finds it easy to have her taxes done at the cen-

ter.

"I know from my own personal experience what great service we get here at the tax center," she said. The center continuously improves by learning from the year before, she added.

The staff includes 20 IRS-trained Soldiers and civilian volunteers who serve as income tax assisters under the supervision of the Office of Staff Judge Advocate.

"I think it's a good way to help out," retired Col. David L. Wyatt, in his sixth year as a tax volunteer, said. "I spent 30 years in the Army and I think it would've been great if we'd had a tax center when I was in the Army because I always needed help (laugh). I think we do a lot of good here."

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with tax return preparation offered by appointment only. Services are also offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7 by appointment. Walk-ins are welcomed for E-4s and below during the extended evening hours only. All others must make an appointment. For an appointment or more information, call the center at 842-1040.



HAPPY RETURN— Sharing a laugh at the Tax Assistance Center are, from left, Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski, center officer-in-charge Capt. Paul Laracy, staff judge advocate Col. Kathryn Sommerkamp and center NCO-in-charge Sgt. 1st Class Walter Latham.

Photo by Skip Vaughn



Photo by Bill Richardson

Financial talk

Terry Placek, the comptroller proponenty program manager and chief, Comptroller Proponenty Office, responsible for the career management, education, training and professional development of the Army's military and civilian financial management professionals, was guest speaker at the Jan. 11 American Society of Military Comptrollers luncheon. Her topic was the "Financial Management Professional Comptroller Development Opportunities."

■ County license department coming to Redstone Arsenal

Tags

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radius who work here and use these facilities," he said.

"About 26,000 people come on the Arsenal each day. So, there was already a need for a satellite on the Arsenal. But, BRAC was the straw that broke the camel's back. We needed this, but now it is even more valuable ... There are almost 5,000 new employees that could come here because of BRAC. This is all part of Team Redstone's efforts to support current and new employees."

Craig agreed that BRAC concerns were a driving force behind the decision to open an Arsenal satellite. "We are trying to ease their transition," he said.

In 1995, the city, county and state opened a temporary satellite office at then Parkway City Mall to assist BRAC transferees.

"But, this will be even better because this will be closer to employees," Hutto said. "What the Madison County community did in 1995 and what it is doing now shows how much they kick in to help us. The Madison County Commission is setting up this office all at their own expense ... When you look at the big picture, what the county has done for us is really phenomenal."

The other difference from the 1995 facility, Craig said, is that the Arsenal satellite is a permanent addition to the department's satellite locations.

Team Redstone is always looking for ways to provide new and better services to its work force and residential community. That team, Hutto said, includes not only on-post organizations, but also off-post agencies.

"I've worked on five installations in my civil service career, and I've never seen the community stand up and support an installation like this one does," he said.

There is an expectation that the satel-

lite will help encourage a synergy between the services it offers and the fast food restaurants at the shopping mall and other nearby services and amenities. While at the shopping mall, employees can also take advantage of the lunchtime restaurants located just down the hall from the satellite.

"Anyone who can get on Redstone Arsenal – including contractors, civil service employees and military retirees – can eat in the food court at the shopping mall," he said.

In return, the county hopes the satellite will help reduce lines at its other offices.

"We feel it will take some of the burden off all the other locations in the county," Craig said. "This new one should be busy ... The thing that made this possible was that we were offered space, and Mike Gillespie (county commission chairman) and the Madison County Commission allowed us to add another person to our staff. It would have been hard to pull someone out of another satellite because all of them are so busy."

All satellites of the licensing department are located in rent free space provided by businesses or city governments, with one satellite located in each of the commissioner's districts.

The licensing satellite is one of several additions the Garrison hopes to make to the shopping mall area. Potential plans include a new PX facility, expanding the Commissary, and adding restaurants and a gas station at various places on post. Many of those decisions will be dependent on participation with the Army/Air Force Exchange Service, which owns the franchises for the post's fast-food restaurants and stores, and on available funding.

"It would be nice to have a lot of these services on Redstone, rather than having to go off post. It's really a quality of life issue," Hutto said.

"We want this to be the best installation in the Department of Defense. The satellite is one positive step in that direction."

Artillery members celebrate successful year

Association presents awards, marks weapon achievements

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

Celebrating St. Barbara's Day, the North Alabama Field Artillery Association enjoyed toasts, dinner, a video and a skit as well as the now-famed Artillery Punch Ceremony on Jan. 19 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

The association also presented awards and inducted 22 men into the order of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of artilleryman. Saint Barbara was killed by her father, with her father being struck down and killed by a lightning bolt after the murder in the 4th century. That avenging lightning bolt signifies the artilleryman's hope for protection as well as pursuit of selfless service and dignified service.

Two women were inducted into the order of Molly Pitcher, for support emblematic of artillery wife Mary Hays McCauly, who shared the rigors of Valley Forge.

The more than 270 'Redlegs' also received remarks from Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space.

"Since I'm the two-minute man when it comes to speeches, and a tanker, I feel that I can do this job," Cannon said. "There are a lot of things that happened last year in the field artillery that are the most critical things in a long time.

"These things are historically significant



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

KING OF BATTLE— From left, Maj. Craig Ravanell, 'Army Aviator'; Marine John Picudella, 'Infantryman'; Marine Maj. Bill Rice, 'Tanker'; kneel in respect before a Field Artilleryman during a skit Jan. 19 at the Officers and Civilians Club. At right, Ed Poniatowski, 'Devil,' and Bill McArdle, 'Father Time,' provide "historical perspectives" during the comedic lampoon of fellow Soldiers. Gus Gerasimis also delivered 'divine' comments during the Genesis of the Field Artillery presentation.

in how the field artillery and the air defense artillery react and further define how historic these events really are.

"First, BRAC (base realignment and closure) is forcing together two organizations that had grown apart, pushing the field artillery and the air defense artillery into a single organization at Fort Sill, Okla. Reintegrating that heritage will be historic.

"Also, significant acquisition events will shape the future of the field artillery. Last

year, we saw the first use – in anger – of the Guided MLRS Unitary. We did that in an urgent materiel release in less than six months. Soldiers have used the unitary in ways that we did not anticipate. For example, Soldiers took out a bridge with three GMLRS rounds. Nobody thought that we would do that, but we did."

Saint Barbara inductees honored

The Order of Saint Barbara is an honorary military society of the U.S. Field Artillery. Both Marine and Army field artillery along with their military and civilian supporters are eligible for membership.

The order is managed by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and two levels of recognition exist. The most distinguished level is the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara and those who are selected for this honor have achieved long-term, exceptional service to the field artillery surpassing even their brethren in the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service and sacrifice symbolized by Saint Barbara.

Representing a wide variety of government employees and government support

That level of precision is going to change the way that the field artillery operates in the future.

Cannon also said that in 2006 the 155-millimeter Excalibur GPS-guided, fire-and-forget precise munition was approved for production.

"That round has not been fired in anger yet, but will be in the coming year," he said. "Excalibur will further shape the way that the field artillery goes."

The Global War on Terrorism drew one last highlight.

"We put HIMARS in Afghanistan," Cannon said. "And it's being used to great effect. In fact, a lot of things that the Air Force is getting credit for are being done by the field artillery with ATACMS.

"The next time you hear something about a 500-pound bomb, you might want to scratch your head and ask yourself: 'Who really did it?'"

Cannon summed up by lauding the Non-Line of Sight Launch System for successfully completing its Critical Design Review in 2006.

"Soldiers are going to figure out some neat ways to use that weapon system," he said. "That system alone is going to reshape the way we think about how we fight, using field artillery.

"So, remember 2006 10 years from now. Because that decade is going to be a lot different; it will be an interesting and thought-provoking time when you look back."

contractors, 2007 Honorable Order of Saint Barbara awardees are: D-Ann Norris, Stephen Hettinger, Terry Bridger, Richard Edwards, Gerald Sloan, Oscar De La Barcena, Glen Sutton, Scott Speet, Jim Ayers, Jay Smith, David Moultrie, Albert "Jarrry" Mandrell, Alphonso Midgett, Deborah Burke, John Boykin, Rodney Roberts, Tuan Bui, Brennon Meals, William Boykin, Alex Dinh, Billy Brewer and Robert Walls.

Kelley Boykin and Diane Caldwell received Molly Pitcher awards.

For her heroic role, Gen. George Washington himself issued Pitcher a warrant as a noncommissioned officer. Thereafter, she was widely hailed as "Sergeant Molly." A flagstaff and cannon stand at her gravesite in Carlisle, Pa. A sculpture on the battle monument commemorates her courageous deeds.

Retiring program analyst won't miss morning alarm

Fixed Wing Product Office says goodbye to Billie Perkins

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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After nearly 40 years of working for the government, she's earned the right to sleep late every morning.

Program analyst Billie Perkins of the Fixed Wing Product Office has retired with 39 years and two months service. A reception in her honor was held Jan. 24 in Sparkman Center building 5308.

"The journey has been great," Perkins said. "I'm glad that I was a government employee."

She worked 22 years with the Tennessee Valley Authority before arriving at Redstone in February 1989, where she spent the past 17 years.

Perkins, 59, is originally from Long Island, Ala., a small community in Jackson County. "It's across the river from Bridgeport, Ala.," she said. "In fact I went



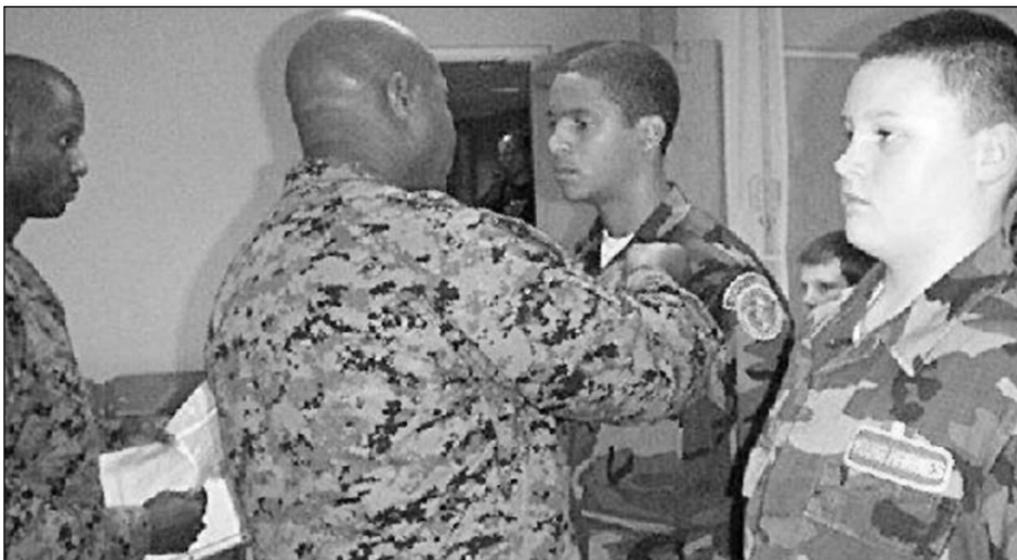
Photo by Skip Vaughn

BEST WISHES— Billie Perkins of the Fixed Wing Product Office gets a hug from contractor Michael Kather during her retirement reception Jan. 24.

to Bridgeport High School."

Her husband, Ed, is a contractor with the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Asked about her plans, she said, "Just to travel and enjoy not having to get up and come to work."



Courtesy photo

Young Marines

1st Sgt. Alan Caldwell, commanding officer of the Young Marines of North Alabama, promotes Young Marine Corbin Hammac to lance corporal. The Young Marines program's home is the Marine Corps Training Center at 3506 South Memorial Parkway. From left are Cpl. Craig Johnson, Caldwell, Hammac and Young Marine Sean Herron. For more information on the program, call 213-9683 or 682-4835.

Drill Sergeants compete for coveted title

Brigade's Drill Sergeant of Year to be announced Friday

By Sgt. ELIAMAR TRAPP

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The 59th Ordnance Brigade is hosting one of the most intense and fast paced competitions of the year which will award one individual the title of Drill Sergeant of the Year.

From Jan. 29 through Feb. 2, the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School drill sergeants are competing against each other for the title of 59th Ordnance Brigade 2007 Drill Sergeant of the Year. The winner will represent the 59th Ord. Bde., OMEMS and Redstone Arsenal at the Training and Doctrine Command Drill Sergeant of the Year competition in June.

"The DSOY competition represents the competitive spirit among the individuals that have been selected by the Department of the Army to train

America's newest Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle, 59th command sergeant major. "(The competition) pits drill sergeants against drill sergeants to see which drill sergeant is worthy and prepared to go on to compete at the TRADOC level competition."

Throughout the weeklong event, the drill sergeants are tested on their rifle marksmanship skills, physical fitness, land navigation, tactical skills and leadership; they appear before a formal board and are evaluated on a series of performance task modules and in combatives. The 59th Ord. Bde. has drill sergeants at Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Gordon, Ga., Redstone Arsenal and for the first time ever at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Out of the four locations, four drill sergeants were chosen to compete for this year's title. The competitors are from the 73rd Ordnance Battalion, 59th Ord. Bde., at Fort Gordon, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment at Eglin Air Force Base, and the 832nd Ordnance Battalion at Redstone.

This year's competition, however, will

be more intense, said Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Scott, 2006 59th Ord. Bde. Drill Sergeant of the Year.

"We've included more things that will reflect events the winner should expect at the TRADOC level competition," Scott said. As the 2006 DSOY, he won second place at the TRADOC competition and brought back valuable feedback to help prepare this year's competitors for TRADOC. "I'm trying to make (the competition) as challenging as what I experienced at the TRADOC level. We don't want to get second place again, we want to take it all this time."

Battle said having Scott anchoring the brigade competition is a plus because his experiences will help better prepare the winner to compete at the TRADOC level.

Winning the title of DSOY does come with added responsibilities. One of the big duties that come with the title of Drill Sergeant of the Year is ensuring the Drill Sergeant Program is running well within the brigade. The DSOY also serves as the liaison between the brigade drill sergeants and TRADOC and is responsible for the Initial Entry Training Accession Inspection which takes place in April.

"A big misconception about winning this title is that you're going to get special treatment," Scott said. "You can look forward to special recognition but don't have the misconception that you won't have to perform drill sergeant duties. This is only an added responsibility. (Being the DSOY) never got me out of doing anything; it just added more to my plate."

Said Battle, "The biggest bonus to becoming the drill sergeant of the year is definitely the recognition, but more importantly, the recognition received from the more than 30 drill sergeants within the brigade, who know that individual winner has truly shown the desire, the capability, the motivation, will and the winning spirit to be recognized as the Drill Sergeant of the Year."

As for Scott, he's accomplished his mission and on Thursday will exchange his campaign hat for an extra rocker, as he gets promoted to the rank of master sergeant and simultaneously removes his campaign hat permanently and officially goes "off the trail."

"This has been a satisfying experience," Scott said. "I went against my peers and came out number one."

Scott's final role as the brigade DSOY will be to pass on the DSOY badge to this year's winner, which will be announced during the DSOY luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club.

For tickets or for more information on the competition, call Sgt. 1st Class Warnie Stokes at 842-9794.

Meet the competitors for Drill Sergeant of Year

Here are the candidates in the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition.

- **Competitor:** Staff Sgt. James Horrocks, "Stealth Bombers!"
- **B Company, 73rd Ord. Bn., 59th Ord. Bde., Fort Gordon, Ga.**
- **Specialty:** Avionic Systems Repairer
- **Hometown:** Idaho Falls, Idaho
- **Time on the trail:** From August 2005 to present
- **Time in service:** Nine years

"I became a drill sergeant to train and instill discipline in Soldiers. I believe the drill sergeant position is important because we accept the responsibility of training new Army volunteers and ensure they are mentally and physically ready to fight our nation's wars. The most motivating part of being a drill sergeant is watching the Soldiers learn and grow as they progress through the Soldierization process. The most fulfilling part about my job is watching Soldiers graduate and go into the Army ranks knowing they are prepared for the beginning of their military careers. This opportunity has allowed me to learn and grow as a leader. I'm competing in the DSOY competition because I believe it will show me my strengths and weaknesses and will allow me to strengthen those weaknesses so that I can better care for my Soldiers. When my Soldiers leave here I know they will always remember me for placing training improvised explosive devices in the barracks to see if they could spot them - attention to detail is key."



Staff Sgt. James Horrocks

- **Competitor:** Staff Sgt. Stanley Blanco, "Initial Success or Total Failure!"
- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Detachment, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.**
- **Specialty:** Multiple Launch Rocket System Repairer
- **Hometown:** Barstow, Calif.
- **Family:** Wife, Shantel, sons, Tier, 11, and Xavier, 1.
- **Time on the trail:** Four months
- **Time in service:** 13 years

"I became a drill sergeant because I wanted the opportunity to train and mentor our future leaders. I believe that our role as drill sergeants is very important because we are the first noncommissioned officers to instill discipline, coach, train, evaluate and mentor young Soldiers - we are their first Army role models. At the end of the day, the most fulfilling part about my job is knowing that I have made a difference in a young Soldier's life. This position has greatly impacted my life because I know that as a drill sergeant I have influenced young Soldiers to make the right decisions for their future. Through long days and long hours these young Soldiers are what keep me motivated. I say that because there is always a Soldier that feels they need to compete with their drill sergeant so you need to make sure you can keep up. I am competing for the title of DSOY because others have faith in me winning this competition. Regardless to whether or not I win, I know that I can help push the other competitors and intensify the competition. When my Soldiers leave training I know they will always remember me for my consistency because I'm the same way every day, hard but fair. I can now relate to the way my drill sergeants were when I was a young Soldier. I can now see that it takes a lot of hard work, dedication and motivation on a daily basis without easing up to wear this hat. As a combat veteran I believe that I can better train Soldiers by sharing with them my experiences and letting them know what to expect."



Staff Sgt. Stanley Blanco

- **Competitor:** Staff Sgt. James Zurcher, "Cougars at the ready!"
- **C Company, 73rd Ord. Bn., 59th Ord. Bde., Fort Gordon, Ga.**
- **Specialty:** Special Equipment Repair
- **Hometown:** Dayton, Texas
- **Family:** Wife, Rebecca, sons, Joseph, William and Nicholas, and daughter Catherine.
- **Time on the trail:** 11 months
- **Time in service:** 14 years

"I joined the Army to be all that I could be. I became a drill sergeant because it was a goal I set for myself as the next step in my military career prior to my retirement. I believe the position of a drill sergeant is very important because we are the standard bearers who ensure the civilians joining the military are ready to join the Army's ranks. The most fulfilling part about this job is watching the transformation from civilian to Soldier - a Soldier whom I'd look forward to deploying with. The most motivating part about this job, however, is knowing that I'm making an impact on all those fresh, new minds that are entering the military. Drill sergeant duty has definitely been an experience which I will never forget. It has made me more knowledgeable about the military and has helped me become a better NCO. It has also impacted my family life. The long hours and sacrifices have taken a toll on us but it has also made us grow closer and it has taught us to enjoy every moment we're together. I'm competing for the title of 2007 Drill Sergeant of the Year because I truly feel that I am the best drill sergeant in the 73rd Ord. Bn., 59th Ord. Bde., Fort Gordon, Ga. I would also like to see how I measure up against the other drill sergeants in TRADOC. When my Soldiers leave training I think they will always remember me for two things - my level headed manner in every situation and the phrase '25.' When a Soldier committed an infraction simply said '25' which represents the number of push ups they have to do. As a combat veteran I believe that sharing my experiences with my Soldiers will help ease the minds of those who fear deployments because I can provide an idea of what they should expect."



Staff Sgt. James Zurcher

- **Competitor:** Sgt. 1st Class James Epps, "Charlie Rocks!"
- **C Company, 832nd Ord. Bn., 59th Ord. Bde.**
- **Hometown:** Yazoo City, Miss.
- **Family:** Wife, Yolanda, sons, James, Ja-Nasha, and daughter Jasmine.
- **Time on the trail:** 11 months
- **Time in service:** 16 years

"I became a drill sergeant to lead Soldiers. I believe this position is important because it's the cornerstone of our role as leaders for incoming servicemembers. Knowing that I have the opportunity to make a difference in Soldiers' lives is the most fulfilling part about this job. As fulfilling as my position may be, Christ is my main motivator through it all. This position has impacted my life greatly in a positive manner. I will never forget the importance of how valuable training is for Soldiers. As a drill sergeant, I can now relate to my drill sergeants from when I was a young Soldier. They were professional, firm and always fair. I ensure to do the same with my Soldiers. When they leave here I hope they will remember me for that, but most of all, I hope they remember that I was a God fearing man. As a combat veteran I hope to gain the confidence of my Soldiers by sharing with them some of my experiences."



Sgt. 1st Class James Epps

Marine proud to make a difference

Combat veteran serves in recruiting station

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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When Marine Sgt. Cary Ballard walks down a hall in a local high school or has lunch with a recruit in the mall, he doesn't have any problems getting people's attention – and admiration.

On his uniform, Ballard wears some of the highest military honors a servicemember can receive. At the age of only 25, Ballard is the most highly decorated Marine working out of the Marine Recruiting Station in Huntsville.

"I've gotten great expressions of 'thank you,'" he said. "There's a lot of support out there for what we do."

The military honors that get the most attention are the shiny gold, coin-shaped medals that hang on his uniform just above his left chest pocket.

One is the Joint Service Commendation Medal that Ballard earned while serving in late 2004 with the Multi-National Security Transition Team in Iraq, where he was the only Marine serving as a member of a Rough Rider secu-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WITH HONORS— Sgt. Cary Ballard is the highest-decorated Marine recruiter working out of Huntsville's Marine Recruiting Station. At age 25, he has already received the Combat Action Badge, Joint Service Commendation Medal and Joint Service Achievement Medal for his service in Iraq and Kuwait. The medals often draw expressions of gratitude from local citizens.

rity team.

Another is the Joint Service Achievement Medal which Ballard received for the contributions he made during those four months of service with the Rough Riders.

"Our convoy tactics were implemented all throughout other services," Ballard said of the Rough Rider team.

"We were known of not being conservative. We set standards and helped implement standards for Rough Riders in Iraq."

His Navy Achievement Medal was awarded for service in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion from January to June 2003.

"I was the yard NCO for a group that was in charge of making sure forward forces in Iraq got what they needed to accomplish the mission," Ballard said.

And, his Good Conduct Medal is one of two he has received during his eight years of service in the Marines.

But, Ballard's most prestigious decoration rests on the right side of his uniform above his chest pocket, somewhat overshadowed by the shiny medals. It is the Combat Action Ribbon.

"I got that for about 15 minutes of work in a firefight with insurgents in November 2004," Ballard said. "Our job was to escort a convoy of civilian resupply trucks filled with things like pillows, ammunition and food."

The convoy – consisting of four Humvees and 18 four-wheeler trucks – was moving slowly to its destination. The attack came as it traveled along a one-lane highway ramp that was enclosed by walls.

"An IED blew up and killed one of the Iraqi drivers and every truck behind it was stuck," Ballard recalled. "They were firing on us from 15-story buildings and 12 other insurgents ambushed us from the right side."

Ballard was traveling in the second security vehicle of the convoy.

"Those of us up front didn't realize some of the trucks had stopped until we had radio confirmation," he said. "We were told by radio they were receiving enemy fire. They were behind us about 500 yards."

Ballard was among the Rough Riders that returned fire on the insurgents.

"We were kind of a prime target for them," he said. "But, we got out of there. We suppressed the enemy fire and we made it out alive, other than the one casualty. We took out the enemy threat. I received the Combat Action Medal because this Marine has been in actual combat where he fired a weapon upon the enemy. It was my first firefight, but it's not the last one."

Ballard joined the Marines in 1999 during his senior year of high school at Vestavia Hills in Birmingham. Although an honorable decision, it went against the family tradition.

"My dad was in the Navy. He is a Vietnam veteran," Ballard said. "My whole life I always said 'life father, like son.'"

Ballard spoke to a Navy recruiter. But, a Marine recruiter also came to his high school and spoke with Ballard in a one-on-one conversation.

"After 30 minutes, I came out of that meeting with a big smile on my face," he recalled. "I wanted to be a part of the best."

For Ballard, the Marine Corps was his choice. The Marines offered all the other things the military branches offered – travel, college opportunities, career possibilities. But, somehow, to Ballard, it also offered something more.

Local area represents hotbed for recruiting

Recruiters say some of best drawn from North Alabama

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Quotas don't seem to bother the military recruiting stations in North Alabama.

This area is known for its sense of patriotism, a feeling that extends to young people who are interested in the military's career, education and travel opportunities.

"We're meeting our quotas in this area," said Capt. Cyrus Russ of the Army's Recruiting Company headquarters right outside Redstone Arsenal on Jordan Lane.

"We have recruiting stations in Florence, Decatur, Cullman, Athens and Huntsville, and last year we had 650 recruits."

That's the feeling across the four military recruiting stations in Huntsville.

"It's a lot easier to recruit out of this area," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Alberto Ortiz, who came here from a recruiting station in New Jersey.

"There are a lot of military retirees and there are a lot of people here who have been in the service. Having Redstone Arsenal here helps us. But, that doesn't mean the Army benefits the most. This month alone, I've enlisted three young people whose parents are active duty in the Army."

Ortiz came to Huntsville in the fall and has been here about three months, which are normally the slowest months for recruiting.

"From May to about October we are swamped," Ortiz said. "This is supposed to be the slowest time of year for us, but it's just been crazy. My first three months here our numbers were outstanding. Our numbers are still high as far as enlisting Marines. We have a lot of candidates, a lot of prospects who have the potential to enlist."

Plenty of opportunity

The Air Force and Navy are also experiencing good recruiting in the Huntsville area.

"There is plenty of opportunity for anybody in the military," said Air Force Master Sgt. Rodney Dailey of the local Air Force Recruiting Station.

"It can offer a career or job security. It can offer you a chance to do something with your life."

Not only are young people in this area open to the possibilities of serving their country. They are also some of the best recruits.

"Out of the Soldiers we put in the Army from this area, we have an over 90 percent retention rate in basic training," Russ said.

"Basic training is a crucial time because for many recruits it's their first time away from home and the physical training can be tough. But, our recruits have no problem making it through basic training."

This is the time of year when recruiters begin to talk seriously with young people about the opportunities the

Hotbed

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military has to offer. It is a busy time because seniors in high school are now making decisions about their future.

"Most of our applicants come out of the high schools here," said Navy Senior Chief John McFall of the local Navy Recruiting Station.

"It starts to become busier this time of year because seniors are realizing they need to take the next step to prepare for after graduation. End of January and early February really builds our momentum."

And, although the military branches have a wide age range to target (the Army's is 17 to 42 years old), the primary focus of recruiting efforts is on high school seniors and college freshmen.

"School visits are the majority of what we do," Russ said.

"We are looking for academically eligible students. We are looking for scholars. We are looking for students who score high on the ASBAT. We like students who are well-rounded, who are involved in student activities and athletics."

Attitude matters

Although experience in Junior ROTC programs is commendable, it is not a qualification. Recruiters are looking for stu-

dents who are "morally, mentally and physically qualified," McFall said.

Attitude also matters in recruits, said Army recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Gaylord.

"We want to recruit patriotic people," he said. "We want people who want to go out and do something with their lives, and take advantage of the opportunities the Army has to offer."

Many recruiters use their own military careers as examples of what young people can do in the military. Though their careers have been filled with opportunities, recruiters don't try to gloss over any of the facts.

"We will get questions about going to war and the possibility of getting killed," Gaylord said.

"There's always that fear of the unknown. But, we tell them there is a chance they will get hit by car. There are chances in everything in life."

Recruiters who have been in the military for any length of time can tell recruits about what they've liked and not liked about their service.

"When I joined the Navy, I didn't know what made the Navy stand out to me," McFall said.

"But, now with 18 years of experience in the Navy, I've had good and even bad experiences. I've been through the ups and downs. The Navy (and any branch) is

not a bed of roses. Anything worth doing is going to be hard work. But, what the Navy (and other branches) has to offer is opportunity."

Positive message

The four military branches don't recruit against each other. Instead of talking down other branches, recruiters focus on the benefits of their branch of service.

"We put out there what the Navy has to offer and we let them make their determination," McFall said.

Although recruiting in the high schools centers around seniors, McFall said military recruiters make themselves available to all students.

"We can offer high schools our experience and we can share that in the classroom," he said. "We are there to support the teachers and to talk to students about the life lessons we have learned. Our recruiting guidelines say we can only actively recruit seniors. But, we can talk to anyone to plant the seeds of the idea of military service."

The branches are, indeed, more casual when talking to high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Things get serious, though, when they talk to seniors.

"We provide them with a lot of information," Ortiz said.

"They want to know about careers and college and bonuses. But, their decision to join the military often comes down to something you can't buy in a store. It's not tangible. It has to do with patriotism and the pride they feel in what they are doing."

Russ and Gaylord like to get a potential recruit's family involved in the decision making process early on. A student who is

interested in the Army is given a pre-test to explore what types of jobs they qualify for and what they can do. Recruiters talk to the student and their parents about career options based on that test and the student's interests.

"It's really important to talk about career options because we want our recruits to see this as an opportunity to begin a career with the Army," Gaylord said.

"We do a lot of goal setting to help the recruit decide what they want to accomplish in their life. We look at where they are now and what they need to do to meet those goals and how the Army can help them in meeting those goals."

Those plans can get pretty specific, depending on the recruit, Dailey said.

"First, they want to serve their country," he said. "But, then, if they say they want to fly a plane we explain the entire scenario of what they need to do to become a pilot."

Yet, Ortiz said, the final decision often doesn't come down to what one branch can offer over another branch, but what a recruit feels on another level.

"If they choose the Marines, it is something they felt in their heart," he said. "When we are talking to applicants, we can feel if they are really sincere about becoming a Marine. It's a heartfelt type of connection that lets you know this recruit is going to go out there and be a future successful Marine."

Russ said the Army and the other military branches are successful when its recruits are successful.

"We want to help prepare them for their life and help them march to success," he said.

■ Highly decorated Marine does recruiting in Huntsville

Recruiter

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"I needed a little change in my life," he said. "I needed self discipline, self direction and a little bit of self confidence. The Marines gave me all of that and more."

Ballard's time at Marine boot camp in August 1999 has been the most difficult period during his service.

"I wasn't in the greatest physical shape," he said. "Getting through that was all about heart and pushing yourself. If you want it bad enough, you've got to push yourself."

True to their word, the Marines have provided Ballard with a lot of travel opportunities. He has "traveled the world," going to places like Japan, Hong Kong and Spain along with Kuwait and Iraq.

Although some of those travels have landed Ballard in threatening situations, the idea of being called on to defend his country anywhere in the world did not cause him to hesitate in signing up for service.

"It's an inherent risk we take from joining the military," he said. "I knew at one point in time that might happen."

He has also exercised the opportunity to further his education, completing some college, attending the Marine's Corporal

Leadership Course, and receiving training in marksmanship and martial arts. He is a martial arts instructor with a green belt.

"Every Marine is trained as a leader," he said. "It's very important that you perfect your leadership and management skills because you never know the situation that you will be put in and who you'll be in charge of."

Ballard has completed the first year of a three-year recruiting assignment in Huntsville. Then, he will return to the Marine Corps fleet. He aspires to be a black belt martial arts instructor.

But, for now, Ballard works in recruiting at 11 North Alabama high schools, including Grissom, Huntsville, Madison County, New Hope, DAR-Grant, Woodville, Paint Rock Valley, Section, Sylvania and Valley Head.

"I do my job and that is to replenish the Marine Corps with qualified young men and women," he said.

His message to young people considering the Marines is simple.

"The message I love to give refers back to a quote that (President) Ronald Reagan once said," he said. "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. Marines don't have to do that. Marines provide a service. We defend the freedoms of Americans and everybody all around the world. That's meaningful to me."

Accidents happen in the blink of an eye

*Tobyhanna depot workers
rely on eye protection*

By JACQUELINE BOUCHER
Tobyhanna public affairs

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — In the blink of an eye ... that's all the time it takes for an accident to happen. Whether at work or home, the proper wear and use of safety equipment can help workers protect their vision.

Tobyhanna's Army Depot's Occupational Vision Program provides the tools to help people remain safe while on the job. Educational programs and personal protective equipment are available to everyone who works at the depot.

"Eye injuries can be among the most serious of workplace accidents," said Stefanie Ward, safety technician, Industrial Risk Management Directorate.

"It is extremely important to wear eye protection at all times when there is a possibility of flying particles, chemical splashes or impact accidents involving your eyes."

There are several types of eye protection available and it's important to ensure the correct type is used, depending on the work task and associated hazard. Power tools, heavy machinery and potent chemicals are among the workplace hazards that can put eyes at risk. Protection may include safety glasses with side shields, impact or chemical goggles, and/or a face shield.

Safety officials here reported 11 eye injuries in fiscal 2006; six were Occupational Safety and Health Administration recordable. That means the injury resulted in lost work or restricted duty.

"A lot of people think you can wear regular glasses while soldering," Ward said. "That's not the case; individuals are supposed to wear chemical goggles in case of splash."

She added that safety lenses are stamped with the ANSI Z87.1 symbol.

Ward noted that many jobs require the worker to wear more than one type of eye protection. For example, a welder wears a combination of safety glasses and face shield.

The Tobyhanna Safety Manual (Chapter 5, TYAD Regulation 385-1) outlines the policies for Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment use and lists the required eye protection for the hazards associated with various work operations. OSHA requires



Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski

CLEAR VIEW— Roberto Colon, electronics worker, repairs a TPN-19 low voltage power supply. Colon works in the Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems Components Branch, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

employees who wear PPCE to be properly trained before use.

It's up to the supervisors to enforce safety rules, according to Ward. The safety office performs spot checks from time to time and provides constant reminders of the safety standards and procedures by posting items on the Intranet, circulating safety bulletins and broadcasting safety videos on the Public Address Visual Information System.

"A large percentage of the work force is required to wear protective glasses. Even if they're passing through an area labeled hazardous; even if you work in a non-hazardous area," Ward said.

Louis Bocci conducts biweekly safety talks and keeps a close eye on the 26 employees who work in the Plating Shop and seven employees who work in the Photo Fabrication Shop. As the electroplater supervisor in the Finishing and Etching Branch, System Integration and Support Directorate, he stays alert for any non-conformity to the safety standards.

"No one wants an eye injury and there is great potential for it due to the hazards in both shops," Bocci said, indicating the plating chemicals, sandblast debris and copper and stainless steel wire in the work area.

Bocci believes a safe work environment is vital to mission success. "The shop has never had an eye injury. I wouldn't, and couldn't, work without PPCE."

Watch out for deer crossing the road

*Traffic accidents
seen increasing*

By ERIKA MCPHERSON
chief, claims attorney

Deer have long enjoyed the comforts of the wooded areas of Redstone Arsenal but now they are enjoying crossing onto the main roads during peak traffic hours. Within the last three weeks, there have been numerous traffic accidents occurring on Goss Martin, Burose and Vincent Roads, and several other main roads in which deer dart out in front of traffic and get hit.

Several drivers and employees on the Arsenal with vehicle damages caused by deer have raised the question whether the government has a duty to warn drivers about deer crossing the main roads. In addition, deer accidents have resulted in an increase of the number of claims filed and claim inquiries regarding payments for the damages caused by the deer. Unfortunately, the government is unable to pay claimants for damage caused by deer.

Depending upon the circumstances, a claimant may file a claim requesting reimbursement for vehicle damage under the Personnel Claims Act or under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The PCA allows compensation for certain damages to vehicles caused by a variety of circumstances including certain types of thefts, vandalism and "unusual occurrences," such as a lightning bolt striking and destroying a vehicle, or a baseball sized hailstone striking and denting a vehicle. Deer striking a vehicle would not qualify as an unusual occurrence and therefore a claimant would not be compensated under this act. Similarly, deer strikes are not compensable under the FTCA, which protects individuals from the negligence of government employees.

Visitors to Redstone Arsenal are entitled to not be willfully injured and to not be negligently injured after the government has discovered the visitor is in peril. For business invitees and employees, the government has a duty to maintain the premises in a reasonably safe condition or if they are unsafe, warn of all known or hidden dangers which are known to the government. For instance, if there were a huge pothole in the road, the government should repair the pothole in a reasonable time after it learns of it or post warning signs to alert the drivers of the possible danger.

The Arsenal does have some deer warning signs posted on various roads. However, while potentially dangerous and often resulting in costly repairs, deer unexpectedly crossing the road does not qualify as a hidden danger that the government must warn about. Drivers are cautioned to slow down and be aware of their surroundings. In the event a driver gets into an accident with a deer, the driver should consult his or her insurance carrier to pay for any vehicle repairs.

For claims other than those arising from deer strikes, you may download the appropriate forms and get other valuable claims information at the claims web site, www.redstone.army.mil/legal/claims.html or visit the claims office located in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 111 on Goss Road. For more information, call claims examiner James Friday at 876-9006.

Win
or lose

Prime time arrives for troop basketball

*Charlie, Marines, Bravo
among early favorites*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Charlie, the Marines and Bravo look like the teams to beat as the basketball season opens tonight at Pagano Gym.

Charlie beat the Marines 70-64 Monday night in the preseason tournament final.

Last Thursday, Charlie advanced from the winners bracket by beating Bravo 45-38. The Wolfpack led 17-9 at halftime and pulled away in the game's closing minutes.

"It was just teamwork," Charlie coach/center LaQuaine Bess said. "We out-hustled them in the end."

Point guard Martin Johnson scored a game-high 19, including two 3-pointers. His 3-pointer with 5:23 left put Charlie up 36-28.

Jimmy Williams added 10 points and Bess had nine.

Asked about the Wolfpack's potential, Bess said, "It's hard to tell right now because we're all new, all new players. So this preseason tournament will let us know where we stand for the season."

Ronell Roberson scored 16 for Bravo, which had to play again later that night in the losers bracket final.

"We just kind of got a little lax at the end of the game," Bulldogs point guard Jeremy Church said. "About the last seven minutes, we started standing around a little bit. We might've been a little tired."

The Marines, who avenged an earlier loss to the NCO Academy, advanced in the nightcap by beating Bravo 59-54.

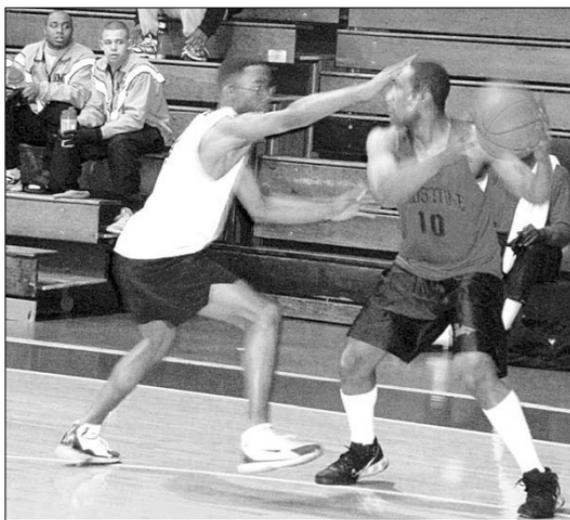


Photo by Skip Vaughn

POINT GUARDING— Charlie's Martin Johnson defends against Bravo's Jeremy Church during the preseason winners bracket final Thursday night. Charlie won 45-38.

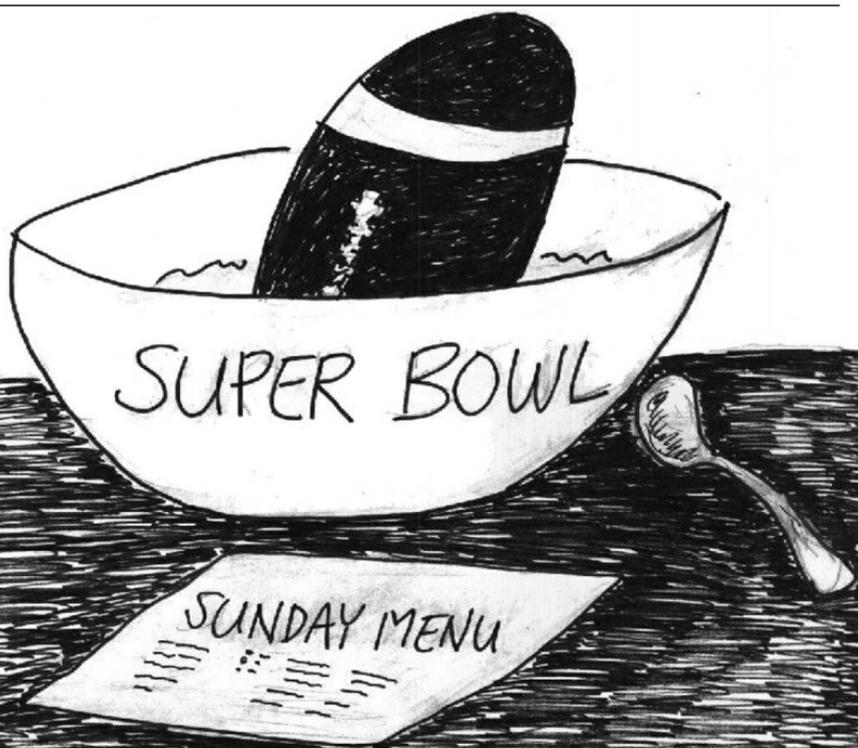
"We just got our legs under us," Marines point guard Chris McNally said of his team's improvement in the tournament. "We just built team chemistry really fast. Now basically we're using our speed to our advantage and running them more instead of trying to play the physical game. And (other) teams can't keep up with that fast pace."

Here are results from last week's preseason games:

- **Jan. 22** – Charlie def. NCO Academy 61-42 and Marines def. Headquarters & Alpha 41-35 in overtime.

- **Jan. 24** – Marines def. 326th Chemical 53-47. The NCO Academy advanced after HHC 59th withdrew from the tournament.

- **Jan. 25** – Charlie def. Bravo 45-38, Marines def. NCO Academy 63-38 and Marines def Bravo 59-54.





Hockey night

The Huntsville Havoc will face off against the Knoxville Ice Bears at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Von Braun Center on "Military Appreciation Night." Free tickets are available to military, retired military and their dependents. All others can get tickets for \$8.50 at the box office at the VBC. For military tickets come to building 3206 or call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969. For group information, call the Huntsville Havoc 518-6160.

Wild game cookout

The Wild Game Cookout is Friday at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. MWR Outdoor Recreation and the Redstone Officers and Civilians Club have teamed up to bring the Redstone community the finest wild game cuisine. For \$14 per person, you can try venison, duck, bear, boar, rabbit, alligator, buffalo and more. Tickets can be purchased at the ODR, 5132 Sportsman Drive (off of Patton Road across from the Sparkman Center) or at the club. For more information, call 830-2582 or 876-4868.

Super Bowl party

Come watch the Super Bowl, between the Indianapolis Colts and the Chicago Bears, on Sunday afternoon at Brooklyns Sports Bar inside the Redstone Lanes bowling center. Activities start at 1 p.m. and continue until closing time. "We have a big screen TV, billiards, dart board and more," a prepared release said. "We will also have

a gift board of 100 squares that will be available to play. We'll be giving away a digital flat screen TV and other prizes." For more information, call 876-6634.

Youth soccer

Spring soccer registration for American Youth Soccer Organization is now open. Practices begin the week of Feb. 19 and games the first weekend in March for ages 4 through 13 (based on age on July 31, 2006). Cost is \$65 per player and includes the uniform. For high school aged players (14 through 18) there will be Saturday practice and games starting March 31 through May 19 costing \$15/player for those who did not play AYSO last fall. More information on the AYSO programs and instructions to register are available at www.ayso160.org. If you do not have Internet access, forms may be picked up from a mailbox on the Information Board at Field 3 on the corner of Airport Road and JC Way. Or you can call 650-0739 and provide an address for information to be sent to you. For more information, call 508-1451.

Boating safety

The Huntsville Power Squadron, a unit of U.S. Power Squadrons, a national non-profit boating safety organization, will present a two-day "Boat Smart" course to anyone age 12 and up on Feb. 10 and Feb. 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. Classes will be in the clubhouse at the Whitesburg Yacht Club on Hobbs Island Road. The course is free. The optional study guide costs \$20. This course includes Alabama laws, safety equipment, docking, trailering, knots and lines, operating at night, rules of the road, and more. Graduates receive a certificate

qualifying them for Alabama vessel operator license. Call Walt 882-9104 to sign up and for directions to the class.

Soccer clinic

The Madison Soccer Club will hold a free soccer skills clinic Feb. 11 at Sparkman High School and March 11 at the Athens Sportsplex. For more information and to register, please visit the web site www.madisonsc.org. Registrations are also being taken for a Spring Break Soccer Camp, March 19-23. Three- and five-day options are available.



Conferences & Meetings

Materials conference

Registration for the Metamaterials and Nonlinear Materials Conference has begun. This conference will be held April 4-5 in Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, visit the conference web page at <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/MNM07> or e-mail Angie.Cornelius@us.army.mil.

Aviation symposium

The Army Aviation Association of America will sponsor the 33rd annual Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium on Feb. 14-15 at the Von Braun Center, North Hall, for interested members of industry and the aviation logistics and acquisition communities. The theme of this year's symposium is "Transformation: Technology on the Battlefield." Its purpose is to stimulate dialogue among industry executives, senior government officials and military leaders concerning the support of Army

aviation's war fighters. For further information, call Janice Sanders 464-9191 or visit the AAAA web site <http://www.quad-a.org>.

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.

Veterans association

National Dusters, Quads and Searchlights Association will have its 2007 reunion July 11-15 in Evansville, Ind. The site is the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 4101 U.S. Highway 41 North in Evansville. For more information, call 721-0913 or e-mail sgmstokes@juno.com.

Test equipment summit

The 2007 Depot Test Equipment Technical Interchange Meeting is Feb. 20-22 at the Holiday Inn downtown. This meeting is sponsored by the Engineering Support Division, a division of the AMRDEC's Engineering Directorate. The objective is to provide enhanced communications among Automatic Test Equipment users, developers and sustainers. Invited speakers include management officials from AMCOM and the depots. Register by going to www.esddepotsummit.com. If you have any questions regarding registration, contact Amy Clark, Depot Test Equipment Summit 2007 coordinator, at amy.clark@amrdec.army.mil.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer User's Group will meet Feb. 10 at 10:45 a.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Ron Schmitz, co-leader of the Windows/Internet Special Interest Group and leader of the Hardware SIG, will discuss and demonstrate the software and techniques for scanning your slides and converting them to digital formats. HPCUG president Kevin Wangbickler will discuss Internet Explorer, Version 7 at 9:15 a.m. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 830-2232.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will have a luncheon meeting Feb. 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center. Belinda Tiner of the Army Audit Agency is to speak on "Conversion to NSPS - Lessons Learned." Lunch will be served. Reservations should be made today through your organizational representative or by calling Jessica Dunaway 842-7107 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$11 for non-members.

Test week 2007

The Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center, in cooperation with the International Test and Evaluation Association, will sponsor Test Week 2007 from June 11-15 at the Von Braun Center. The theme this year is "How to Make Test and Evaluation Relevant to the Joint Warfighter." The web site is www.testweek.org, where you can pull

off a preliminary agenda, registration form, exhibitor registration form, and floor plan. The conference is also in TIP, Catalog # F73TW. For more information, call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

Civil War round table

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin St. Navy veteran Kent Wright will discuss "The Red River Campaign," a combined Army-Navy operation in Northwest Louisiana in early 1864. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 for \$6.95. For information call 858-6191.

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://dauaa.south.home.mchsi.com> 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, call Ralph Powell (256) 259-6500 or visit the web site www.JIAMD-summit.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.



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 Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be consid-

ered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9-5 Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-12:45. The shop is accepting winter items through Thursday. It will be open Saturday from 10-2. 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.

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 1600AM, 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 Apprenticeship 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 apprenticeship 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. Today is the deadline for applications. 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.

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,” 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 by 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 Mahathey 842-9888.

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.asmonline.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.

Call for papers

A call for papers has been issued for the “Workshop on Algorithms for Autonomous & Aided Target Recognition” June 6-7 at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, e-mail Angie Cornelius at angie.cornelius@us.army.mil.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is now accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year. Scholarships are available for children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers. Applications are available online at www.aerhq.org. For more information call Kristi Foster, AER officer, 876-5397, or e-mail kristi.foster@redstone.army.mil.

Engineer week

National Engineers Week, Feb. 19-25, will include competition for special awards. The week is co-sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers and IBM. For more information, call Morton Archibald 658-5189 (cell) or 880-1693 (home).

Welfare requests

The Officer and Civilian Women’s Club

distributes money to nonprofit groups each year and is now accepting applications for grants. If you would like an application, they are available by mail (RSAOCWC, Attention: Welfare Chairman, P.O. Box 8113, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808), and via the Internet by requesting a form by sending an e-mail to: ocwcwelfare@mchsi.com. Forms are also available in the OCWC newsletter Southern Exposure (January and February issues) and at Army Community Service. All requests must conform to the OCWC Welfare Request Form. The request deadline is Feb. 28. Requests will be accepted by mail (postmarked no later than the deadline) and e-mailed or hand delivered no later than the deadline. The 2006-07 Welfare Committee will not consider requests by any delivery method after the deadline. For more information, call Pam Powell 864-2900.

PCFO solicitation

Any federation, charitable organization or combination thereof, wishing to be selected for the PCFO must submit a timely application to the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign in accordance with the Office of Personnel Management’s regulations. The primary responsibility of the PCFO is to support the federal government’s CFC Board of Directors in managing a comprehensive local workplace fund-raising campaign while ensuring the fiscal integrity, accountability and transparency of the process in accordance with 5CFR, Part

950. The selected federation and/or charitable organization selected to serve as PCFO will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding with the LFCC. More information may be downloaded from <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil> and also the Office of Personnel’s web site: www.opm.gov/cfc. Deadline for receipt of applications is Feb. 15. All interested parties may contact Donna Johnson, LFCC chairperson, AMSAM-CFC, building 3708, by phone at 876-9143 or e-mail to donna.johnson@redstone.army.mil.

Home alone class

Child and Youth Services will hold a Home Alone Class today from 4-5 p.m. at the ChildWise building, 1413 Nike St. This free class is open to Redstone community youth ages 10-13. It discusses important issues like Internet safety, taking telephone calls, preparing snacks and meals, and more. For more information, call 313-3609 or 313-3735.

Community volunteers

Do you have a few hours to volunteer with Soldiers and family members? Volunteers are needed at Army Community Service. Training and orientation are provided. If interested call volunteer coordinator Kim Anton 876-5397 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Drill sergeant of year

The Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, 59th Ordnance Brigade,

See Announcements on page 22

