

# Redstone Rocket

VOL. 56 No. 6

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

February 14, 2007

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# Taking care of those who take care of us

## Army Emergency Relief campaign starts in March

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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A Soldier needs help getting home for the birth of a child. A widow needs help after the death of her Army retiree husband until her benefits start. A Soldier needs help to keep a mortgage from entering foreclosure. Another Soldier needs help with vehicle repair.

All four individuals received Army Emergency Relief assistance the morning of Feb. 6. AER officer Kristi Foster saw each separately by midmorning beginning from when her office opened at 7.

"And most days are like that," she said. The previous day she helped three widows and two active-duty servicemembers.

Army Emergency Relief gives no-interest loans, and in some cases grants, to active duty and retired military and their qualifying family members in times of emergency needs. Recipients can also include National Guard and Reservists who are called to active duty under Title 10 of the U.S. Code. Examples of emergency expenses include unexpected travel, car repair, mortgage assistance and utility bills.

"As a civilian: In my mind, if I'm taking care of Soldiers who are taking care of me, what greater benefit is there?" Foster said. "The sacrifices they're making to keep us safe ... I'm just so privileged to be able to do what I do. It's such an honor."

Last year AER helped 383 military and their qualified family members with \$380,918.

The annual fund-raising campaign for Army Emergency Relief is March 1 through May 15 with a goal of \$175,000. Last year's campaign collected \$171,260 to surpass a \$150,000 goal.

"It's important because of the quality of help it provides," 2007 campaign chairman Capt. Rob Dewberry said of AER. "We have a number of people that are deployed and their family members run into unexpected prob-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**PLANNING SESSION**— Discussing this year's Army Emergency Relief campaign are, from left, AER officer Kristi Foster, campaign chairman Capt. Rob Dewberry and co-chairman Sgt. 1st Class Odri Hastings.

lems. And AER helps them in times of difficulty. And for the Soldiers, that's great peace of mind knowing their family members are being taken care of."

Said campaign co-chairman Sgt. 1st Class Odri Hastings, "You're giving back to the Soldiers, so in their time of need they can take care of their emergency situations."

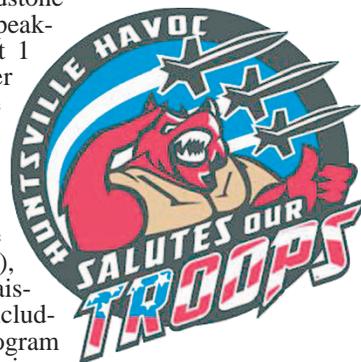
Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, is the scheduled speaker for the AER kickoff at 1 p.m. March 1 at Heiser Hall. The entire Redstone community is invited.

Contributions can be made to AER during the campaign through payroll deduction (from active duty and retired military), cash and checks. Fund-raising events are planned, including such things as the Program Executive Office for Aviation's online auction like last year, and the Acquisition Center's second annual "AER Idol."

"We expect the same organizations will do just as they've done in years past," Foster said, "and come up with some wonderful fund-raisers."

Organizations are asked to appoint key representatives to the campaign. Training sessions are scheduled in February for these representatives. For more information about AER, call Foster at Army Community Service at 876-5397.

"It (AER) helps us," Dewberry said. "It's Soldiers taking care of Soldiers."



Courtesy graphic

**JERSEY LOGO**— This is the logo from the jerseys which the Huntsville Havoc hockey players wore Saturday for Military Appreciation Night. After the game against the Knoxville Ice Bears, the jerseys were auctioned off to benefit Army Emergency Relief.



Bob Gathany/The Huntsville Times

**RETURN ENGAGEMENT**— Members of the 20th Special Forces rappel to the arena ice from the catwalk at the Von Braun Center during the Huntsville Havoc hockey team's 2006 Military Appreciation Night. Last Saturday the Havoc held the same observance and again auctioned off jerseys to benefit Army Emergency Relief.

# An open lane random survey

*What are your plans for Valentine's Day?*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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*Capt. Blase Kusterle  
HHC 59th*  
**"The day after is my (fourth) anniversary so my wife (Susan) and I are thinking about going up to Chattanooga for the weekend."**

*Mary Vasquez  
Alutiq Inc., contractor  
for OMEMS*  
**"I'm not going out to dinner because it's always too crowded. I'm probably going to stay home with my (three) children, and I will be at work."**



*Glenda "Kay" O'Neal  
OMEMS budget analyst*  
**"Probably a nice romantic dinner with my husband of almost 38 years (Pete), and call my son and daughter-in-law (Tim and Christy O'Neal) and wish them a happy anniversary."**

*Sgt. 1st Class James Miller  
OMEMS Quality Assurance Office*  
**"I'm just going to send a teddy bear with roses to her office (to friend Stacy Kelly in Winston Salem, N.C.) and surprise her. She doesn't think I'm romantic so I'm just going to surprise her and send her roses and a bear. And I've got to call my daughter (Ke-Wana, 13, in Fayetteville, N.C.) and send her a teddy bear and some roses also."**



# Black History Month proclamation

African-Americans have been an integral part of America for generations, and our nation is stronger because of their contributions. During National African-American History Month, we honor the achievements of African-Americans and recognize our continued responsibility to strive for equality for all our citizens.

With grace and determination, African-American men and women have shaped our nation and influenced American life. Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King Jr. advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans and helped change the course of American history. Educators Booker T. Washington and Carter G. Woodson helped break down racial barriers in education to provide opportunity for all people. Americans have benefited from the achievements of scientists like George Washington Carver. Artists such as Pearl Bailey, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong inspired Americans and created some of the most celebrated music this nation has ever produced.

The theme of this year's National African-American History Month, "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas," recalls African-Americans' long journey to justice and commemorates the courage and persistence of the heroes who called on our nation to live up to its founding promise. A century after African-American Soldiers

fought for their freedom on the battlefields of the Civil War, African-Americans struggled peacefully for their rights in the streets of Birmingham, Ala., and on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Courageous civil rights leaders answered hate and discrimination with love and dignity, toppled segregation laws, and worked to make America a more just and hopeful nation.

All Americans can be proud of the progress we have made, yet the work for a more perfect union is not done. As we celebrate National African-American History Month, we reaffirm our commitment to build a society where every individual has the opportunity to achieve the promise of this great land.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2007 as National African-American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that honor the significant contributions African-Americans have made to our nation.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2007, and of the independence of the United States of America the 231st.

**President Bush**

# Benefits for military families

I would like to respond to Mr. Tim Kirkpatrick's statement (in last week's random survey) about the employees at AMCOM LCMC want to have access to all amenities located at Redstone Arsenal to include the PX, Commissary, gas station, etc. He and others can go overseas and work for the government and have the amenities of what he said he and others want.

Join the military and you can have the amenities that come with it. I had the great honor to have all of the amenities of using the aforementioned with my father being on active duty in the Army for over 25 years. I grew up being an Army brat for 21 years and now I am serving the military community.

**Michael Potter**

# Tribute to dedicated veterans

In celebration of Black History Month, we would like to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of the African-American Soldiers currently interred on Redstone Arsenal. These Soldiers were veterans of the Civil War and World War I, specifically Cpl. Joseph Beasley and Cpl. G.R. Blackburn of the U.S. Colored Infantry, Austin Groves of the U.S. Colored Troops, and WW I veteran Claudie Joiner.

Prior to 1941, the lands which are now Redstone Arsenal consisted of small rural communities such as Pond Beat, Mullins Flat, Hickory Grove, Elko, and Union Hill. Although these small communities were primarily agrarian in nature, it is the people and their fortitude which had become their greatest asset.

Many people from these communities were descended from slaves who worked the land on the plantations which dotted the antebellum landscape in this part of the Tennessee Valley. During the tumultuous years of the Civil War, the part of Alabama north of the river remained largely in Union control following the first occupation of Huntsville in April 1862. Union recruiters combed the countryside. Slave owners who were loyal to the Union offered up slaves for enlistment, while other slaves who ran away or were set free by invading Union troops or fleeing Confederate sympathizers enlisted on their own accord.

All three Civil War veterans buried on the Arsenal were probably recruited in this way in north Alabama, Georgia or Tennessee. Their units were all organized in Tennessee. Cpl. Beasley served in Co. C of the 12th USCI. This unit served on railroad guard duty in Tennessee and Alabama and saw action several times including at the Battle of Nashville. Cpl. Blackburn served in Co. B of the 14th USCI which saw action in Tennessee, Georgia and north Alabama including the Battle of Decatur in October 1864. Austin Groves served in Co. A of the 42nd USCT which was a laboring regiment in Chattanooga from 1864-65.

Following the Civil War, these men gained their freedom along with the other former slaves in the area and became tenant farmers and/or share croppers, many of whom resided on the same land that they had labored on under slavery. After many years of enduring

See Veterans on page 3

# Quote of the week

**'W**e can't change the past. We can only make the future better."

— Hines Ward, football star and Korea native

# Correction

Gaylene Wilson, the director of sports and fitness for Morale Welfare and Recreation, was misidentified in an article last week on the new equipment at Pagano Gym and the Redstone Fitness Center.

# Redstone Rocket

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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**Name:** Sgt. 1st Class Warnie Stokes

**Job:** Operations NCO-in-charge, 59th Ordnance Brigade

**Where do you call home?**  
Cocoa, Fla.

**What do you like about your job?**

I like to plan things. I like the planning and organizing and seeing the end result. And also I get to interact with different people on a daily basis.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Spending time with my kids (sons Devin, 17, and C.J., 13, and daughter Cynthia, 7).

**What are your goals?**

To retire within the next three years, and be just as successful in the civilian sector.

**What's your favorite type of music?**

I like a lot of types but my favorite would have to be jazz. Jazz would have to be my favorite. My love is R&B but jazz is definitely my favorite.



# Garrison workers urged to go the extra degree

*Colonel reminds work force of its linkage to military*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski reminded his workers Thursday of their commitment to the Soldier.

"You are linked to that (war) fight," he said during his Garrison update meeting in Bob Jones Auditorium.

"Linkage," he said, "Linkage. That Soldier is what it's all about."

He gave the latest information on the Garrison funding for 2007, the new jobs coming to Redstone through base realignment and closure, Enhanced Use Lease, privatization of housing and other topics.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**WELCOME— Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski greets members of the audience Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium.**

"See if you can turn it up one more degree," he said about giving the extra effort at work.

Recognition was given to the Garrison's efforts in this year's successful Combined Federal Campaign, to the Officers and Civilians Club for its support of community activities, and to individuals with 20-40 years service.

The program began and ended with "Army Strong" videos showing Soldiers.

"I thought it was very informative," Adriano Vasquez of the Garrison's Equal Employment Opportunity Office said. "Motivational. I liked the fact he reminded the audience of why we're here. We're here for the Soldier, and of course for the nation."

Said security assistant Linda Cook of the Directorate of Planning, Training, Mobility and Security, "I felt that he was sincere in trying to tell us what was going on for Garrison and our future with the Garrison."

## Bus tours planned for Black History Month

Team Redstone's Cultural Awareness Committee will sponsor two one-day tours to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church on Feb. 21 and Feb. 22 in observance of Black History Month.

Participation is voluntarily. Although, this is a command sponsored event for the installation with transportation provided, there is a \$10 cost (entrance fees)

associated with participation. These fees are the responsibility of the participant and are not reimbursable as this is a voluntary program.

Participants that have access to the Training Information Program can register for the event. The catalog number is F72TRAA. But registering in TIP does not constitute as a reservation for the bus. Sign up by Feb. 20 by calling Garrison protocol assistant Julia Story at 842-7954.

Government employees must have permissive TDY orders (DD Form 1610) signed by their supervisor covering them for the day. For accountability purposes, you must bring a copy of the orders with you on the day of the trip.

Soldiers must have a travel pass completed on a DA Form 31. For accountability purposes, you must bring a copy of the DA Form 31 with you on the day of the trip. (Garrison release)

## Redstone Rocket wins recognition

The *Redstone Rocket* is ranked among the top three Army newspapers in the Southeast region.

The *Rocket* won third place in the 2006 Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Regional Competition for tabloid-format newspa-

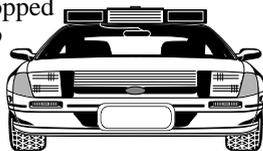
pers in the Installation Management Command's Southeast region.

The Fort Jackson (S.C.) *Leader* won this category; and the *Sentinel* of Fort McPherson, Ga., finished second.

## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**Feb. 5:** An individual stopped at Gate 10 and was found to be operating their vehicle with suspended license. The subject was issued a violation notice and released.



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

**Violation notices issued:** 21 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 driving with a suspended driver's license, 1 expired tags, 1 failure to yield.

### ■ Ancestors buried at Redstone

## Veterans

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hardships and injustices, determination and integrity of character became two of many qualities of the African-American community here. All three men survived the war, and were given Veterans Administration grave markers upon their deaths in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The grandchildren of the generation who fought in the Civil War faced a war of a different sort 50 years later. Claudie Joiner lived on the same plantation around what is now Buxton Road that his grandmother was a slave on. His grandfather was the original owner of the plantation who had several children with his slave. Claudie served in World War I, and upon his return, bought a parcel of

the old plantation land near the intersection of Sheffield Road and Briar Road. His life on his land was short-lived, however. He died in 1924, only six years after the Armistice, and was buried in the Joiner-Lacey Cemetery in the igloo area near the Col. Hudson Recreation Area. The Army acquired the land 17 years later.

We salute these African-American veterans, and possible unknown others who rest in peace on Arsenal land. They defended freedom not only in our country but across the world. These men have left an indelible positive impact on our nation's history.

*Editor's note: This letter was provided by the Garrison with acknowledgements to Beverly S. Curry, Dorothy Scott Johnson, John P. Rankin and Ben Hoksbergen.*

# Tactical vehicles roll through downtown

*Urban Canyon test unique opportunity*

By SHAREE MILLER

*For the Rocket*

The City of Huntsville closed down four city blocks in downtown so that the Urban Canyon test could happen last weekend. The city's cooperation enabled the Army the unique opportunity to drive various size military vehicles, at multiple speeds, along streets in the downtown area, simulating an urban environment. Groups and individuals traveling on foot, carrying backpacks, were also tested.

"To have had an opportunity to broach unknown territories, such as testing within city confines, is a success in and of itself," Doris Ray, test manager at Redstone Technical Test Center, said. RTTC provided the ground vehicles and personnel and the ground truth and meteorological data.

The Intelligent Munitions System Product Office and its prime contractor, Textron Systems Corporation, chose the Redstone Technical Test Center because of its unique test skills and the City of Huntsville's generosity.

The primary purpose of the Urban



Photo by Sharee Miller

**HARDWARE—** Sensors identify a personnel carrier traveling through Huntsville streets last weekend in an urban environment test.

Canyon test was to collect sensor data from representative vehicles in a specific environment. This environment is described as

the urban multi-story areas that make up most cities. The effects on sensors from the background noise, and echoes of waves

bouncing off the closely packed buildings are difficult to duplicate in a laboratory environment. The urban environment is one of the most likely scenarios in which war fighters are to be placed.

"Success in the Global War on Terrorism requires that we enhance the capability of our current force in real time," Bill Bush, IMS test engineer, said.

IMS is a networked sensor and munition system that brings situational awareness and terrain control to the battlefield. It is a ground-based, wide-area, top-attack system capable of detecting, classifying and engaging enemy targets in the battlefield and sensing nodes, networked together, that can identify a broad range of targets and feed that vital information to the war fighter.

This blend of sensor intelligence and precision munitions enables identification and successful engagement of light-wheeled through heavy-tracked vehicles, as well as enemy personnel. The system is controlled by a Soldier who follows established rules of engagement in order to identify friendly forces and non-combatants.

"RTTC has performed previous sensor tests for the IMS PM at Fort Benning, Ga.," Lalen Schoech of Textron Systems Corporation said. "But having the City of Huntsville's support gives us an opportunity to do more extensive testing."

RTTC's mission is to provide both the flight-testing of small rockets and guided missiles and life cycle testing for weapon system components or subsystems.

# Tricare tries to give healthy services

Regional contractor  
works to grow network

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

When Dr. Melissa Behringer has a Huntsville patient with bleeding ulcers or other stomach problems, she has to check their type of insurance before she decides which specialist to refer them to.

If they are a Tricare patient, they get sent out of town.

Out of town, that is, to Decatur, where a gastroenterologist is still accepting Tricare patients.

As the president of the Madison County Medical Society and a family physician on staff at the Huntsville Regional Medical Campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Behringer is familiar with problems local doctors have with the Department of Defense's Tricare medical insurance program. Those problems — revolving around low reimbursement rates and high paperwork requirements — deter physicians from providing care for Tricare-insured patients, she said.

And, although the local medical socie-

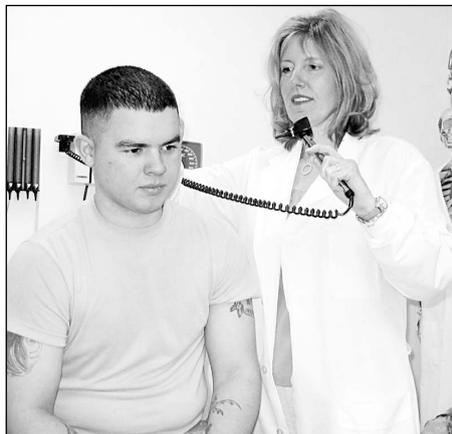


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**CLOSER LOOK— Robin Warren, a certified occupational health nurse and case manager at Fox Army Health Center, checks the ear of Spc. Joseph Nieves. Medical costs for active military and retired military and their families are covered through the Department of Defense's worldwide health care program known as Tricare.**

ty would like to see more physicians — particularly primary care physicians — accepting Tricare-insured patients,

Behringer does not think the situation will get better until changes are made at the congressional level.

"We are encouraging Tricare participation. It's been difficult," said Behringer, who recently traveled to Washington, D.C. with members of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to discuss Tricare issues with U.S. Rep. Bud Cramer.

"Money is not the only thing, but it is a part of it. People are willing to deal with hassles if they know they are going to get paid and paid adequately. But, as Medicare and Tricare fees stay the same, practice costs are going up. It costs more for staff, electricity, office supplies, liability insurance ..."

Along with the concern with stagnant insurance reimbursements, "every year doctors worry if they are going to get an 8, 10 or 15 percent cut" from the existing reimbursement schedule, she said.

Those concerns are exasperated by the many rules that must be followed and paperwork that must be completed when seeking reimbursement. Those regulations — which each doctor is responsible to comply with — can take a resident a year to fully learn and understand, and a practicing physician a month each year to update, Behringer said.

While physicians struggle with Tricare reimbursement rates and regulations, patients who follow Tricare guidelines when using private physicians — primarily military retirees and National Guard/Reservist Soldiers — must deal with a shrinking pool of physicians to choose from and growing out-of-pocket costs.

## Equation of economics

On both sides of the Tricare equation, there is one driving force — economics. Balancing the rising costs of health care in the face of an ongoing and costly war with the health care needs and financial situations of the nation's military families is a dicey business.

On the patient side of the equation, there are nearly 38,000 eligible Tricare beneficiaries in the Huntsville Prime Service Area (PSA), which includes Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Lawrence, Morgan, Madison, Cullman, Marshall, Limestone and Jackson counties in Alabama, and Lincoln and Giles counties in Tennessee. Of those, 14,900 beneficiaries are enrolled in Tricare Prime, with 10,400 of those provided service through Fox Army Health Center.

Tricare Prime requires its customers to receive most of their health care at a military treatment facility, with services augmented as needed by "preferred" or "in-network" providers. Their care is supervised by a primary care manager. While active military and their families receive Tricare Prime benefits at no cost to them, retirees and their family members must pay deductibles and other costs to use Tricare Prime. Other Tricare programs that allow patients to choose physicians from a list of "in-network" or authorized providers require deductibles and other fees.

On the physician side of the equation, there are 195 primary care managers — including family practitioners, general practitioners, internal medicine providers and pediatricians — in the Huntsville PSA, with 54 of those in the Huntsville area. There are 365 specialists in the PSA and about 260 of those are in Madison County. There are also 15 hospitals in the PSA, with Huntsville Hospital and Crestwood Hospital in the immediate Huntsville area, along with five hospices, one rehabilitation center, two skilled nursing facilities, five behavioral health facilities and numerous medical equipment companies, pharmacies and home health providers.

Statewide, there are 3,480 physicians in the Tricare network. In addition, 5,502 physicians not in the network have seen a Tricare beneficiary in the past year. Ninety-two percent of the state's 9,746 licensed, practicing providers have seen a Tricare beneficiary in the past year.

And, in the middle of that equation, is Congress, which sets Tricare reimbursement schedules, provider regulations and patient requirements, and the management companies that administer Tricare insurance coverage. The South regional contractor that manages the Huntsville PSA is Humana Military Healthcare Services.

HMHS "makes every attempt to ensure provider participation is high by helping alleviate administrative road blocks when possible," said Julie Ice, director of Legislative and Public Affairs for HMHS.

"We are proud of our timely claims payment, and encourage providers to file their claims electronically. Claims filed completely and accurately can process within four days while providers who choose to submit clean and accurate paper claims might wait up to 30 days ... Access to care in the Huntsville area is excellent overall. In some locations, beneficiaries sometimes face challenges only in locating certain specialty care providers or facilities. We work hard to overcome challenges, and continue to work to improve the network."

## Hard sell for physicians

Tricare is not the only government-sponsored insurance program to come under fire with both physicians and patients. So, too, have Medicaid and Medicare. But, Tricare does not even live up to Medicare standards in the eyes of some physicians.

"Medicare (the government insurance for patients over 65) has an 80 percent reimbursement fee with the other 20 percent paid by the patient," Behringer said.

"But, with Tricare the total fee is set and it is at Medicare's 80 percent. In addition, there is more paperwork with Tricare and more hassles with trying to get paid. Sometimes we have to submit paperwork two or three times before we get paid. That's a very hard sell for primary care physicians."

# Health

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But, HMHS is trying to ensure administrative issues are not an obstacle to provider participation in Tricare, Ice said.

"We have worked hard in recent years to improve these obstacles, including claims payments timeliness and accuracy," she said.

However, contract requirements do require additional paperwork for referrals, authorizations, credentialing process and other matters.

"The credentialing requirements are necessary to ensure the beneficiaries have quality providers in which they may seek care," Ice said. "The referrals and authorization process, although required by contract, have been simplified and can now be submitted electronically via our web site."

## Plea to patriotism

Nationally, there is concern over the lack of physicians willing to accept Tricare patients. In August 2004, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) sent a letter to national and state medical associations asking them to "contact your membership and encourage them to become Tricare providers ... treating America's heroes - the people making sacrifices to keep our country safe and strong."

But, Dr. Craig Thorstad of Huntsville Center for Sight didn't need a reminder from the assistant defense secretary to tell him what he already knew when he opened his business in 1993 - Huntsville's military community is a rich and growing source for patients who need medical services. Although he is patriotic, Thorstad said accepting Tricare patients just made good business sense.

"We know that the military is strong in this area," he said.

"There's no reason not to accept Tricare patients. We accept all patients - insurance or no insurance ... Tricare patients have a common historical background. They share their stories and they hang around together. It's good word of mouth for our business."

He did concede, however, that he can understand the financial problems family practitioners and some specialty physicians may face when treating a Tricare patient over a long period of time.

"A family practitioner may see a patient with hypertension or other chronic diseases many times a year. They are seeing the same patients over and over again. So, if that patient is on a lower pay scale, that could cause a problem," he said.

"Most of our patients come to us with cataracts. Once we treat them successfully, they don't come back. We don't care if the insurance payment is high, low or in-between. We're just glad to see patients."

Thorstad does, however, have a full-time employee who is committed to handling insurance paperwork. That person has worked with Tricare for years and has a good established relationship with Tricare management.

Besides drawing in Tricare patients, Thorstad has also drawn in a partner - Dr. Walter Hubickey - who, as a retired colonel, made it a priority to join a practice that accepted Tricare patients.

"I feel strongly about supporting our armed services," Hubickey said. "I bleed

Army green every day."

Hubickey dismisses the complaints local doctors have made about Tricare.

"There are other third-party payers out there that are possibly worse than Tricare," he said.

"Dealing with Medicaid and Medicare can be worse, but they don't seem to get a bad rap. Tricare has a reputation as a problem partner and a problem payer. And, that has simply not been the case with us."

## Improving customer service

In recent years, Tricare has made changes that have improved its customer service for patients. Its online provider locator and appointment booking systems are convenient. For local Tricare customers who use Tricare Prime, there are few problems.

"Tricare, overall, has improved dramatically over the last five years," said Becky Pillsbury, wife of AMCOM command Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, who has used the government's insurance program for nearly 34 years.

"Much has been resolved in the last few years. I do know, though, that some doctors are reticent to be in the Tricare network because of problems with payments and paperwork."

For everyday care, Tricare services through Fox Army Health Center for active military are exceptional. But, Tricare offerings aren't quite up to par for those military family members requiring specialty care.

Gabrielle Cannon, wife of Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, must travel to Birmingham several times a year to see an endocrinologist. But, Tricare doesn't necessarily carry the entire blame for that situation, she said.

"The pool of endocrinologists in Huntsville is narrow to begin with," she said.

Cannon has also heard rumblings from local doctors, who have told her they have to take three Tricare patients for every one privately insured patient just to make ends meet. Others have told her they picked up Tricare during the war, but will drop it as soon as the war is over.

Despite those complaints and the problems she's experienced in receiving specialty care and some medications, Cannon said the reality of war and congressional budget problems don't bode well for the Tricare situation.

"Money is tight and money is getting tighter," she said. "I don't think Tricare is in a financial position to make any changes of any magnitude. The Tricare situation is held by financial constraints and the war effort."

Behringer has also heard from doctors who consider themselves temporary members of the Tricare network. In recent years, many doctors have picked up Tricare so they can continue to provide services to the families of patients who have been called off their part-time National Guard or Reserve status to deploy to Iraq. Those Soldiers and their families may be forced to use Tricare, but they don't want to be forced to change doctors.

"There are a lot of people who have been thrown on Tricare because we are at war," Behringer said.

"A spouse may have had Blue Cross/Blue Shield with their employer. But, they are National Guard or Reserve

and they've been deployed for 18 months. Their physicians don't want to lose that family as a patient during the time of the deployment."

## Changes in medical status

Many of the problems associated with military retirees who use Tricare are caused by changes in their medical status, said Barbara Williford, a retired Soldier who uses Tricare and who works as chief of the Clinical Support Division at Fox Army Health Center.

Upon retirement, Williford went from using Tricare at no cost to having to pay \$460 a year for her family's coverage and \$12 for co-payments to network providers. That can be a shock to military families that have not budgeted for medical expenses in the past.

"It's bad for some people because they've been in the Army so long and they are use to free medical care," Williford said. "Years ago, retired military did get free health care. But, in recent years that has changed."

Complaints from retirees are also related to the switch they must make at the age of 65 from Tricare to Medicare.

"Most military retirees don't like that change," Williford said. "They want to continue to use the Army. They want to continue to come to Fox and to the doctors they know at Fox rather than go to the outside. They are use to military life and the military treatment facility, and they don't want to change."

Wendy Kobler, whose husband is retired Lt. Col. Jerry Bradshaw and who uses a combination of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Tricare for insurance coverage, said "doctors have been very accepting and extremely positive" to providing care to her and her family.

She thinks Huntsville area Tricare customers will "continue to see more doctors in the Tricare system as we continue to see growth in this area."

## Growing the network

According to HMHS figures, the number of physicians and medical facilities receptive to Tricare patients is growing in the Huntsville area.

Huntsville Hospital, which was out of the Tricare network for a couple of years during a contract dispute with Tricare, once again became part of the network in August 2006.

"We're delighted to be back in the network ... Obviously we are in a community that is very much supported by and blessed by the military and their families," said Burr Ingram, the hospital's vice president of communications.

"It is most important to us to provide medical care to the military. We think it is important that Huntsville Hospital leads the way in providing care to the military community. We are pleased to do that and feel it is appropriate for us to do."

Huntsville Hospital has about 40 physicians on its hospital staff, all which accept Tricare patients. There are about 600 independent physicians in the Huntsville Hospital network.

Although Huntsville Hospital was an authorized Tricare provider even when it wasn't in the network, with "both Huntsville Hospital and Crestwood Hospital in the HMHS network, beneficiaries

have more choices on where to receive their 'in-network' medical care," said HMHS' Ice.

Even though federal law limits maximum reimbursement rates, HMHS does work to recruit new physicians into the Tricare network by offering them incentives, good customer service, expedited payments and patient volume. And, those providers who don't choose to be a network member can still be a Tricare authorized provider.



"We always welcome new providers to our network. However, Tricare cannot force providers to accept Tricare," Ice said, adding that HMHS would like to particularly recruit more Huntsville-area physicians in the areas of dermatology, gastroenterology and ear, nose and throat specialties.

One Tricare perk - patient volume - can be a motivator for doctors, especially those new to Huntsville, Behringer said.

"New doctors are willing to take Tricare patients - at least initially. But, that doesn't mean they won't drop them later. There's only so much a doctor's office can absorb, only so much paperwork they can handle," she said.

"Physicians who take Tricare are more likely to be prior military service themselves."

Because Huntsville's UAB clinic is subsidized by the university, it can better withstand the lower payments that come with Tricare patients. It's only a matter of time, Behringer predicts, before UAB in Huntsville becomes the largest Tricare provider in the area.

And, no matter the insurance problems, Tricare patients, Behringer said, are some of the best patients she's ever had to work with.

"They seem to be more aware and knowledgeable about their care," she said. "They are more willing to work with a doctor and are more compliant about what they need to do for their health."

Even with congressional funding problems, Kobler said active military and military retirees should have the same kind of insurance benefits that federal employees enjoy.

"I would hope Congress would want insurance for Soldiers so professional doctors roll out the red carpet for them like they do for insured federal employees," she said.

When Behringer and other physicians from the state medical association met with Rep. Cramer in Washington, D.C., the congressman assured them that he understood the issues with Tricare and said Congress would be working to address those issues.

For more information about Tricare and HMHS, visit their web site at <http://www.tricare.mil> or [www.humanamilitary.com](http://www.humanamilitary.com) or call 1-800-444-5445.

# Controlled forest fires serve useful purpose

## Prescribed burns preserve land

Smokey Bear has a new message. After more than 50 years of reminding the public, that “only you can prevent forest fires,” his famous slogan was changed to “only you can prevent wildfires” in 2001. The new slogan is a reflection of the changing attitudes about the role of fire in many ecosystems.

Fire, resulting from lightning strikes, evolved as a natural component of most North American forests. Historical and paleontological records show that Native Americans often used fire to manipulate vegetation composition. European settlement, however, brought with it the attitude that fire is something to be controlled in order to protect forests, prairies and other ecosystems. These attitudes persisted until the 1970s when biologists and land managers began to realize the utility of periodic low intensity fires.

Many native trees and other vegetation are adapted to periodic burning; in fact many plant species are dependent on the heat generated during forest fires for germination. Controlled burns can be used to improve wildlife habitat, control exotic species, inhibit the spread of plant diseases, prepare sites for planting or seeding, and maintain an open understory. Further, centuries of fire suppression in North American forests, which allowed for the massive accumulation of dead plant material, is thought to be a major contributor to the catastrophic wildfires that have ravaged parts of the U.S. in the last several decades.

A controlled fire (or prescribed burn) has become an established resource management tool used in many ecosystems. Redstone Arsenal has executed a sound controlled burning program since the early 1970s. Recently Redstone became one of a few DoD installations to develop an Installation Wildland Fire Management



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**HUMAN TORCH**— Gary Cooper of Wildlife Services sets a prescribed burn Thursday in pine stands on the south side of Redstone Arsenal.

Plan. The plan, which includes the Annual Prescribed Burning Program on the installation, plays a major role in wildland fire control and prevention.

Under the direction of the installation wildland fire program manager and in coordination with the installation fire department, natural resource personnel within the Environmental Management Division implement the annual Prescribed Burning Program. Of the 38,000 acres on Redstone approximately 2,000-4,000 acres are scheduled for burning each year as the mission and weather permits. Generally, any one forested area is burned on a three-year rotation to provide optimum forest habitat before hazardous wildland fire conditions begin to occur. Much of the open land on the missile ranges are burned annually to prevent wildfires, thereby reducing the downtime for range operations and preventing potential damage to adjoining forests. Over the next four or

five years some of Redstone's forests will receive annual burns in an attempt to prepare sites for the chemical treatment of kudzu.

In the South, most prescribed burning operations with multiple objectives are performed during the winter months. During this time of the year plant growth has generally gone dormant and the weather conditions are favorable for burning (cool temperatures, high relative humidity, steady northerly winds).

Initially, an area that has been burned makes it difficult to accept the fact that the forests' appearance has been enhanced. But the black appearance of a burned site is usually short-lived and is soon replaced by the new growth of greenery and flowering plants. The understory will be more open and provide greater visibility within the tree stands. This open or park-like condition improves access through the area for hiking, hunting, timber marking, logging, troop training, and other day-to-day operations in the

area.

The more open lower canopy and the reduced leaf litter also result in a dramatic increase in herbaceous vegetation growth on the forest floor. This increase in vegetation provides an increased food source for many species of wildlife including large species such as deer and turkey to smaller species such as raccoon, rabbit, quail and white-footed mice. Increases in the smaller species in turn provide increased food for predators such as the barred owl, great horned owl, broad-winged hawk, red-tailed hawk and bobcat.

Because prescribed burning provides multiple use benefits and has a natural place in the ecosystem, it will continue to be an important forest management tool. Wildfire occurrences cannot be completely eliminated from natural areas but prescribed burns can reduce their frequency and intensity thus preserving forest resources for future generations. (Garrison release)



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

## Change of responsibility

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 59th Ordnance Brigade gathered at Heiser Hall on Thursday to say farewell to 1st Sgt. Daniel Teats, far right, former HHC first sergeant, and to welcome incoming first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Jacob Endres, left. From left are Endres, 1st Lt. Jacob Quinn, HHC company commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle, 59th command sergeant major; and Teats.

# Redstone organizations acquire excess computers

## *Acquisition Center turns in excess equipment for post*

A recent replacement and upgrade of computers and monitors within the Acquisition Center left it in a position to help other organizations with their IT requirements.

Fearing a turn-in of the excess equipment would allow the equipment to go unutilized, the Acquisition Center's Business Management Office identified needs around the Arsenal and transferred

approximately 145 computers and monitors to Garrison and AMCOM G-1 (Human Resources) for use in the Tax Assistance Center, the Directorate of Information Management and upgrade of the AMCOM Learning Center's computer labs in building 5304.

The Acquisition Center was also the beneficiary of nearly 50 workstations previously belonging to the South Central Personnel Operations Center that are now being utilized as computer desks in building 7471 to support intern training. *(Acquisition Center release)*



Courtesy photo

**RECYCLING COMPUTERS**— From left are Ernest Kirkland an Analytical Services Inc., contractor supporting AMCOM G-1; Lt. Col. Phil Deaton, Acquisition Center business management director; Daniel Shannon, an Analytical Services Inc. contractor supporting AMCOM G-1; Palmer Washington of AMCOM G-1; and Tim Grey, AMCOM G-1 director.

## Budget request highlights equipment, training

### Fiscal 2008 plan goes to Congress

WASHINGTON — A 3-percent pay raise for servicemembers, an increase in ground forces and continued funding of the war on terror are on the table now that President Bush delivered his fiscal 2008 defense budget request and 2007 emergency supplemental request to Congress Feb. 5.

The total DoD 2008 budget request is pegged at \$481.4 billion, an 11.3-percent increase over fiscal 2007. The request will improve readiness through additional training and maintenance and by resetting forces fol-

lowing overseas deployments, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said at a Pentagon news conference.

“We will transform our military to meet the new threats of the 21st century and provide the brave men and women on the front lines with resources they need to be successful in this decisive ideological struggle,” Bush said in his letter delivering the budget to Congress.

The president’s emergency supplemental request for fiscal 2007 is set at \$93.4 billion, with \$39.3 billion going to war fighting, supplies, support and maintenance. It also provides \$10.4 billion to defeat IEDs.

The requests must be passed

by the House of Representatives and the Senate, both of which may make changes in the requests.

Pentagon comptroller Tina Jonas told reporters that DoD has delivered more than 38,000 pages of explanation to members of Congress and their staffs to justify the issues in the defense budget request.

The 2008 “base budget” invests in four primary areas, Jonas said: readiness and support at \$146.5 billion, strategic modernization at \$176.8 billion, military pay and health care at \$137 billion and family housing and facilities at \$21.1 billion.

Jonas broke the military pay and benefits portion of the budget down further. The department’s request provides a 3 percent pay raise for 2.1 million active-duty and reserve-component personnel. It provides \$15 billion for the basic allowance for housing and \$4.3 billion for the basic allowance for subsistence. It also provides \$38.7 billion for military health care.

Under the proposal, the active-duty Army will grow to 547,400 Soldiers by the end of fiscal 2012. It now has 484,400 Soldiers. The increase will allow the Army to field 48 brigades — up from 42 — and give Soldiers two years at their home stations for every year deployed.

If the budget is enacted as submitted, the Army will also receive \$130.1 billion in fiscal 2008, for an increase of more than 20 percent.

The Army’s Future Combat System will receive \$3.7 billion in research and development funds. Unmanned aerial and ground vehicles, non-line-of-sight launch systems, and command and control systems are highlighted in the program.

The Army is asking for just



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brogan

**SEARCH OPERATION—** A Soldier watches for enemy action as fellow Soldiers board a U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter following a cordon and search operation in Tall Aswad, Iraq, Jan. 12. The Soldiers are from Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. Part of President Bush’s 2008 budget request calls for the purchase of 42 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.



Photo by Kim Henry

### Defense speaker

Tim Owings, deputy project manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, answers questions after speaking about domestic uses of unmanned aircraft Jan. 28 at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. The library sponsors an annual public series called the Hertha Heller Forum.

more than \$24 billion in procurement dollars. About \$4 billion will go toward aircraft purchases, including 37 armed reconnaissance, 44 light utility helicopters, 42 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 29 CH-47 Chinook helicopters. The remaining funds are earmarked for aircraft modifications to current aircraft inventory.

Another \$3 billion will go toward Army combat and support vehicles, with the largest slice going for 127 Stryker combat vehicles and 180 armored security vehicles. The Army will spend another \$1 billion on weapons and other combat vehicles, including \$97.6 million for nearly 70,000 M-4 carbine rifles and \$35.3 million for more than 8,300 M-249 squad automatic weapons.

More than \$4.6 billion is earmarked for tactical and support vehicles. Communications and electronics equipment rings in at more than \$5.7 billion, and other support equipment tops out at

roughly \$2.3 billion.

The budget request highlights the importance of space-based systems for today’s military. The request calls for \$6 billion for command and control, navigation, strategic/tactical communications and weather satellites. This includes the next generation NAVSTAR Global Positioning System satellite constellation.

The request also asks for \$2 billion to train and equip Iraqi security forces and \$2.7 billion for Afghan security forces. The request provides \$1.7 billion for coalition support efforts and \$1 billion to replenish the Commander’s Emergency Response Program, which allows commanders down to brigade level to fund projects in neighborhoods that benefit the community and put unemployed Iraqis and Afghans to work.

*Editor’s note: This Army News Service article is combined from Armed Forces Press Release stories by Jim Garamone and Fred W. Baker III.*

# Tobyhanna employees use Lean, save minutes, miles

By JACQUELINE BOUCHER  
Tobyhanna Public Affairs

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Cutting non-value added steps from the raceway installation process has reduced travel distance and repair time for electricians working on the AN/ASM-189 electronics repair van.

Using Lean initiatives, employees reduced the annual travel distance from 266 miles to 47 miles by placing a new raceway kit, parts package and common toolbox near the worksite, within easy reach of the electricians. Additionally, the amount of time spent working on each van dropped from 22 hours to six hours after the wheeled carts were developed. Figures are based on the projected workload of 242 vans for fiscal 2007.

Before, electricians had to search for parts and tools before they began work in the van. Now, there will be three kits, packages and toolboxes stocked with equipment stationed near the worksite.

"Using standard raceway and parts kits will improve our consistency in regards to quality as well as productivity," said Robert Sukel, electrical worker on the AN/ASM-189 van.

Lean is a philosophy and ongoing effort to reduce waste and increase efficiency in all processes by identifying and eliminating activities with little or no value.

"There's a tremendous amount of work being done on these vans and we need to do all we can to streamline processes," said Steve Mikitka, Electrical Recap Support Branch chief, Systems Integration and Support Directorate. "The estimated savings produced by implementing these changes will be more than \$104,000."

Mikitka was the team leader. The rapid improvement team realized the electrical buildup process was long and complicated. By observing the process, they learned employees were exiting the van in excess of 40 trips per worker while performing tasks.

"The ultimate goal was to standardize the procedure so electricians can perform the work in a similar, precise manner and to cut down Repair Cycle Time allowing assets to move quicker and at a reliable rate," said Jason Menago, electronics engineer, Project and Design and Development Division, Production Engineering Directorate.

Time studies showed electricians walked a mile each day during the buildup process. Menago explained that the preassembled carts helped cut the walk length by 80 percent and the work time by 25 percent.

"Using the kitting process makes my job better because I can concentrate more on production and less on looking for parts," said David Ezzell, electrical



Photo by Tony Medici

**FASTER WAY— Robert Sukel, left and Thomas Hooper use new kits, packages and toolboxes during the raceway installation process on an electronics repair van. Electricians were able to cut travel, distance and repair time by placing the wheeled carts near the worksite.**

worker on the vans.

The wheeled carts will be positioned close to the vans thereby preventing workers from having to move in and out of the vans, and around the dock, to retrieve tools and parts. The raceway kits will contain parts pre-cut to standard sizes. Toolboxes will be loaded with cutters, cordless drills, rotary tools, saws, crimpers and other specialty tools. And, the parts package will contain screws, hardware, receptacles and other items needed to complete the job.

"I was there to observe the whole event and address any employee concerns," said Joseph Lilik, union representative. "The whole team was very impressive. They accomplished a lot of major tasks in a very short period of time."

A plan was also created to educate the work force about standard processes, the worker's role in maintaining implemented changes, and management's responsibility to listen, support and take a proactive approach to Lean sustainability.

Team members remarked that if management and all the other workers who participate in the AN/ASM-189 van electrical buildup process continue to focus their efforts on continuous improvement, then Tobyhanna will set the bar at establishing a Lean culture.

"The Lean process will work, but we (management, shop personnel and process improvement personnel) must be committed to following through and sustaining the improvements and suggestions made during the event," said Darren Ruby, process improvement specialist, Process Engineering Division, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

Members of the rapid improvement event team were Mike Bannon, electrical worker, Electrical Recap Support Branch, SIS; Steve Vislocky, electronics mechanic, Electronics Services Division, SIS; Bill Drozinski, electrician, SIS, and April Garrahan, industrial engineering technician, Process Engineering Division, PII. Garrahan and Ruby were the event facilitators.

# Making the old red firehouse green

Engineers designing new standard for emergency services buildings

By CHRIS GARDNER  
Engineering and Support Center

The public wants environmentally friendly, or "green," buildings; and the number crunchers want budget friendly buildings.

Engineers and architects at the Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, a Center of Standardization, are working on marrying the two ideals as they come up with new guidelines for the construction of emergency services buildings for military installations throughout the United States.

The Huntsville Center got involved in the project after being contacted by Mannette Messenger from Installation Management Command. Judith Milton at the Savannah District and Annette Stumph at the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign-Urbana, Ill., are closely involved with the project. The "customer" for the project is Bruce Park, the director of Army Fire and Emergency Services at the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

They are working on designs and new standards for installation Emergency Services Stations, which will act as a combined fire station, police station and emergency medical service station.

Chris Shepherd, an architect at the Huntsville Center, said the agencies will likely share space for things like administration, 911 answering, showers and eating areas which should significantly cut overhead costs incurred by having separate buildings around an installation.

A prototype ESS building should be designed, based largely on current fire station standards, in fiscal 2007 and then built at Fort Bragg, N.C., in fiscal 2008. The year after that, the new operational ESS building will be closely monitored and its costs and environmental impact will be compared to an existing fire station that was built on Fort Bragg in 2003. Richard Grulich, of the Chief Architectural Branch at the Huntsville Center, said the goal of the project is formulating new design standards that will eventually be used for all new ESS buildings on installations in the United States.

He said the target is to design standards that will meet enough Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design requirements and have enough sustainable design components to earn a gold rating for this new ESS building.

LEED certified "green" buildings are leaders in environmentally friendly construction. Platinum is the highest rating a building can receive and gold is the next highest and is considered the highest

practical standard in LEED certification. There are only about 15 LEED platinum certified buildings in the country.

Grulich said that once the first ESS building is constructed, they are working to cut energy usage by 20 percent and water usage by 35 percent.

Shepherd said he hopes the project will be environmentally friendly from start to finish including using eco-friendly building materials to waste management.

"Some of the neat features might be how we're going to have to deal with the waste coming from the building," Shepherd said. "We're trying to develop new techniques to get rid of that in a more healthy way."

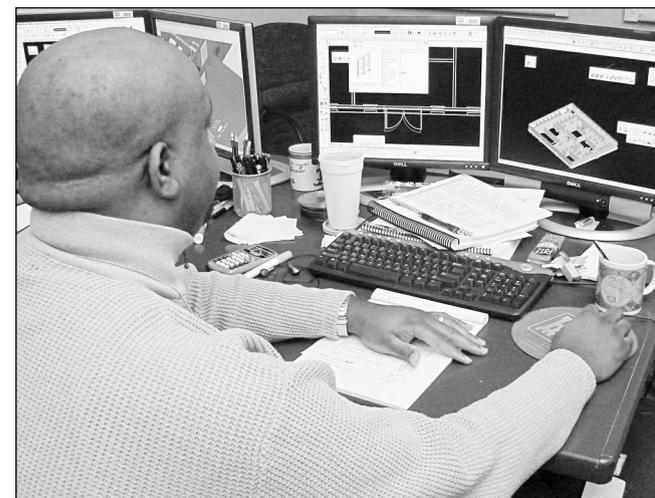


Photo by Chris Gardner

**EMERGENCY PLANS— Chris Shepherd, a Huntsville Center architect, works on building designs at his computer. Shepherd is part of a team tasked with formulating new environmentally friendly standards for use in future Emergency Services Station construction projects on military installations throughout the continental United States.**

Grulich said an outside firm that specializes in doing environmentally friendly construction will be the architect-engineer as they try to make new "greener" standards for the ESS buildings.

According to Grulich, a normal fire station runs about \$2.1 million and the estimated cost for a "green" ESS building is looking like approximately \$2.7 million. That combines the benefit of housing different agencies under one roof as well as the environmentally friendly and cost reducing factors.

The project is still in the early design stages, so it is yet to be decided whether the new ESS buildings will feature a "fire pole" for emergency personnel to slide down.

Shepherd, who recently visited Fort Benning, Ga., to look at a satellite fire station there, said there have been discussions of a fire pole but it's not clear yet how practical it would be.

"That's the first thing the fire chief (at Fort Benning) asked me," Shepherd said with a laugh. "He said they haven't used one since 1968."

Grulich added that hopefully once the sustainable design components are first applied to the new ESS buildings, they will easily be able to be used as a guide in reworking the construction standards of other continental United States military construction plans like for child care centers, Army Community Service centers, fitness centers and youth activity centers.

# Crafts center builds its customer base

*Award-winning facility has classes, equipment*

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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The humming noise of machinery often greets visitors to the woodshop at the June M. Hughes Arts and Crafts Center. On this particular night, students are



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SHAPING UP—** Woodworking student Mike Keefer uses woodworking tools and a lathe to form the curved shape of his candlestick's tulip-patterned base.

leaned over turning lathes, focusing their concentration on the fine details of a candlestick.

Master woodworker Chris Lang goes from student to student, showing them how to hold their tools, and use the lathe to add curves and shape to the wood.

“Turning is an ancient art,” he tells the students. “It has been a decorative element in woodworking for thousands of years.”

On many afternoons and weeknights, Lang is working in the Arts and Crafts Center's woodshop. He and other instructors as well as several volunteers enjoy a unique mission – introducing new students to the art of woodworking, encouraging experienced students to try new techniques and tools, and helping all woodworkers in their quest to create furniture, toys and other items out of wood.

Under the oversight of assistant manager Mark Wolfson, the woodshop along with the entire Arts and Crafts Center is undergoing an expansion that will draw even more students and craftsmen to their offerings in woodworking, painting, matting and framing, and stained glass. The expansion can be seen in the center's physical facility – there is new woodwork-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**GUIDANCE FROM TEACHER—** Woodshop instructor Chris Lang goes over the finer points of faceplate turning on a lathe with woodworking student Barbara Gray. Gray works in the THAAD Project Office. Behind Gray is retired Air Force pilot Narsh Benson.

ing machinery, an air conditioning system in the woodshop and a break room – as well as in the center's soon-to-be offered classes in photography, crochet, knitting, quilting, sewing and basket weaving.

“We've had enormous growth in new classes, new staff and a lot of new programs,” Wolfson said. “We've also upgraded our facility and equipment.

“Everything we do is customer based. We survey our customers to find out what they want in class offerings. Then, we build a business plan around the class, MWR and Garrison management supports the business plan, we implement it

and customers attend the class.”

Because of those three-minute “Tell Us What You Want” online customer surveys, the center now offers art and stained glass classes. It has seven new lathes, a scroll saw, router tables, sliding compound miter, portable dust-free sanders and other new equipment in the woodshop as well as a vacuum press for matting and framing. It has also hired specialized contractors to teach crafts, and there are plans to bring in nationally known craft speakers and demonstrators.

# Crafts

continued from page 12

For their ongoing efforts, the Arts and Crafts Center has been recognized both in the Southeast region and Armywide as the best medium-sized arts and crafts program of 2006.

"We were very excited about the awards," Wolfson said. "They recognize all the hard work of our employees and contractors and volunteers."

Much of the activity at the center focuses on woodworking, where students can take classes to make wagons, Adirondack chairs, tables, candlesticks, children's toys, bottle stoppers, and pen and pencil sets, among other projects. They can also work independently on their own projects or commission the center's staff for a specific project or repair.

"There is no competition in Huntsville for the woodshop," Wolfson said. "It's the only shop you can walk into, get real-time instruction and utilize modern technology. We want to preserve and pass on traditional and modern-day wood working skills and techniques. We accomplish that by providing this woodshop to the Redstone community."

Woodworker Lang has brought many of his unique skills to the woodshop staff, skills he developed during his 20-year journey from apprentice to master cabinetmaker.

"I am particularly interested in the evolution of the style of furniture and I like delving into how things have actually been built," said Lang, who has pub-

lished many articles on Alabama furniture and preservation issues.

Lang is in his element at the Arsenal's woodshop, where woodworkers have access to traditional hand tools and today's woodworking technology.

"I think there is a nice balance between handcraftsmanship and taking advantage of modern machinery," he said. "I have a strong interest in hand-tool work and how hand tools are used to cut dove tail joints and inlay motifs. But, I'm also interested in using more technical and advanced woodworking machinery."

## **New students to the woodshop must take a three-hour Introduction to Woodworking class, which is offered periodically on Monday and Thursday nights.**

Teaching woodworking is a passion for Lang.

"I get a certain sense of satisfaction passing on some of these woodworking traditions," he said.

"I try to make people understand the materials they are working with and how they can achieve the best quality of work possible. The instructors are here as teachers to offer help and guidance. I would like to develop a whole range of classes so that someone who is tentative as a beginner can come in here and work up their skills. I would like us to offer

classes for those who are starting wood-working from scratch and for the experienced craftsman."

New students to the woodshop must take a three-hour Introduction to Woodworking class, which is offered periodically on Monday and Thursday nights.

"During the class, students build a bench," Lang said. "The class enables us to examine all the main machinery in the shop. The instruction enables people to use any woodshop at any Army base."

Once a woodworker has attended the basics class, they can take additional classes offered by the woodshop or they can use any machinery in the woodshop on their own independent projects. New offerings in upcoming months include checkerboards and a three-day Windsor chair class taught by nationally recognized woodworker David Sapp from Nashville.

Besides teaching, Lang specializes in the restoration and conservation of antique furniture. He enjoys restoring furniture because of the history that can be uncovered during the restoration.

"You can see hand tool marks and other bits of evidence," he said. "It's a challenge to identify tool markings and see how things go together."

Lang is a member of the Alabama Humanities Foundation's speaker's bureau, volunteering to speak to groups on furniture made during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Besides the woodshop, classes in one-stroke painting, pottery, ceramics and kid's drawing are planned during 2007. Wolfson would also like to add sewing, cookie and cake decorating, quilting and crocheting to the lineup of classes. All have been requested by the center's customers.

The center also offers custom matting and framing, and will soon be offering digital imprinting on plaques, mugs, plates, coins and other items purchased by Redstone Arsenal organizations for their employees.

About \$130,000 has been spent in recent months on the center's facility and equipment upgrades. But, Wolfson said MWR and the Garrison are now considering a new facility for the Arts and Crafts Center.

"This building was built in 1933," he said. "With all that we are now offering, we are quickly approaching our capabilities. We'd like to enhance our programs, but we need more space. So, there is talk about renovating, adding on or building new."

The center will be hosting a series of quarterly open houses to demonstrate the center's new offerings to Redstone Arsenal employees. Arsenal organizations will be notified of the dates for open houses.

"The goal of these organizational-focused open house events is to better match the Arts and Crafts program to the unique and specific class requests, work schedules and work force demographics of each organization," Wolfson said.

"Training is our first mission. We want to make sure the Arts and Crafts Center provides the kinds of classes and programs that make the center valuable to all Arsenal employees."

For more information on the Arts and Crafts Center or to obtain a class schedule, call 876-7951 or e-mail [art@redstone.army.mil](mailto:art@redstone.army.mil). To contact Lang about an Alabama Humanities Foundation presentation, call him at 882-5530.

# Military police dog handler reenlists

*Receives an offer he couldn't refuse*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Man's best friend can be a recruitment tool.

Just ask military working dog handler Sgt. John Darnell II. He reenlisted Thursday at the Redstone kennels, signing up for three years as a dog handler at Fort Benning, Ga.

Asked his reason, he said for "love of country." And he added, "I enjoy working dogs."

The 29-year-old Lynchburg, Tenn., native has been in the Army eight years. Darnell arrived at Redstone in August 2004. He has been with Boris, his military working dog, nearly a year and a half.

Garrison commander Col. John Olsheski administered the oath of reenlistment.

"I feel like the movie 'Godfather,'" Darnell said of deciding to reenlist. "I felt that was one offer I had to take."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**K-9 HANDLER RE-UPS**— Military working dog handler Sgt. John Darnell II reenlists for three years.

# Preset and reset combine into one project

Aviation organizations  
adopt one-stop shop

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

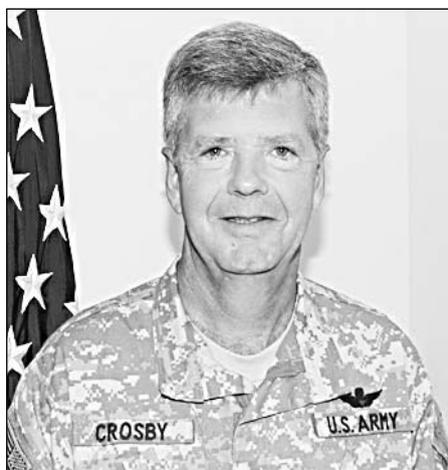
Movement in the skies above the battlefield is resulting in some changes at AMCOM and the PEO Aviation that will bring more efficiency in the Army's Preset and Reset programs for military aircraft.

Program Management-Preset, responsible for installing upgrades on aircraft prior to being fielded, is joining forces with Program Management-Reset, charged with repairing and upgrading aircraft that are in the field. At the helm of the new organization, known as Program Management-Setting the Aviation Force, will be Col. Tim Crosby.

"PM-Reset is a functional organization that was stood up to take care of all the wear and tear of the aircraft," Crosby said. "We are flying aircraft four or five times up-tempo in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Heavy use of the aircraft created a need for repairs and upgrades in the field to keep the aircraft at acceptable operating standards.

"It's about resetting the aircraft to standard and we are doing that for each type of Army aircraft at numerous different sites in Europe and the continental United States," Crosby said. "It's



Col. Tim Crosby

been a great effort, a well-managed, great program."

But, at the same time that PM-Reset has been achieving its goals, another activity known as PM-Preset has been applying modifications and improvements to aircraft prior to going into combat.

"The focus has always been to make sure aviators have the best equipment going into combat," Crosby said. "The Platform PMs each applied modifications and PEO headquarters orchestrated the tracking of those modifications."

Though both Reset and Preset functions were doing "outstanding work," AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim

Pillsbury felt more efficiencies would be realized if the two efforts were synchronized, Crosby said.

"Maj. Gen. Pillsbury wanted to take these two great teams, and merge responsibilities and capabilities so that they can give unit commanders more time for training," he said.

"My focus has always been on the unit commander because they need to be able to take fully equipped helicopters and Soldiers into harm's way and be successful in their mission."

As two separate functions, Crosby said the work force was not the most efficient at getting aircraft to commanders with the least amount of impact.

"There were times when we would take aircraft out of the field two or three times to make all the changes and modifications that needed to be made," he said.

"We have a vision for a one-touch system where the aircraft comes in and everything is accomplished at one time to get it back to the commander more quickly. Will that ever happen? Well, we'll never be 100 percent, but we can get close."

Often, delays in upgrades and repairs have been caused by the availability of kits, the funding of kits and the lead time to get kits.

"It will take a lot of commitment and resources up front to do what we want to do," Crosby said. "We are now preparing aircraft for the next rotation. In the '08 rotation, we will see some efficiencies because of the changes we are making now. But, it will be the '09 rotation of aircraft into theater where I think we will have the best opportunity to affect a truly synchronized effort."

As the Reset and Preset functions come together on the third floor of building 5300, Crosby will be looking for areas where efficiencies can be realized. He has met with the 50-plus employees affected by the organizational change.

"My mission is to orchestrate integrating the preset function into the reset organization," Crosby said. "The new organization - Setting the Aviation Force - will be integrated and briefed in one entity to the commanding general every Wednesday."

Setting the Aviation Force employees

working at Redstone Arsenal will interface with contractors at sites across the world as it supports all Program Executive Office for Aviation systems, including helicopters, fixed wing, unmanned aircraft vehicles, test facilities and ground support. The new organization will report to deputy PEO Aviation Brig Gen. Bill Phillips.

Setting the Aviation Force will use resources to improve "sites where we're executing work and coordinating with unit commanders to ensure we're providing them with the best quality product in the most timely way to get the maximum training benefit for Soldiers before going into combat. That is the highest priority," Crosby said.

Setting the Aviation Force will work with program managers to obtain a synchronized effort.

"The PMs have the responsibility for the configuring of their aircraft to their platforms," Crosby said. "They coordinate and have the modifications applied. We are not taking away the flexibility and specialization of what they do. Our job is to synchronize and balance the work force to best utilize and maintain organic capabilities. We want to ensure the brigade commander is getting good support from an integrated team."

Crosby has, himself, plenty of experience with aircraft in the field. The master Army aviator has worked as an instructor pilot for the Chinook and has flown everything from Black Hawk to fixed wing aircraft. He was the commander of the 7th Corps Chinook unit during deployment to the first Gulf War. He has also served in the Pentagon and as PEO Aviation's project manager for Cargo Helicopters, during which he was named the 2004 Army Project Manager of the Year by the Secretary of the Army.

"My passion is to give the brigade commanders and the Soldiers in the field the best product and the best support," Crosby said.

"Many of the folks who work in preset and reset are very passionate and focused on supporting the Soldier. My perception is they want to do what's best for the Soldier, just like I do. It's a credit to each of them and these two teams that they have done great work. I'm very optimistic that the two teams will work even better together for the Soldier."

# Bulldogs getting redemption for preseason

## Bravo beats Charlie to improve to 3-0

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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It's payback time for the Bravo Company basketball team.

The Bulldogs stayed unbeaten in the regular season by beating preseason champion Charlie Company 46-31 on Thursday night at Pagano Gym.

Bravo improved to 3-0 after going 1-2 in the preseason tournament with losses to finalists Charlie and the Marines.

"We just laid it on the line," Bravo center Marcus Crosby said. "We really wanted this win and went out and got it. We had to get redemption for the preseason. Now we're aiming for the Marines."

Guard/forward Ronell Roberson scored 14 points and player/coach Rod Brown had 13 for the Bulldogs. Bravo led 19-15 at halftime and pulled away from the Wolfpack after intermission.

"We were better conditioned than they were," said Brown, who scored 11 of his 13 points in the second half. "We wore them down in the second half. We got a lot of fast breaks and that opened it up. It was a team effort. Nobody really carried the team, but we all played together as a team."

Roberson agreed. "The key was working as a team," he said. "We got the few fast-break points and we hit as many layups as we could. It was just a total team effort all the way around."

Justin Butler scored seven points for Charlie (0-3).

**326th Chemical 42, NCO Academy 36:** Darrin Johnson led 326th with eight points, including two 3-pointers, in his debut Thursday night for the Dragons.

Johnson has been on the team's roster but missed the first three games. "I travel a lot," he explained.

"He just had an all-around game," 326th coach Eddie Bryan said. "He played defense, he scored when he needed to score and he just made crucial stops

and good decisions for our team."

The Dragons (3-1) led 23-20 at halftime.

Richard Morgan and Tyron Stanley scored 13 points apiece for the NCO Academy (3-1).

"They just ran something different on us," NCO Academy guard James Godine said. "They ran man-to-man (defense), we're used to playing against zone. So they threw something different at us. And they just out-hustled us on the boards."

Standings entering this week included: **Eastern Conference** – Bravo (3-0), 326th Chemical (3-1), NCO Academy (3-1). **Western Conference** – Marines (1-2), Headquarters & Alpha (0-3), Charlie (0-3).

Here are last week's results:

- **Feb. 5** – Marines def. Charlie 44-30 and Bravo def. 326th Chemical 50-39.

- **Feb. 7** – 326th Chemical def. Headquarters & Alpha 49-45 and NCO Academy def. Marines 53-42.

- **Feb. 8** – Bravo def. Charlie 46-31 and 326th Chemical def. NCO Academy 42-36.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**BOARDS BATTLE**— Bravo players (in black) look for an offensive rebound against Charlie in their 46-31 win Thursday night.

# Soldier's son joining the Yellow Jackets

## High school football star signs with Georgia Tech

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

As the senior small group leader for the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course at the NCO Academy, Sgt. 1st Class Albert Rocker Jr. has spent part of his 18 years in the military helping to shape young men into the best that they can be. Right now, he is celebrating seeing some of those lessons pay off for the young man he has spent the most time teaching — his son, Albert III.

On Feb. 7, national signing day for high school football recruits, Albert Rocker III declared in writing his intent to play for Georgia Tech. He reports to campus June 17.

"That's the first official day of school, to my understanding. I think our dorms are available to move in between June 12th to 17th," Albert said.

Albert isn't nervous about being the new kid on the block. As a military family member, he is used to the regular moves that are a part of Army life. Having



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**SHOPPING**— Sgt. 1st Class Albert Rocker Jr. and his son, Albert III, check out the offerings at the Post Exchange.

played football since he was 6, a new move always meant a new team. He learned quickly how to fit into a team's style and dynamic. He also learned how to prove himself to his teammates and coach.

"I adjusted really fast," the Sparkman High senior said. "It was like that when I came to Sparkman (two years ago)."

Sgt. 1st Class Rocker quipped that the moves were always harder on the coaches.

"The coaches always wanted to hold onto him," Rocker said. "They'd talk about coming back next year and we'd have to tell them 'There probably won't be a next year. We've got orders.'"

The Sparkman defensive end will be making the transition to

linebacker when he reaches Atlanta. In order to do that, the 6-foot-2, 205-pound Albert will need to add some bulk to his frame. He hopes that donning a red shirt this year will help him get into peak mental and physical condition before he takes the field.

"They expect me to gain like 20 or 30 pounds," Albert said. "With the weight training and how they feed you, it's easy to do."

With the Yellow Jackets' current roster and depth chart, a red shirt may also put Albert in a better position for playing time once he is ready.

"They have two linebackers coming back. They have another behind them," Albert said. "I'd like to sit back and watch them while I get my body ready. Then I can come in as a red shirt freshman and have four years of eligibility ahead of me. The way the depth chart is looking, I'll get to play as a red shirt freshman or red shirt sophomore."

As a highly recruited and much discussed member of this year's class, Albert has had to get used to hearing himself discussed in the media. While most critiques have been positive, not every review can be totally

favorable. Albert said he is trying to take it all in stride.

"It really doesn't bother me. I've always had to prove myself," Albert said. "Even in high school football people would say 'Why is he on the defensive line? He only weighs 200 pounds!' People would say that because I'm so small it must be the level that I'm playing at that makes me look good. I say I play (Class) 6A football just like all these other kids that go to college. I've had the same competition everyone else had."

He thinks that his father and the lessons he has learned from him have played a big part in his success thus far.

"It's made me very disciplined and humble," Albert said.

He hopes to rely on that strong background in the future to help keep him grounded and away from many of the pitfalls players suddenly thrust into the limelight often find themselves in.

"I keep to myself. I already have my mind set and just try to keep a level head," Albert said.

When asked why he chose Georgia Tech, he said the choice was easy once all aspects of the decision were weighed.

# UAH studying base realignment impact

In a community where the unemployment rate is only 2.5 percent, where does one find several hundreds of extra engineers, spare accountants or unused contract managers?

That is one of several questions the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce hopes a study led by faculty in University of Alabama-Huntsville's business school will answer about the effects of moving more than 4,000 jobs but an unknown number of people to Redstone Arsenal.

"There is some fear, which might be justified, among local businesses that their employees will be recruited by or will seek out these new employers," said Dr. David Berkowitz, a UAH marketing professor and the study's principal investigator. "Some of the people who work for these agencies will move and others won't. The whole objective of this study is to figure out who is moving and where the likely fallout will come, and to put into place structures that will minimize that fallout."

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process will bring between 4,000 and 4,700 government jobs, both military and civilian to Huntsville by 2012, plus a roughly equal number of people and jobs with private contractors which support the Army.

Making plans to deal with that influx is made more difficult by the shortage of reliable information about how many people will move to North Alabama with their jobs and how many jobs will be

vacant when they arrive in Huntsville.

"We're looking at the makeup of those vacancies, defining the skills that will be needed, but we're also going to look at the people who are moving," Berkowitz said. "If we find out that only 25 percent of the people are coming and that most of that 25 percent are senior level executives nearing retirement, that would pose a very special set of problems. On the other hand, if the numbers and job grades are similar to what we saw when the Army aviation command moved from St. Louis, that would pose a different set of conditions to evaluate."

The first part of the study, which began Jan. 1 and will be finished in June, will look at past base realignments.

"What did we learn from the last time and how much of that applies now?"

Berkowitz asked. "But the primary work will be talking to contractors and government employers to figure out exactly what kind of profile exists for the people coming to Huntsville and those who are staying behind."

The last part of the study will be recommendations on where and how to find the people needed to fill what might be thousands of vacancies, especially in professions like engineering and accounting, where the local demand already significantly exceeds the supply.

The likelihood of many jobs coming to Huntsville vacant is increased by the situation in the area around Fort Belvoir, Va. The Army Materiel Command headquarters is moving to Redstone Arsenal from

Fort Belvoir, but many of the command's employees will have other job opportunities in Virginia: Fort Belvoir will gain

18,000 total positions due to BRAC, and unemployment in Fairfax County, Va., is only 2.7 percent. (UAH release)

## Wild game cookout bears repeating

More than 300 attend event at O' Club

By ADRIAN BAKER  
MWR Sales & Marketing

After six years in hibernation, the Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation brought the Wild Game Cookout back to Redstone Arsenal.

The event, held Feb. 2, was planned and hosted in a combined effort of both Outdoor Recreation and the Officers and Civilians Club. The night drew 300 patrons, paying \$14 per person for tickets to a dinner of wild turkey, venison, rabbit, quail, boar, duck, buffalo and bear, as well as whale, rattlesnake, alligator and free draft beverages.

"We had lots of demand for this event, which started as a cookout for our hunters over 15 years ago down at the Rustic Lodge," Outdoor Recreation manager Bill Moreland said. "It really grew so fast that we ran out of facilities that could host it, so we were forced to take a break and find a new venue. Looking at the crowd here tonight, the ROCC has been a great choice of venue to host this again in the future — not just in room capacity, but the club staff as well."

"It just doesn't get any better than this," Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski said. "Gander Mountain is a



Courtesy photo

**DRESSED FOR OCCASION— Mike Chemsak, winner of the Wild Game Chili Cook-Off, accepts his trophies of both First Place and Peoples' Choice from Bob Howell, general manager of the Officers and Civilians Club. The chili cook-off was held in conjunction with the Feb. 2 Wild Game Cookout.**

wonderful sponsor; just look around this room and see what they did to make this event successful. Partnerships like this one, where the local businesses partner with our MWR activities, once again make me really proud to be a part of this town and this community."



Photo by Laurie Johnsey

## Troop support

Girl Scouts, from left, Grace Seltzer, Morgan Caselberry, Julia Plummer and Shannon Tucker from Troop 465 spend a recent Saturday asking customers at the Post Exchange to purchase cookies for deployed Soldiers. Girl Scouts from troops 484, 465, 319 and 528 raised donations of 450 boxes of cookies for Soldiers during the sale Feb. 3 as part of the Cookies for Troops campaign. Girl Scouts will be selling cookies and seeking cookie donations for Soldiers at weekend booth sales throughout the area until March 10. Several area businesses and Moms on a Mission will help pay for shipping the cookies to deployed Soldiers. Booth sales are listed on the web at [girlscoutsofnorthalabama.org/CookieBoothSales07.html](http://girlscoutsofnorthalabama.org/CookieBoothSales07.html).

# Football

continued from page 17

"It's probably the best combination of academics and athletics you can get out of a school in this country," he said. "I like Atlanta. It's a great opportunity for me."

Although he just signed last week, Albert said the decision to go to Georgia Tech was made early in the season.

"I knew Georgia Tech was where I wanted to go," he said. "It was halfway through the season, sometime around the fifth or sixth week of the season that I decided for sure."

A lot of schools were waiting in the wings to see if he followed through with that intention.

"There were a lot of schools – Purdue, Vanderbilt, South Carolina, UCLA, Ohio State and Auburn – talking to me. They were waiting to see what I was going to do," he said. "I had such a strong interest in Georgia Tech, but I drew a lot of interest from a lot of different schools."

Instead of blowing his own horn, as many an 18-year-old would, Albert is staying humble. He didn't talk about the buzz of recruiters hovering around him until his coach announced to the team that Albert was headed for Georgia Tech and the Atlantic Coast Conference. He said it's just not his style to brag.

"Most of my teammates didn't even know until my coach announced it," Albert said. "I don't go around talking about how many tackles I have. I just keep to myself."

Albert is excited and a little apprehensive about playing in front of television cameras, but he thinks that knowing his entire family is watching will motivate him to take his game to a higher level.

"I'm not nervous about the crowd. At Sparkman our largest game had 10,000 there. So I'm used to that," he said. "I think I actually perform better when I know my folks are looking at me. I know that with the cameras even my folks back home are looking, so I think I'll be better under that pressure."

He also loves the idea of being one of the guys on ESPN instead of just one of the guys watching ESPN.

"I watch football every day. That's what my TV stays on," Albert said. "I'm excited about playing on national television and doing what I watched other people do when I was a little kid – knowing little kids at home are watching me."

Albert cites academic demands as his biggest source of anxiety as college approaches.

"I'm most nervous about my education. I'm good at school, but the way the players talk about it, you really have to hit the books hard to succeed at Georgia Tech," Albert said.

Rocker is obviously proud of his son. While many parents would be nervous about sending their child off to school, Rocker has faith in his son's maturity and character.

"As far as him being on campus and doing the right thing, no I'm not nervous about it. I think he's a little more mature for his age than a lot of people give him credit for. I see a lot of things in him that I don't even see in his sister that's two years older than him," Rocker said. "I feel he needs the opportunity to show him some of the things I've been telling him. He has some good mentors up there in the coaches and the team chaplain. I've met them. All of these guys are very humble in their way of speaking and doing business with the students and the general public."

He's also using a little of that faith to keep worries about injuries at bay.

"There's always that fear of him being hurt, but we try to put our faith in the Lord and hope that something like that won't come along," Rocker said. "So far we've been blessed. Hopefully, we'll stay that way."

**I**t would seem that Georgia Tech's Atlanta location and its proximity to Redstone would be a big bonus for the family; however Uncle Sam has other plans. Rocker said he is already slated to leave for Arizona in April.

"I'm on the way out," Rocker said. "It's rough being moved out there knowing he's going off to college and playing football. Hopefully, he'll get some TV time and I won't miss a game that way. I plan on trying to make some of the games anyway."

His wife will be staying behind to get their son settled before joining him at his new post.

"She's going to finish tying everything up here with him and a few other things," Rocker said.

Albert plans to major in business management. He said that while he's not 100 percent sure what he plans on doing with that after he graduates, the full scholarship that comes with his signing has put his goals within closer reach. He added that had he not gotten that scholarship, he would have considered another of his father's examples to get where he wants to go.

"If I didn't get a scholarship, I probably would've tried to join the military," he said.



## Sports & Recreation

### 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](http://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.

### Leisure travel

It is time to begin booking those long anticipated summer vacations. Want to cruise, fly to a tropical paradise or explore the "Land Down Under"? Let the Redstone Leisure Travel office help you plan the perfect summer get-away. How about Hawaii? Join them for the "Redstone Hawaii Tour" from Sept. 19-26. This escorted tour package includes roundtrip airfare from Huntsville, seven nights' accommodations at the Armed Forces



Courtesy photo

## Riding in style

Four Redstone motorists meet in the parking lot at building 111 to share experiences with their 2007 Shelby Cobra GT 500s. From left are Lt. Col. Meg Foreman, Natalie DeLuca, and Brig. Gen. Bill and Marilyn Phillips.

Recreation hotel, the Hale Koa, as well as tours to the Arizona Memorial, the Polynesian Cultural Center, and Hale Koa's authentic Hawaiian Luau. For more information, call 313-0090. Check out MWR Australia's vacation packages at [www.ittaustralia.com](http://www.ittaustralia.com), or e-mail the Redstone Leisure Travel office at [grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil](mailto:grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil) for vacation planning assistance.

### Ladies golf

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association will have a Signup Coffee on March 7 at 9 a.m. at the Redstone golf course. Ladies meet on Wednesday morn-

ings at the golf course from March through October to play golf. There are also tournaments by the golf association that members are eligible to compete in. All women age 17 and over who meet the eligibility requirements for the use of the Redstone golf course as defined by current Army and post regulations may apply for membership in the association. Membership fee for RSALGA is \$20 per year. If you need more information or plan to attend, call 772-8603 or e-mail [katn@knology.net](mailto:katn@knology.net).

### Babe Ruth baseball

Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold

registration for the summer season on March 3, 10 and 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of April 30, 2007 are invited; and 12-year-olds are eligible to sign up, too. Registration forms will be accepted after March 17 on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. HBRL boundaries are the Huntsville city limits. The registration fee is \$70, and a birth certificate is required for all players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply. The Babe Ruth parks and their primary contacts are: Central Division, Brahan Springs, call Bud Gambrell 564-5612; Northern Division, Mastin Lake, Dewayne Friend 830-7077; Southern Division, Sandhurst, Tim Harrison 544-3180; and Eastern Division, Optimist Park, Mike Samples e-mail [michael@samplesproperties.com](mailto:michael@samplesproperties.com).



## 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](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil).

### Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel have Bible studies each Thursday at Bicentennial Chapel. The morning Bible studies

See Announcements on page 22

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.

## Data managers

Association for Configuration and Data Management will hold its 12th annual conference March 5 in Destin, Fla. To register go to <http://www.acdm.org/2007/conference.php>.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:amy.clark@amrdec.army.mil).

## Technical workshop

A workshop on the programming of Field-Programmable Gate Array chips will be held Feb. 23 at the Alabama Supercomputer Center, 686 Discovery Drive. This event is sponsored jointly by the Alabama Supercomputer Center and the Alabama Modeling & Simulation Council. Attendance is open to higher education faculty and students, AMSC members and non-members. There is no charge for this workshop; however, space is limited so individuals interested in attending should RSVP. Contact David Young at [dyoung@asc.edu](mailto:dyoung@asc.edu).

## Test week 2007

The Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center, in cooperation with the International Test and Eval-

uation 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](http://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.

## Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon Feb. 21 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Capt. Paul Laracy, officer in charge of the Tax Assistance Center and a judge advocate in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, is the scheduled speaker. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

## Fleet reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 24 at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565 Exit 3. For information call Gene Aittala 773-6283 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

## Genealogical society

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet 7 p.m. Feb. 19 at Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Pete Gerac is to speak on "Is it Time to Write Your Family History?" For information call 883-5650.

## 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](mailto: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.JIAMDsummit.org](http://www.JIAMDsummit.org).

## Toastmasters

Tennessee Valley Toastmasters meets the first and third Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Radisson Inn, 8721 Highway 20 West, Madison. For information call 876-8706 or e-mail [amy.donlin@us.army.mil](mailto: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](mailto:cpurifoy@bellsouth.net).



## Miscellaneous

### Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt. 1st Class Harold Cook 876-8710 or Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

## Civilian deployment

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

## Surplus sales

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

## Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 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 spring items. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

## Water cooler refills

The Thrift Shop has begun to stock water cooler refills as part of its goal to raise more money to give back to the community. Water cooler replacement bottles, 5-gallon jugs, are available at good prices at the shop. For more information, call Christi Graves 881-6992.

## Computer classes

Self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service to assist military spouses in learning or enhancing their computer skills. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher and Windows XP. All classes are free and are offered Monday

through Friday anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Certificates will be given after successful completion. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

## Chapel services

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

## Merit awards

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

## 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](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil). ... A call for papers has also been issued for the Conference on Reconfigurable Systems, Microsystems and Nanotechnology, May 8-10. For more information, e-mail [angie.cornelius@us.army.mil](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil).

## Weather closings

If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: radio - WDRM 102FM, WEKR 1240AM, WEUP 1600 AM, WGSV 1270AM, WJAB 90.9FM, WLRH 89.3FM, WRAB 1380AM, WTKI 1450AM, WVNN 770AM, WWIC 1050AM and WZYP 104.3FM; television — WAAY (Channel 31), WAFF (Channel 48) and WHNT (Channel 19). Two additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures: you can call 955-8445 to hear

a recorded announcement, or you can find adverse weather announcements on the Team Redstone Internet site (<http://www.redstone.army.mil>) by clicking on "Links" and then Adverse Weather; on the AMCOM Portal Intranet site (<https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/>) by clicking on Adverse Weather under Key Sites; or the AMCOM Internet site (<http://www.amcom.redstone.army.mil>) by clicking on Adverse Weather.

## 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](mailto:arotc@uiuc.edu), or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/army-rotc/>.

## 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](mailto:arotc@uiuc.edu), or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/>.

## Scholarship program

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

## AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is 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](http://www.aerhq.org). For more information call Kristi Foster, AER officer, 876-5397, or e-mail [kristi.foster@redstone.army.mil](mailto:kristi.foster@redstone.army.mil).

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.opm.gov/cfc). Deadline for receipt of applications is Thursday. All interested parties may contact Donna Johnson, LFCC chairperson, AMSAM-CFC, building 3708, by phone at 876-9143 or e-mail

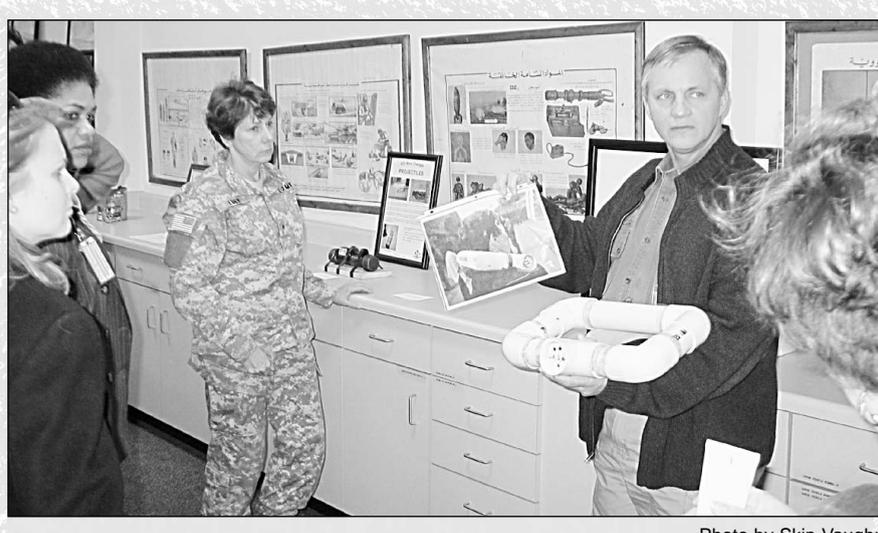


Photo by Skip Vaughn

## School tour

Paul Carter, chief instructor of the Hazardous Devices School, gives a tour Feb. 7 to Brig. Gen. Mari Eder, the Army's deputy chief of public affairs, and local public affairs specialists.

to donna.johnson@redstone.army.mil.

## 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.

## Art auction

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold its annual Art Exhibition/Crafts and Services Auction "Fiesta" on Feb. 24 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The preview, hors d'oeuvres and Crafts and Services Silent Auction begins at 5:30 p.m., the art auction at 7 and dessert at 9. The Perry Berns Gallery of Dallas, Texas, will conduct this year's event. Tickets are \$10 per person. Proceeds benefit the OCWC Welfare Fund in support of community activities for military and civilian families. For information call Teri Holly 772-4245 and Lynn Carden 533-6368.

## Grissom High reunion

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

## Military collectibles

A military collectibles show will be held March 17-18 at the Jaycees Building,

2180 Airport Road. Buy, sell, trade or display. For more information, call 651-7302 or visit [www.almilitarycollectors.org](http://www.almilitarycollectors.org).

## Quarterly retirements

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

## Health center heating

Fox Army Health Center will begin an upgrade to the heating and cooling system in its building Thursday. This project will take approximately two weeks, and during this time various sections of the building will have minimal heat. If you will be visiting Fox from Feb. 15-28, plan to dress warmly and avoid an uncomfortable visit. "We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our customers," a prepared release said.

## Scholarships for freshmen

The 100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter announces its 2007 Scholarship Awards. As a part of its "Four for the Future" cornerstone programs (mentoring, educational, health and wellness, and economic development), the 100 BMOA is committed to the growth and development of America's youth. Scholarships will be awarded to individu-

als who maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 point system. The program is for freshmen entering an accredited two- or four-year college, regardless of race, sex, creed or religious preference. Applications for scholarships must arrive in the 100 BMOA, GHC Business Office, P.O. Box 5194, Huntsville, AL, 35814 by March 9. Scholarship award letters will be forwarded to selected winners by March 31. Applications can be obtained from local high school counselors, or by calling Freeda McDowell 536-8050. Interested students may also call scholarship chairman Sam King 722-1074.

## Women's luncheon

The fifth annual Women's History Luncheon will be held at Post 237 on March 13 at 11:30 a.m. The event, sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary 237 and 176, will honor the Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Wives of all wars. The honorary guest of honor will be Auxiliary national president JoAnn Cronin. If you know of any Gold Star Mothers or Wives, call Americanism chairman Shirley Mohler 539-3660.

## Math tutoring

ACT and SAT Math Prep Tutoring Sessions will be held at the Youth Center through May 8 from 4:30-6 p.m. These sessions are free to children that are registered with Child and Youth Services. For more information, call 876-5437. Registration paperwork and more information can be found at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

## Engineer week

National Engineers Week is the profession's premiere campaign leading the public to acknowledge and respect engineers and their contributions to improving quality of life. The 2007 Huntsville engineers' week banquet is scheduled Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel. The event is sponsored this year by the Alabama Society of Professional Engineers. One of the highlights of the evening is the

recognition of local individuals by their respective engineering societies. The keynote speaker is Bill Waite, president and co-founder of the AEGIS Technologies Group. For more information or reservations, call Dr. Kate Leonard 824-6423.

## Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives include the following: Thursday from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at buildings 5308 and 5309, building 5400 and Ground Based Midcourse Defense at 5000 Bradford Drive; Friday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316; Feb. 22 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5220; and Feb. 23 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency, 106 Wynn Drive.

## Elvis benefit show

Elvis impersonator Mitchell Brown and the Twickenham Orchestra will present an Elvis tribute show, "Return of the King," on Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Proceeds will benefit the Arthritis Foundation in honor of "Aunt" Eunice Merrell, who died three years ago. All seats are reserved for \$12.50, \$16.50, \$20.50 and \$24.50. Tickets are available at the VBC box office, Publix and any Ticketmaster outlet.

## Health fair

Girls Incorporated of Huntsville and the James A. Lane and Sparkman Homes Boys and Girls Clubs are supporting February's National Heart Month by joining hands to raise awareness of heart disease, the nation's number one killer of women. Girls from both Girls Inc. and the James A. Lane and Sparkman Homes Boys and Girls Clubs will host a free health fair from 4-6 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Richard Showers Recreation Center on Blue Spring Road in Huntsville. A number of activities and presentations on heart health will be available for visitors. Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit

See Announcements on page 25



### Post Housing Availability:

- Key & Essential Personnel
- Military Personnel and Chaplains
- Accompanied military personnel assigned or attached for duty within a 50 mile radius of installation
- Unaccompanied Families of Active Duty Military Personnel

### ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FAMILY HOUSING

Redstone Communities owns and manages 350 residential homes at Redstone Arsenal. These homes provide the highest quality of residential living by offering spacious, well designed floor plans together with energy efficient construction and modern appliances. Living at Redstone Communities include amenities such as, pets allowed in all homes, basketball Courts, jogging trail and newly renovated playgrounds plus full landscaping service, 24 hour emergency maintenance and an on-site management team.

**\*\*\*Coming soon Newly constructed Community Center that will include a Media Center, fitness room, Pool, and recreational game room\*\*\***

For more information please call our office where a knowledgeable, friendly team member is waiting to help you with your new home. 256-430-1517

various booths, including representatives from local fitness and health facilities as well as community organizations.

## Florida Tech sign up

Florida Tech Graduate Center, Redstone registration for the summer semester begins April 30 at building 5304, room 4326. Class is weekly from 5-8 p.m. in building 5304. For information call the administrative office 881-7878.

## Senior school

Alabama Senior Assisted Placement Inc., Decatur General, Decatur General Rehab Access, Morningside of Decatur, NARCOG, and the All American Senior will present "Senior School 2007" March 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at First Baptist of Decatur, 123 Church St. northeast, Decatur. This free event will cover such topics as home safety for senior citizens. For information call Chanda Crutcher 382-0426.

## Spring registration

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is now registering for the spring term March 19 to May 20. Classes offered include the Air Transportation System; Concepts of Integrated Logistics; Studies in Rhetorical Theory; Human Factors in Aviation Safety; and Logistics Management for Aviation/Aerospace. The Embry-Riddle Huntsville Center offers fully accredited instruction at both graduate and undergraduate levels in Aviation/Aerospace and Management fields as well as certificate programs in Logistics, Supply Chain Management, Industrial Management, Occupational Safety and Health, Aviation Safety, and Space Studies. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. Deadline to register is March 16. Call 876-9763 or visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222.

## Master's program

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is offering a Master of Science in Management program on Redstone Arsenal. Students applying for admission to the Master of Science in Management may choose from specializations in Management of Integrated Logistics; Aviation/Aerospace Industrial Management; and a General Management Option. Courses are offered in nine-week



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

## Miss Alabama

**Melinda Toole, Miss Alabama 2006, is helped by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Shallbetter, center, and Sgt. 1st Class Charles Wyatt to put on a bomb suit at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Department during a visit to the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School. Toole had the opportunity to visit various training departments and meet with the Soldiers and Marines of the 59th Ordnance Brigade and OMEMS. She started off her day, however, by participating in the National Prayer Breakfast held Thursday at the Officers and Civilians Club where she sang the national anthem and another song for those in attendance.**

terms and are available online as well. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. For more information visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222; the web site at <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>, or e-mail the center at [huntsville.center@erau.edu](mailto:huntsville.center@erau.edu).

## Smoking cessation

Fox Army Health Center's Preventive Medicine Division will conduct a Tobacco Cessation Program beginning with an orientation Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. at Fox Preventive Medicine Classroom. The five

class sessions will follow weekly at lunch time from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The sessions are open to Soldiers, family members and DoD civilians. Class size limited to 10. To sign up, call 955-8888, ext.1207.

## Library release

"Bridge to Terabithia," a children's book by Katherine Paterson, is being featured this month at the MWR Post Library. In anticipation of the Terabithia movie release, Disney and Walden Media have given the library copies of another one of their ventures to offer as prizes. Also addi-

tional copies of "Bridge to Terabithia" were presented for the library collection. On Saturday, the first 10 children (ages 9-15) who come in and tell the librarians they want to read "Bridge to Terabithia" will receive a prize. The library is open from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call 876-4741.

## Help wanted

The Thrift Shop seeks a part-time assistant manager. For more information, call 881-6992.

## Black History tours

Team Redstone's Cultural Awareness Committee will sponsor two one-day tours to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church on Feb. 21 and Feb. 22 in observance of Black History Month. Participation is voluntarily. Although, this is a command sponsored event for the installation with transportation provided, there is a \$10 cost (entrance fees) associated with participation. These fees are the responsibility of the participant and are not reimbursable as this is a voluntary program. For more information, call Julia Story of Garrison Protocol 842-7954.

## Black History series

In recognition of Black History Month, AMCOM is showing the four-part series "Slavery and the Making of America" Feb. 12-14 and 20 from 11 a.m. to noon in building 5250 (PEO Missiles and Space headquarters), conference room A-115.

## UAH lectures

Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, founder and president of Educational Achievement Services Inc., will be a guest speaker for Women's History Month at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. The theme for National Women's History Month in March is "Generations of Women Moving History Forward." Kickbusch will give two lectures on March 1. A UAH Honors Forum Real World Seminar will be presented at 11 a.m. in the North Campus Residence Hall Multi-Purpose Room. And at 7 p.m., she will give an Empowerment Seminar "Journey to the Future: A Roadmap for Success" in Roberts Recital Hall. Both lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Office of Multicultural Affairs 824-6822.

## ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

### Community program

A Black History Program will be held 2 p.m. Feb. 25 at Chelsea Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 3123 Johnson Road southwest. The speaker is Minister William Arnold. Music will be provided by St. Bartley PB Church Brotherhood Chorus. Refreshments will be served following morning service. For information call Edward or Loretta Ragland 880-9469.

### Youth classes

SKIESUnlimited classes are offered to enrich the academic, physical and emotional lives of youth. This program is open to youth ages 4-18. SKIESUnlimited offers Tae Kwon Do, Dance, Drumming, and Kindernastics. For more information, call 876-7801.

### PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange will operate with the following hours on Presidents Day, Feb. 19: Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; all Concessions, closed; Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; GNC, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Furniture Store, closed; One-Stop Goss Road, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tire Store, closed; Burger King, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Military Clothing, closed; Barber Shop at building 3479, closed; Food Court - Anthony's, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Cinnabon, closed; Baskin Robins, closed; Robin Hood, closed; Churchs, closed; and American Eatery, closed.

### Greyhound adoptions

A Greyhound Adoption Event will be held March 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tractor Supply on North Memorial Parkway. "This is a perfect chance to meet this wonderful, gentle breed," a prepared release said. For more information, call 883-9384.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?																			
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U								
<b>THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL</b>																											
SCBK07815525	Logistics Mgmt Spec	14-Feb-07	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	63,958 - 98,148		X																		
SCBK07815650	Logistics Mgmt Spec	14-Feb-07	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	76,056 - 98,876		X																		
SCBK07816964	General Engr	14-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07816964D	General Engr	14-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07778951	Logistics Mgmt Spec	14-Feb-07	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	76,056 - 98,876		X																		
SCBK07763747	General Engr	15-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0801	13	13	76,056 - 98,876		X																		
SCBK07763747D	General Engr	15-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0801	13	13	76,056 - 98,876		X																		
SCBK06714202	Optometrist	15-Feb-07	MEDDAC	GS-0662	12	12	62,751 - 81,572	X	X	X				X	X	X											
SCBK07807197	Secretary (OA)	15-Feb-07	LOGSA	GS-0318	6	6	32,446 - 42,180		X																		
SCBK07785243	General Supp Spec	15-Feb-07	GARRISON	GS-2001	11	11	53,362 - 69,373		X																		
SCBK07750583	Supv General Engr	16-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07750583D	Supv General Engr	16-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07816024D	General Engr	16-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07806566	Budget Analyst	16-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DE-0560	3	3	48,570 - 83,148		X																		
SCBK07768137	Human Resources Spec	16-Feb-07	SMDC	GS-0201	13	13	76,056 - 98,876			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07768137D	Human Resources Spec	16-Feb-07	SMDC	GS-0201	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07762234	Contract Spec	16-Feb-07	ACQ SUPP CTR-PEO	GS-1102	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X																		
SCBK07819219	Financial Sys Spec	19-Feb-07	AMCOM	GS-0501	11	11	53,362 - 69,373		X																		
SCBK07791648	Logistics Mgmt Spec	19-Feb-07	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12	63,958 - 83,148		X																		
SCBK07800576	Lead Logistics Mgmt Spec	20-Feb-07	IMMC	GS-0346	13	13	76,056 - 98,876		X																		
SCBK07816072	Logistics Supp Assistant (OA)	20-Feb-07	IMMC	GS-0303	7	7	36,057 - 46,874	X	X									X	X								
SCBK07806671	Aerospace Engr	20-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	63,958 - 98,876			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07724377	International Prgm Mgmt Spec	20-Feb-07	ACQ SUPP CTR-PEO	GS-0301	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X								X			X						
WTST07771014	Security Ofcr	20-Feb-07	Army Eval Ctr	GG-0080	11	12	53,362 - 83,148	X	X																		
SCBK07806671D	Aerospace Engr	21-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07791530	Mgmt Analyst	21-Feb-07	AMCOM	GS-0343	12	12	63,958 - 83,148	X	X																		
SCBK07806663	Logistics Mgmt Spec	21-Feb-07	IMMC	GS-0346	11	11	53,362 - 69,373		X										X		X						
SCBK07431020R	Military Integration Analyst	21-Feb-07	SMDC	GS-0301	13	13	76,056 - 98,876			X								X	X	X	X						
SCBK07761620	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07761620D	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07759357	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07759357D	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07754982	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07754982D	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07822698	Trng Clerk (OA)	22-Feb-07	AMCOM	GS-0303	5	5	25,623 - 33,309	X	X																		
SCBK07762680	Prgm Integrator	22-Feb-07	ACQ SUPP CTR-PEO	NH-0301	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X										X		X						
SCBK07795548	Lead Aerospace Engr	26-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07795548D	Lead Aerospace Engr	26-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07784475	Supv Gen Engr;Supv Elect Engr;Supv Mech Engr;Supv Physical Scientist;Supv Physicist;Supv Oper Research Analyst	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0801;0855;0830;1301;1310;1515	15	15	105,720 - 137,434		X		X								X	X	X	X					
SCBK07784475D	Supv Gen Engr;Supv Elect Engr;Supv Mech Engr;Supv Physical Scientist;Supv Physicist;Supv Oper Research Analyst	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0801;0855;0830;1301;1310;1515	15	15	105,720 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
SCBK07806360D	Gen Engr	8-Mar-07	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	89,875 - 116,835	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07808079	Aerospace Engr	8-Mar-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07807048	Mechanical Engr	8-Mar-07	AMRDEC	DB-0830	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07807048D	Mechanical Engr	8-Mar-07	AMRDEC	DB-0830	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
<b>THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOB.SOPM.GOV</b>																											
SCBK07816964D	General Engr	14-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07763747D	General Engr	15-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0801	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07750583D	Supv General Engr	16-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07816024D	General Engr	16-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	3	3	63,958 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07768137D	Human Resources Spec	16-Feb-07	SMDC	GS-0201	13	13	76,056 - 98,876	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07761620D	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07759357D	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07754982D	Lead Gen Engr	22-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07795548D	Lead Aerospace Engr	26-Feb-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07784475D	Supv Elect Engr	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0855	15	15	105,720 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07784475D	Supv Gen Engr	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0801	15	15	105,720 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07784475D	Supv Mech Engr	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-0830	15	15	105,720 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07784475D	Supv Oper Research Analyst	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-1515	15	15	105,720 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07784475D	Supv Physical Scientist	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-1301	15	15	105,720 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07784475D	Supv Physicist	28-Feb-07	USADTC	GS-1310	15	15	105,720 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07806360D	Gen Engr	8-Mar-07	SMDC	GS-0801	14	14	89,875 - 116,835	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07807048D	Mechanical Engr	8-Mar-07	AMRDEC	DB-0830	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
SCBK07808079D	Aerospace Engr	8-Mar-07	AMRDEC	DB-0861	4	4	89,875 - 137,434	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						

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

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

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

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