

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 56 No. 7

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

February 21, 2007

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Veterans' tribute takes flight

Trips planned to Washington to visit war memorials

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

John Kraus is an 85-year-old Army infantry veteran who fought in five campaigns with the "Ole Hickory" Tennessee National Guard's 30th Division, 119th Regiment Co. A in World War II's European theater.

Douglas Garner is an 84-year-old Army Air Corps veteran who flew as a tail gunner in 30 combat missions with the 329th Squadron, 93rd Bomb Group, 8th Army Air Corps over Germany and occupied territory during that same war.

And, Edgar Gamble is an 83-year-old aviation engineer veteran who built air strips for the 9th Army Air Corps just a few miles from the frontlines during the Battle of Normandy and other battlefields across World War II's England, France and Germany.

But, these decorated World War II veterans have never visited their memorial in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to a new non-profit organization in Huntsville, these veterans will be honored with an all-expense paid one-day excursion to see the World War II memorial on Wednesday, April 4.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Honor Flight was organized last fall with one goal in mind: to make sure U.S. veterans of all wars have the opportunity to visit their war memorial. The organization, led by community volunteer, business leader and government contractor Joe Fitzgerald, will focus first on World War II veterans — known as "The Greatest Generation" — from the Tennessee Valley.

"We want to take all veterans to their memorial in Washington, D.C.," he said. "But, we want to start with World War II veterans because we are losing 1,200 to 1,500 of these veterans every day. They are leaving our ranks very fast, so there is no time to waste to do this."

Fitzgerald said there is a disconnect between war memorials in Washington, D.C., and the veterans who they honor — and the older the veteran, the more difficult it is to make that connection a possibility.

"When we asked World War II veterans if they know how much we appreciate them, they say 'yes.' When we ask them if they've seen their memorial, they say 'no,'" Fitzgerald said.

"The irony of the memorials that have been built and put on display in Washington, D.C., is that most veterans will never see them. By the time memorials are built, the veterans are either no longer with us or it is very difficult for them to arrange a trip to get there."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

VINTAGE HARDWARE— Joe Fitzgerald, president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Honor Flight, is surrounded by hardware — a Harley Davidson WLA motorcycle and an M24 Chaffee tank — used by American forces during World War II and now displayed at the Veterans Memorial Museum. Fitzgerald and other Honor Flight volunteers are organizing trips to Washington, D.C., for World War II veterans who want to visit their memorial.

In his conversations with those same veterans, Fitzgerald said they always express their desire to visit their memorial.

"They say 'I'll get to see it. I'll get there sometime,'" he said.

"Then, if you ask them, would they be interested in seeing it if they were taken up there all expenses paid, on charter buses and with tour guides, and everything taken care of, they say 'Yes!' and you'll see their whole personality change."

Honor Flight's Tennessee Valley chapter is the first chapter of an organization that was started in 2004 in Ohio by physician assistant and retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse. In the fall of 2006, Morse's efforts to take some 900 Ohio veterans to visit their memorials were publicized through the national media. Melinda Gorham, editor of *The Huntsville Times*, saw a news article on the organization and brought it to Fitzgerald's attention.

"At the time, I was president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition," said Fitzgerald, who continues to serve on the coalition's board of directors.

"We began discussing Honor Flight among the veteran coalition members. It was obvious among our members that this mission was the noble and right thing to do for our veterans. We agreed this was something we should all do because we are part of a

patriotic community that supports its veterans and military."

At the time, Fitzgerald and other coalition members were actually surprised at themselves that they hadn't thought of honoring veterans by making it possible for them to visit their memorials.

"So many of us are involved in a lot of patriotic events that honor our veterans," he said. "It was an absolute no-brainer that this was something the community should take on ... We were all astonished. Why hadn't we thought of this?"

It was also apparent to coalition leaders that the mission of Honor Flight would need to be spearheaded by an entirely new organization.

"We needed an organization that was singularly responsible to do this," Fitzgerald said. "It is a complex and difficult mission that needs the focus of an entire organization."

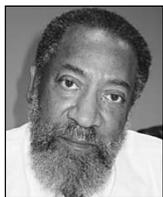
Coalition members discussed the possibility of setting up a new 501c organization, so that it would be a non-profit that could accept tax-deductible donations. But, time was of an essence, so members decided it would be faster to become a chapter of an already established 501c organization — Morse's Honor Flight.

See Tribute on page 11

An open lane random survey

What are your thoughts on Black History Month?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Bobby Coney
AMCOM EEO chief
"It fills the void that was left out of many history books and lessons in the past."

Col. John Olshefski
Garrison commander
"It shows us where we've come, but we still have further to go. Yet we in the government have done better than any other entity."



Donald Battise
Garrison
"Needless to say, it's a very important month. But I think black history should be celebrated not just on a monthly basis but a daily basis. And it's a great tool for educating not only young blacks but young Americans as a whole."

Deborah Plunkett
Garrison
"It's great, very informative. I've seen a lot of little clips on TV, things that I didn't know that I've found very interesting."



Quote of the week

"People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring."

— Rogers Hornsby
Hall of Fame player

Contributions make difference

On behalf of Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign, we would like to say thank you for your generosity once again! As a result of your generosity, we have once again had another banner year! We had a total of over \$2,102,000 contributed to this year's CFC. You have once again continued your tradition of caring through your giving. Many lives will be helped, many lives will be changed, many lives will never be the same again because you have taken the time to make a difference.

Thank you — the federal donor — who contributed to CFC to help make a difference! Thank you to all the individuals that served as volunteers — keywork-

ers, monitors, solicitors, financial chairpersons and loaned executives.

The continued success of our campaign is attributed to the many volunteers who so unselfishly give of their time to help us run our campaign. You all have once again made our slogan a reality, "CFC — Compassion in Action!" Thanks again for all that you do and all that you have done. Preparations have already begun for our 2007 CFC and I will certainly look forward to working with you once again so that we can continue to make a difference — the many great men and women of the Tennessee Valley CFC!

Donna Johnson
CFC coordinator

Parking too close for comfort

I just want to know if there is any plan in the near future to re-stripe the parking lot around the Sparkman Center Complex. You can hardly see the lines when you are trying to park. One day I had to leave early and had to get in my car through the passenger side due to someone parking that close to my car. Also my car has gotten a lot of nicks due to people

not being able to see the lines and parking way too close to my vehicle. I appreciate you getting back to me and let me know.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Sparkman Management Office said a plan is in place to do this, but funding isn't available at this time.

Reader asks about coverage

Why is it that the *Redstone Rocket* only carries info about Army and mostly AMCOM? There is no info about MDA, or NASA and little about any other tenant or local RSA/Huntsville government activities (like GAO, Navy, etc).

The job announcements are also limited — there are a lot of announcements for MDA in the RSA service area, but none are listed in the "Army Position Vacancy Announcements — Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville." Many of the slots with MDA, SMDC and other agencies do qualify as Army positions and are in the RSA/Huntsville area. The NASA slots are also at RSA/Huntsville and should be listed in a paper that is for Redstone

Arsenal. We should not have "rice bowls" or "we/them" as we become a more interdependent community.

Herb Hayes

Editor's note: Thank you for your interest in the Redstone Rocket. We attempt to cover the Redstone military and civilian community. We rely on people like you to let us know when things are going on. If you have story ideas, you and any other reader are welcome to call the editor, Skip Vaughn, at 876-1500 or e-mail skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil. The job announcements are provided weekly by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. Again, thank you for reading our newspaper.

Note from Baghdad

Just wanted everyone to know that I'm still safe and doing OK here in downtown Baghdad. God bless America and the Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors that protect our freedoms every day.

Phillips J. Laboy
operations manager, VIAP Iraq

Gate 9 traffic conditions

I, my employees, and even my boss had to chuckle today when we read the article "Family action conference getting results" in the Feb. 7 issue of the *Rocket*. Who ever wrote the answer about hazardous traffic conditions at Gate 9 obviously doesn't try to get on or off post during rush hour with people diving across traffic to get to the visitors center, and diving into a lane when existing lanes narrow for no good reason both entering and leaving the post, forcing people to slam on brakes.

See **Traffic** on page 6

Turned away at gate

Unfortunately, the *Redstone Rocket* is the only e-mail address readily noticeable on the Redstone Intranet where anyone can be contacted to address an issue. The Garrison provides answers through you, when they deem it appropriate, but they don't publish contact information so you don't have to be their filter.

See **Access** on page 6

Aviation roots in Rocket City

Decades before Huntsville was known as the Rocket City, neighboring New Market was putting its roots into aircraft development.

Huntsville area's link to historic aircraft still lives with its distant relatives. Inauspiciously hanging above

See **Roots** on page 7

Help prevent colon cancer

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death among Americans, yet it is preventable in most cases. Colon cancer starts as a benign growth on the surface of the colon known as a polyp. These polyps cause no symptoms, but if left in place can progress to cancer. Colonoscopy, a simple outpatient procedure, can detect and remove these polyps before cancer develops.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2007, approximately 154,000 new cases of colon cancer will

See **Cancer** on page 7

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

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

Name: Ron Wheelless

Job: Task leader for activity based costing/management, SAIC contractor for Garrison's Plans, Analysis and Integration Office

Where do you call home?
Smithfield, N.C.

What do you like about your job?
Being able to interface with people in order to help them solve day-to-day problems or business problems.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Play golf.

What are your goals?
Continue to support Garrison in their transformation efforts.

What's your favorite type of music?
Classic rock



Commanding general visits European brigade

Troops receive encouragement

By JENNIFER L. KING
405th Army Field Support Brigade

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury focused on aviation maintenance and logistics during a recent visit to Germany and the 405th Army Field Support Brigade.

He received a briefing on the brigade and its operations throughout Europe from Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston, 405th commander.

"We have to be more in touch with the operational Army than we've ever had to before," Pillsbury said.

The general discussed the Theater Aviation Sustainment Manager-Europe plan that was recently approved by the Army.

"Gen. Griffin's (commander of Army Materiel Command) vision is right on," Pillsbury said. "The success of aviation logistics in the theater can be directly related to the TASM. If we have TASMs, aviation logistics will continue to be OK."

Besides visiting brigade headquarters, Pillsbury stopped by the 2/502nd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Battalion, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army headquarters and the 21st Theater Support Command.

While at the 2nd Battalion, he visited various operational areas, including air-

craft hangars, the Illeshiem Aviation Reset Facility and one of two Aviation Supply Support Activities.

"As the aviation center of gravity in U.S. Army Europe, the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade is an important unit, and we felt it was critical for the AMCOM commander to walk the ground there and talk to the leadership," 2nd Battalion commander Lt. Col. Jordan Chroman said. "The 12th CAB Brigade Logistics Support Team is a unique organization that is really an extension of the Army Materiel Command and AMCOM's face to the field concept, and it was great that he was able to meet with team members in both formal and informal settings."

The morale of Aviation and Missile Command personnel in Europe is boosted by visits such as these, according to Wayne Gwynne, AMCOM chief logistics assistance officer.

"The visits are a great morale factor to the war fighter," Gwynne said. "They find it amazing that a general takes the time to visit them and really cares and takes action on suggestions and comments."

Pillsbury ended his visit to brigade headquarters with words of encouragement to those gathered in the Denburg Room for his briefing.

"You should be very proud of what you do," Pillsbury said. "If AMCOM can help you, don't hesitate to call."

City appoints interim police, fire chiefs

Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer and Director of Public Safety Rex Reynolds have selected two commanders within the Police Department and Fire & Rescue Department to serve as interim chiefs.

Deputy Chief Henry Reyes will serve as interim chief for the Police Department. Reyes is a 27-year veteran of the department and holds a master's in public affairs administration. Reyes was formally deputy chief for the department's Administrative Bureau.

Deputy Chief Mike Sublett will serve as interim chief of Huntsville Fire and Rescue. Sublett is a 32-year veteran of the department. He holds certificates of

Firefighter I and II, Driver Engineer, Inspector and Investigator I and II. Sublett has served the last four years as deputy chief of the department.

"The city continues to move forward in a positive direction of making public safety a top priority," Spencer said.

In making the announcement, Reynolds said, "A clear command and direction is vital to the day-to-day operations of both departments. The mayor and I met this morning and agreed that the interim assignments were needed while we evaluate the position of police and fire chiefs." (Huntsville Police release)



Henry Reyes



Mike Sublett

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Feb. 10: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Feb. 11: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, after allegedly running into another vehicle. He was arrested by Redstone Police Department, processed and placed into the detention cell. He was later released after his alcohol level reached an acceptable level. He was also issued three violation notices. Investigation continues by the Redstone Investigation Section.

Feb. 13: An individual was observed selecting an item in the Clothing Sales Store, and then exiting without rendering proper payment. The subject was arrested and processed by the Redstone Police.

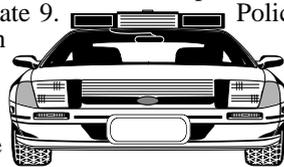
Investigation continues by the investigative section.

Feb. 13: Etowah County Sheriff's Department contacted the Redstone Police and requested assistance in locating an individual on whom they had a warrant. The subject was located, arrested by the Redstone Investigation Section, and later released to a deputy from Etowah County.

Feb. 14: An individual entered the station and reported that a person who he knew had taken two of his personal checks and cashed them for \$100 each. Investigation continues by the Redstone Criminal Investigation Section.

Traffic accidents reported: four without injuries, one with injuries.

Violation notices issued: 21 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 driving with a suspended/revoked driver's license, 2 parking violations.



Art auction benefit ready for canvas

Saturday night event supports community

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club annual Art Exhibition/Crafts & Services Auction will be held Saturday at the Officers and Civilians Club. A preview and Crafts and Services Silent Auction will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include door prizes, hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and a cash bar. The Art Auction begins at 7 p.m., followed by dessert at 9.

This year the event is titled "Fiesta," and will feature artwork from the Perry Berns Gallery of Dallas, Texas. Perry, back by popular demand, promises to entertain the audience while offering new

and beautiful art – from prints to original oils in a wide range of affordable prices.

"The Redstone Arsenal Officer and Civilian Women's Club is a non-profit organization, with a membership of over 250 women representative of our military officer spouses (active duty and retired), Department of Army civilians, and several honorary civilians from the local community," OCWC president Chris Swart said. "The proceeds from this event will directly benefit many organizations at Redstone Arsenal and in the local community."

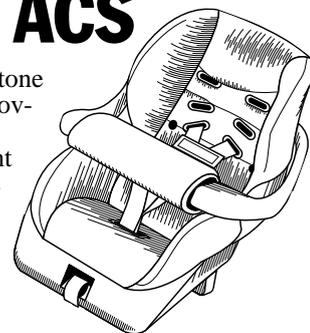
Admission is \$10 per person. For gate entrance information and advance tickets, call Teri Holly at 772-4245 or Lynn Carden at 533-6368. (Officer and Civilian Women's Club release)

Car seats arrive at ACS

Infants and toddlers with parents stationed at Redstone could have safer travel because of a gift from the Government Employees Insurance Company.

GEICO donated five infant/toddler car restraint seats to Army Community Service for use at the ChildWise Program, a play morning program held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1413 Nike St.

For more information, call Esther McDaniel at 876-5397. (Army Community Service release)



Crowd salutes troops during military night

Havoc hockey team event draws more than 7,000

The Huntsville Havoc hockey team's Military Appreciation Night drew an announced record crowd of 7,083 to the Von Braun Center on Feb. 10.

Before the game, members of the 20th Special Forces rappelled to the arena ice from the VBC catwalk. Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, program executive officer for missiles and space, did the ceremonial puck drop.

The Redstone Arsenal Color Guard pre-

sented the colors. And the national anthem was sung by Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight.

Huntsville and the Knoxville Ice Bears were tied 6-all at the end of regulation. After a scoreless five-minute overtime period, the Havoc won 7-6 on James Patterson's goal in a shootout. Patterson finished with two goals and two assists.

When the military troops left midway through the third period, the crowd serenaded them with a standing ovation and chants of "U-S-A!"

The special jerseys worn by the Havoc players were auctioned after the game, with proceeds going to Army Emergency Relief.



Bob Gathany/The Huntsville Times

PATRIOTIC SHOWING— Members of an announced record crowd of 7,083 show their support for this nation and its armed forces during Military Appreciation Night.



Bob Gathany/The Huntsville Times
UPLIFTING VOICE— Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight sings the national anthem.



Bob Gathany/The Huntsville Times
DRAMATIC ENTRY— Soldiers of the 20th Special Forces rappel to the arena ice from the catwalk at the Von Braun Center.



Bob Gathany/The Huntsville Times

TO HONOR AMERICA— The Redstone Arsenal Color Guard presents the colors before the game.

Traffic

continued from page 2

As an engineer by education, I've often joked that traffic engineers in Huntsville must have gotten their degrees off the back of cereal boxes, and Gate 9 is no exception. Where else would you have two lanes of traffic coming off of Interstate 565/Madison Boulevard, narrowing to a single lane right before the decorative stone wall part of the gate, and widening back out immediately thereafter, all in the space of about 100 feet, with large signs to tell visitors to get right into a lane that promptly ends? Where else would a gate be modernized post 9/11, but keep the exits of Rideout constricted to two lanes, one of which is exit only as soon as you get off post, backing traffic up past Neal Road every evening?

Why wasn't a permanent solution made to the turnaround lane at the gate rather than taking up an exit lane? Where else would they close a gate for months to rebuild bridges and take virtually no action to make remaining gates less restrictive to traffic flow? Why didn't they take the extra lane at the entrance to Gate 9 that is restricted to one car every couple of minutes coming from the visitors center and open it up to more traffic? Why didn't they bulldoze the stone wall at Rideout Road in the months before they closed Martin Road west, and pave 100 feet of ground to ease the entrance to the Arsenal so people aren't diving across lanes?

Why weren't all the materials and equipment for the Martin Road bridges staged at the sites before the road was closed, and the contractors incentivized to get the work done early? Why didn't they use precast

concrete bridge sections like they did where I used to live in Ohio, and replaced similar bridges in two weeks, not almost six months? Why do we have to wait until Enhanced Use Leasing and BRAC come along greatly increasing traffic problems, before fixing problems that exist today? These are real quality of life issues here on the Arsenal that no one appears to be taking action to address.

I suggest that the personnel responsible be assigned to live in a hotel in Madison for a week and use this gate every day. I'd bet we'd see some changes.

Jon A. Lowe
deputy project manager,
Close Combat Weapon Systems

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The traffic problems that you mention in your letter are real. They exist today for a number of reasons which we will address in this response. We are currently working on the fix for several of the items you mention. First, we will address the narrowing lanes coming into Gate 9. The two lanes coming off the interstate were merged together by the State of Alabama and then brought through the rock gate area into the existing roadway. Later the gate structure was constructed in the mid-1990s. Post 9/11 the tri-services dictated the design of gate structures, which included the dedicated outbound lane for those that were denied entry.

"The adherence to the standard design dictated that we expand the inbound lanes to accommodate the new five lane design. Along with these dictated designs which were much more expensive than any gates

that presently existed, came the guidance to stay within the statutory limit on expenses for construction. The new gate structure cost was at the statutory limit. There were no additional funds that could be expended for extraneous conditions such as adding a third lane of outbound traffic since the prescribed gate design took up one of the outbound lanes with the contained rejection lane or the movement of the rock gate to accommodate the additional inbound lanes. As we stated earlier, we are working on the project to move the rock wall and add additional lanes of traffic from the interstate ramps into the Arsenal, thus relieving the bottleneck at the rock wall. The construction of this project is contingent upon funding.

"The issue relating to performing these modifications prior to replacement of the bridge on Martin Road is easily answered. The bridge failed structurally. We had to obtain emergency funding to repair the bridge in lieu of leaving it closed indefinitely. No funding existed to replace the bridge much less fix the gates prior to replacing the bridge. The bridge was replaced as quickly as possible. We did use precast beams to expedite the construction, but concrete decks and handrails still had to be poured. The bridge was constructed as fast

as possible especially during the winter months. We agree that this has been an inconvenience to everyone but it could not be avoided. There is a hazardous waste site on the north side of the bridge and an archeological site on the south side. This dictated replacement in the original location with no place for a temporary bridge to keep the roadway open.

"We agree that the traffic congestions are an inconvenience, but having proper force protection measures in place and safe bridges are more important than the slight inconveniences they have created. We agree that a perfect world would provide us unlimited funding to address all of our infrastructure problems but that is not going to happen especially with a war ongoing. The Garrison is doing the best possible job within the constrained resources at hand. We ask for your understanding and patience. We too experience the same concerns because we are sitting in the car beside you in the congested traffic areas. We drive in Gate 9 each morning and out it each night. The plans are already being prepared to improve the roadway situation long before we experience the additional influx of personnel related to BRAC and Enhanced Use Leasing."

Retired employee seeking access to post

Access

continued from page 2

On Feb. 7 a retired civilian employee, whose vehicle is properly registered on post, attempted to access Redstone Arsenal through Gate 3 at approximately 2:30 p.m. Access was not allowed by the gate guards because the retiree did not have a military or DoD retired civilian ID card (which the RSA ID card section was no longer issuing when the person retired); the person was told their name was being added to the "Turned Away" list, and they could not access RSA at all.

What's ironic is that the person was on their way to make another attempt to acquire retired DoD civilian identification to facilitate the pro bono work being performed to assist their former office. To continue the irony, MWR recently published a change in policy allowing every RSA Golf Course member the opportunity to sponsor three individuals for course membership, with associated issuance of complete access documents to all of RSA. The only apparent vetting being that they would be sponsored by a current member. So, an individual who served the Army for 37 years, and is continuing to provide service for free, can't get access to RSA, but anyone willing to pay a couple of hundred dollars a year to MWR can.

A check of the "official" gate schedules/information page accessible through the Redstone Intranet indicates that Gate 8 is the only gate with "No Visitor Access." The individual will eventually sign in through Gate 9, with me as a sponsor since the command could care less about 37 years of prior service, get their retired civilian ID card, and maybe even continue to provide consult to their old office; not because of the support of the Garrison command, rather because of their inherent sense of duty, obligation and patriotism in spite of the Garrison command.

And I'm fully aware that it is inappropriate for former employees to provide free assistance to the Army. Get over it, some people are proud of their service, and will continue to serve.

James E. Minninger

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "In mid-2004, Department of Army made obsolete the DA Form 5003 (Civil Service Retiree Identification Card). Since civil service retirees have earned installation privileges, the Garrison began development of a Redstone retiree identification card. As an interim, when personnel retired they were allowed to keep their post vehicle registration and instructed to show their retirement orders when entering the installation. This issue was elevated to headquarters DA and in January 2005 they authorized the issuance of DA Form 1602 as the Department of Army Civil Service Retiree ID card.

"For installation access, persons must produce an accepted form of identification. On Feb. 7, the guards at the gate needed to see the retirement orders of the retiree to ensure installation access was authorized. A one day pass would have been issued and the retiree could have proceeded to Military Personnel to have a DA Form 1602 issued. Another option for the retiree would have been to contact a sponsor (someone in the office where the pro bono work was to be performed) and request an escort. Also, if the pro bono work had been coordinated with the security manager, the security manager could have entered the retiree for a visitor badge.

"USAG-Redstone has gone to great lengths to ensure installation access is granted to persons with proper credentials and sponsorship. This includes all military and dependents, civil service, military and civil service retirees, contractors and visitors. USAG-Redstone is proud of our work force, past and present. MWR programs/activities have been modified in an effort to accommodate more of our work force. The MWR sponsorship program referenced in the complaint is one of these programs. Security was a major concern when developing this program. USAG-Redstone mandated background investigations on all persons prior to granting memberships. The members would then be issued a visitor badge valid only for the MWR programs they joined."

Two astronauts represent Florida Tech

Where can a degree from Florida Tech take you? Literally, out of this world.

Astronauts Sunita Williams and Joan Higginbotham were on the most recent team to visit the International Space Station. Williams, a Florida Tech 1995 master's graduate in engineering management (Patuxent, Md., site), is working on a sec-

ond degree in aerospace engineering.

Higginbotham is a Florida Tech 1992 master's graduate in management and a '96 master's graduate in Space Systems (Kennedy Space Center, Fla.).

The two Florida Tech alumni were on the International Space Station together. While at ISS, Williams had her long hair cut to donate it to "Locks of Love" to provide hairpieces for young victims of cancer. The hair, duly logged in as "Williams-1," accompanied Higginbotham who returned in the Discovery flight back home.

Williams, still in ISS, has logged in more hours in space than any other female astronaut so far. (*Florida Tech release*)

Moonbuggy race ready to roll

It's no ordinary driving test and they won't have to parallel park, but future astronauts will learn what it will take to some day drive on the surface of the moon. NASA is looking for the world's best moonbuggy drivers who can also create and build their own original "lunar rover."

Teams of high school and college students from across the country and around the world are hard at work designing and building their own lunar vehicles in preparation for NASA's 14th annual Great Moonbuggy Race, sponsored by Northrop Grumman Corp. The event, open to the public, runs April 13-14 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. (*Marshall Space Flight Center release*)



Photo by Skip Vaughn

New generation

Kotina Gladney, human resources specialist, feeds her 7-week-old daughter, Brellyn, during the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center's seventh annual Black History Luncheon on Thursday at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

Colon cancer easy to detect

Cancer

continued from page 2

be diagnosed in the U.S., and 52,000 Americans will die. In Alabama, 2,350 new cases are expected, and approximately 900 Alabama residents will die from colon cancer this year. Every American has a 6 percent or higher risk of developing colon cancer during their lifetime. Most colon cancers develop after age 50.

You do not have to be a victim. You should discuss colon cancer screening with your physician if any of the following applies to you: 1) You are over age 50; 2) You have a close blood relative

who has been diagnosed with colon polyps or colon cancer; or 3) You have noticed blood in the stool (even if you have hemorrhoids) or black tarry stools.

Colonoscopy, when performed by properly trained physicians, is a safe and effective way of detecting and removing colon polyps before cancer develops. The time to get checked is now, while you have no symptoms. Remember, colon cancer is preventable. This is truly a case where an ounce of prevention may save a life... your life!

Jorge L. Herrera M.D.
professor of medicine,
University of South Alabama

Quick flight made aviation history

Roots

continued from page 2

the mission simulators for Space Campers, in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, is what might be the first viable low wing monoplane in world. One does have to wonder if, as he launched his son into the air in 1908, William Lafayette Quick even dreamt of the wonders that would one day sit beneath his hand fashioned wings.

Five years after the Wright brothers first flew on the beach at Kitty Hawk, William Lafayette Quick launched Northern Alabama into the Air Age. Powered by a 15 horsepower motor from a Ford Model N car, the streamlined Quick airplane boasted forward thinking innovations like a steerable tail wheel and an upright seating position. But the first flight had to be one of the most exciting stories in aviation history.

Realizing that even with latest engine technology there was not enough power to loft both the aircraft and himself, his less bulky son, William Massey Quick, volunteered his services as family test pilot. On what some say was his 16th birthday, William Massey Quick absorbed an abbreviated "ground school" before taxied down the New Market field and was soon airborne! Witnesses reported that Alabama's newest aviator reached heights of up to 20 feet on that maiden voyage. Not having the luxury of modern hazard maps and mission briefings, the adventurous youth was surprised

when he realized Madison County trees grew taller than his aircraft was flying! His immediate reaction was one of evasion. But alas, he soon learned that banking turns this close to the ground are not always successful. Running out of lift, airspeed, altitude and possibilities, Alabama's first powered flight ended in what is sometimes referred to as a "hard" landing! William Lafayette Quick might have invented the world's first viable low winged monoplane, but his son William Massey Quick could very well have demonstrated the state's first powered ground loop!

The Quick family roots spread easily through the budding aviation industry. William Quick's brother-in-law, who had helped build the Quick Airplane, Terah Maroney, went on to take flying lessons from Glenn Curtiss. Later, he gave a "ride" to a Seattle, Wash., businessman named William Boeing. After the ride, Boeing told Maroney that he believed he could build a better airplane than they had been riding in. As the saying goes, the rest is history.

Between 1964 and 1970, the Quick monoplane was restored to near its original glory and now fittingly resides with its modern cousins in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

So as Army aviation solidifies its center of mass for research, development and sustainment in the Tennessee Valley, maybe it is also returning to its modern birthplace.

Don Hamblin

Repair site keeps robots in fighting form

New shop at Redstone enhances maintenance

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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Sgt. 1st Class Ben Witt knows what it's like to come face-to-face with an improvised explosive device.

Crawling on his belly down a road in Afghanistan in 2002, Witt and another Soldier were investigating a local villager's claim that an IED was close by. The two Soldiers found the IED's wire running across the road, and quickly disarmed it before it could explode.

Now, Witt is being trained to operate and repair a Soldier tool that is keeping many of today's Soldiers from coming so close to danger – ground robots.

"I wish I had had one of these robots when I was looking for that IED," Witt said.

Since 2004, ground robots have been used to change war conditions for America's Soldiers – making front-line situations safer by being a Soldier's eyes and ears, and arms and legs. Redstone Arsenal is a major player in providing that robotic safety net as the location of the Joint Ground Robotics Project Office – which is under the Tank and Automotive Command, based in Warren, Mich. – and the Joint Robotics Repair Facility.

In January 2004, the Army introduced its first ground robotics, assigning 162 robot systems to troops in combat situations. Today, there are more than 4,000 ground robots used by U.S. forces.

"A lot of attention has been given to robots in the air – the unmanned air vehicles," said Paul Varian, logistics management specialist for the Joint Robotics Repair Facility.

"But, what a lot of folks don't understand is that the density of ground robotics out there is several times higher than air robotics. We have in excess of 1,500



Photo by Kari Hawkins

LEARNING ROBOTICS— Sgt. 1st Class Ben Witt, right, gives commands to a robot via a laptop while Marine Gunnery Sgt. Alfredo Paulino waits for it to respond. The Soldier and Marine are at Redstone Arsenal to learn how to operate and repair robots.

ground robots in Iraq alone."

In the early months of 2004, the push was to get robotics in the hands of Soldiers. Called accelerated new technology insertion, robots were purchased from five commercial vendors and then sent to units in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Once in the field, the concern from brigade commanders and their Soldiers wasn't so much how to use the robots, but what to do with them when they broke. To be successful, robotics not only had to be reliable but also quickly repairable or replaceable.

"These things are designed to play with things that go boom. The majority of robots in the field are playing with IEDs," Varian said.

"The question was 'How do you sustain commercial equipment in a war environment?' After fielding 162 robots, we quickly realized that keeping them operational wasn't something easily done."

At first, TACOM's Robotic Systems Joint Project Office contracted with subcontractors to get robots repaired and back into

the field. Then, TACOM established the Joint Robotics Repair Facility concept.

"We said 'Let's take the best of all worlds – the contractor, government and Soldier world – and let's put it all in one place with single function and focus, and that was to repair robots.' The concept started right here with Col. Terry Griffin, Col. Ed Ward and Lt. Col. Todd Lamb," Varian said.

The Joint Robotics Repair Facility concept includes repair detachments in the field and training centers, and a Catalog Ordering Logistics Tracking System (COLTS) that makes it easy to order robotics parts and to manage the robotics platforms.

"Under the traditional military support process, there are layers you have to go through to support the purchase of equipment and to get parts," Varian said. "This system makes it easy and fast to get parts. It's all about answering an urgent need statement from the Soldier in the field. And, we are answering that need with real current technology."

There are nine Joint Robotics

Repair Detachments, with three in Iraq, one in Afghanistan and one at every major national training center. In addition, the Joint Robotics Repair Facility opened recently at Redstone Arsenal in a building that once belonged to fleet management.

"We want to thank the Garrison for making this facility available to us and for supporting what we need to do to keep Soldiers equipped with robotics in the field," Varian said.

The robotic repair program is managed by employees at the Joint Robotics Repair Facility at Redstone Arsenal. The repair program itself is very lean – involving only about 50 contractor, government and Soldier employees, 12 of those at Redstone Arsenal.

Although the robotic repair concept is new to today's Soldiers, it is not new to the military.

"We're relearning lessons that were lost from previous wars – and that is how do we get new technology quickly into the hands of troops and how do we sustain that new technology," Lamb said.

"We're modifying guidelines and rules and regulations. We have tons of lessons learned on how to get low density cost technology into the field. The challenge is how it keep it there once it's there."

When a robot is blown up or damaged in the field, Soldiers can log on to COLTS to let robot repair technicians know what repairs are needed. They then take the robot to a detachment facility and it is guaranteed to be repaired or replaced in four hours.

"This is performance-based logistics based on war fighter needs," Varian said. "Once a robot is brought into the field, we keep it running. COLTS allows us to be this lean and this fast. We're one team, one fight. This is an answer to an urgent need. We save a life every day."

In one recent week in Iraq, 105 robots were brought in for

repair. Those robots were damaged while taking the place of a Soldier in the war fight. Instead of arms or legs being injured or a Soldier's life lost, a robotic system made of metal and electronics took the worst of the battle.

In return, during that same week, 127 robots were repaired and put back in the field.

"We rebuild robots from scrap," Varian said. "We throw nothing away. Some of these robots cost in excess of \$150,000. If we can rebuild one for \$30,000 then I can buy more repair parts or more robots with the money saved."

The cost of new or repaired robots can't compare to the cost of saving lives and limbs. In TACOM's third year with robotics, 45 percent of robot casualties have been caused by IEDs and 30 to 33 percent have been non-combat related. In 2006 alone, robots performed 30,000 counter-IED missions. Of that, robots did the majority of the work in neutralizing 11,100 IEDs. There are an average 10,000 robot repairs every year. About 100 robots have been lost in the three years of the program.

"Without an in-theater repair capability, Soldiers wouldn't have had robots to perform those missions," Lamb said. "Robots are a primary Soldier tool. But, without rapid response repair capability robots would go to zero in terms of operational readiness."

How many Soldiers' lives robots have saved is hard to quantify. But, Lamb said, in today's war, U.S. deaths in Iraq average two per day while deaths per day in Vietnam were 19, in Korea were 32, in World War II were 220 and in World War I were 200.

"The deaths per day in Iraq would be quadrupled without robots," Lamb said. "Robots play a major, major role in this war. They are transforming the way American Soldiers fight."

See Robots on page 9

Robots

continued from page 8

In one week in Iraq, 90 percent of the 100 robots brought in for repair were damaged while on a mission.

“Every time we get a robot in to repair as a result of mission damage, that robot has taken a hit that a Soldier probably would have taken,” Varian said.

Robots in the field include gladiator, assault breacher vehicle, talon, packbot, markbot and throwbot. Before a new robot is fielded it must go through the Joint Robotics Repair Facility at Redstone Arsenal.

“We made a commitment to big Army that we would keep robots operating,” Varian said. “Robots are all basically the same. They may look different and fail different, but they basically are the same. We need to know what each new robot is like and what its unique parts are so that we can repair it in the field when it breaks.”

The facility at Redstone Arsenal is also a training facility and parts warehouse. Robots that can't be repaired in the field are shipped to the Redstone Arsenal facility for extensive rebuilding or for stripping before sending to scrap.

The COLTS software allows repair technicians, management, contractors, Soldiers and anyone else with access to the system to know how robots fail, how often they fail, why they fail and how long it takes to repair them. Employees at the Redstone Arsenal location are now work-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

AWAITING REPAIRS— Paul Varian, logistics management specialist for the Joint Robotics Repair Facility, looks over a seriously damaged robot which is lined up with other robots outside the Joint Robotics Repair Facility at Redstone Arsenal.

ing on technical documentation so that anyone with access to the software can pull information up online to repair robots.

“Technology now allows us to put data right in the field,” Varian said. “Data is critical to completing our mission.”

In addition to saving lives, robots extend a Soldier's sensory perceptions and provide commanders of various units with valuable information. Robotic technology will continue to change the way Soldiers fight on the battlefield by giving them the tools to be smarter about the enemy and quicker to respond to enemy threats.

“Ground robots are where the rubber hits the road,” Lamb said. “We are just scratching the surface of what robots and robotic platforms can do.”



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Space Camp scholarship countdown begins

Military youngsters can win free trip

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Military youngsters have their chance once again to win a memorable summer.

Applications are available for the annual Space Camp scholarship program, which began in 1984. Youngsters can win a trip to Space Camp for grades 4-6, Space Academy for grades 7-8 and Aviation Challenge for grades 7-9. This is worth nearly \$1,000 apiece.

The program is open to children of active duty, retired military and qualifying Guard and Reserve members. The child must reside within a 50-mile radius of Redstone Arsenal.

"It's an opportunity they might not have otherwise," Gabriel Cannon, co-chairman of the Space Camp Scholarship Committee, said. "And it really opens up a new world to them - space and science."

Cathy Hays, community activities coordinator for Morale Welfare and Recreation, said this opportunity is "right in their backyard, literally." The camps will be held June 10-15 at the nearby U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

"Sixteen (scholarships) were given out last year," Hays said. "And to date, almost 250 have been given out."

Children compete by entering an essay on "Why I want to attend (Space Camp, Space Academy or Aviation Challenge)." The essays are judged for each age group by representatives from the sponsoring organizations. To ensure impartiality, the judges won't know the applicants' names. Each applicant must have at least a C average in school.

"Previous winners are ineligible (to apply)," Hays said. "It allows more kids an opportunity."

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center and its chief executive officer, retired Brig. Gen. Larry Capps, authorize "a very generous discount that allows us to send more kids," according to co-chairman Phyllis Montgomery.

The number of winners this year will depend on the contribution from the sponsoring organizations. Sponsors include the Officer and Civilian Women's Club, Enlisted Spouses Club, Thrift Shop, Air Defense Artillery Association, System Studies and Simulation Inc., Association of the U.S. Army, and American Legion Post 237.

Applications are available at the Post Exchange, Army Community Service, local schools and www.redstonemwr.com. They should be returned by noon March 16 to Army Community Service. The award ceremony is 4 p.m. June 7 at Heiser Hall.

For more information, call Hays at 876-5041.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MISSION CONTROL— Reviewing plans for the Space Camp scholarships are, from left, co-chairmen Gabriel Cannon, Phyllis Montgomery and MWR community activities coordinator Cathy Hays, the staff liaison to this program. Co-chairman Mary Bissell is not pictured.

Growing skills for home-school kids

Support program nurtures ways for self-expression

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
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Art teacher Terri Corley quickly passed out crayons to the group of elementary school-aged children sitting at the tables in her class.

"Each of you will get your own crayons so we don't have to share today," she told the students.

"I like sharing," 6-year-old Faith Petrie said.

"I know sharing is fun," Corley replied. "But, some people don't like to share. So, everyone will have their own crayons today."

The students eagerly took to their art assignment - to draw anything in nature. They chose trees, birds, fish, butterflies and, even, snakes.

"It can be how nature is today or it can be something found in nature a 100 million years ago. So, we can draw dinosaurs, too," Corley said.

"Everybody, draw, draw, draw. We are looking for the most unique drawing today."

But, as the students drew, they also talked. One girl told the class she is going to see the Parthenon in Nashville. Corley told the students about her recent cruise to Mexico. She had a peso to show the students. She also had some good news to share.

"On a cruise, you can have ice cream and pizza all day long, all you want, all



Photo by Kari Hawkins

JUST LIKE PICASSO— Art students Kelly Biems, left, and Faith Petrie work on drawings of nature, including trees, flowers, butterflies and grass in their compositions. They participate in the Home School Support Program.

you can hold," she said, to a room of "oohs" and "aahs."

"You can see shows and play putt putt golf on a cruise. You can swim in a swimming pool where the water is sloshing because the boat is moving."

That got 4-year-old Gabriel Delany excited. He decided to draw boats in his picture of nature.

While Corley was teaching her young students, other students were enjoying the fast-paced fun of P.E. and another group was playing games on computers. Every Thursday afternoon at the Youth Center, about 40 home-schooled children come together to have fun and learn together.

"Our Home School Support Program has been going on for a few years now," said Dewayne Baldwin, who coordinates the program for Morale Welfare and Recreation.

See Skills on page 18

Beware of potential for child poisonings

Common household products should be kept out of reach

March 18-24 is National Poison Prevention Week. The Garrison Safety Office provided the following information about common household products.

Every seven minutes, a child arrives at an emergency room due to a suspected poisoning. Parents can do their part at reducing poison-related fatalities by keeping harmful products and medicines out of children's reach, storing items in their original containers, and properly using child-resistant packaging, according to Consumer Product Safety Commission chairman Hal Stratton.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers said poison centers nationwide received more than 1 million calls about poison exposures involving children age 5 and younger. Among the potentially toxic household products involved with calls to the poison center were:

- Personal care products, including baby oil and mouthwash containing

ethanol;

- Cleaning substances, including drain openers and oven cleaners;

- Over-the-counter pain relievers including cough and cold medicines;

- Hydrocarbons, such as lamp oil and furniture polish; and

- Adult-strength vitamins and supplements containing iron.

Many poisoning incidents occur while the products are in use and a parent or caregiver steps away or is distracted for a moment. Children can get hold of a product and swallow it during the short time it takes to answer a phone call or doorbell.

Grandparents and others who keep their prescription drugs in non-child-resistant pill boxes should be especially aware of this risk of children getting poisoned. Child-resistant packaging doesn't work if it's not used properly.

If your child swallows or handles a potentially dangerous product, immediately call the poison center hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Your call will be answered by experts at your local poison center 24 hours a day. (Garrison Safety release)

Tribute

continued from page 1

“At the same time, Honor Flight had decided to take their program national, so we became the Tennessee Valley chapter of the national Honor Flight organization,” Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald is the Honor Flight’s board president. Other board members are: Max Bennett, first vice president; Melinda Gorham, second vice president; Dick Allen, secretary; Dr. Will Gibson, treasurer; Faye McWhorter, arrangements director; Carol Casey, veterans director; Mike Measles, guardian director; and Joe Shiver, fund-raising director. There are also many volunteers working on Honor Flight committees. Eventually, there will also be honorary members of the board of directors.

In addition, *The Huntsville Times*, WAFF-48 TV and WRSA Radio are chapter sponsors.

Once the Tennessee Valley chapter was established, its volunteers had three objectives: identify World War II veterans for the first flights, schedule and plan the flights, and raise money to cover costs.

“First, we had to identify there is a need,” Fitzgerald said. “We expected 100 or 150 veterans to maybe respond. We just didn’t know the number of veterans in the Tennessee Valley.

“*The Huntsville Times* ran three front-page stories about Honor Flight (in late January and early February) and the response has been enormous. In the first 10 days of announcing the program, we’ve identified nearly 200 veterans.”

The inaugural Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for April 4. It will include 13 veterans and several trained guardians, many of whom are medical professionals. It is hoped the inaugural flight will lead to a second Honor Flight in the fall that will take about 70 veterans.

“The challenge is the money,” Fitzgerald said. “That’s what’s going to pace this program.”

The inaugural Honor Flight, which will be booked on a commercial aircraft, will cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. The fall Honor Flight will cost upwards of \$60,000 to \$70,000. The trip includes a chartered airplane, a chartered bus while in D.C., wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, scooters, disposable cameras, trip T-shirt, and meals and snacks.

“Safety is paramount to this program,”

Fitzgerald said. “Our youngest veteran is 78. Most are in their 80s or 90s. Some are quite ambulatory. Some are quite frail. We are asking these veterans’ families to give them to us for the day and let us take care of them until we get back.

“So, the first flight is meant to familiarize us with the process. We wanted to get the experience without taking a huge group of veterans. We are taking 13 veterans who represent a good mix across the services and the theaters, and who are in generally good health.”

“I think Honor Flight is a grand idea. This is something I’ve always wanted to do. I just want to see the memorial.”

– *Edgar Gamble,*
recipient of four Bronze Star medals

The group will leave Huntsville International Airport at 6 a.m. April 4 and return at 7 p.m. They will fly into Reagan International Airport, and then go on to visit the World War II memorial, Korean War memorial, Marine Corps/Iwo Jima memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Veterans Kraus, Garner and Gamble will be on the inaugural flight.

“I think it’s great, really,” Kraus said. “I’ve never got around to going. And, this trip is all set up. We don’t have to bother with getting a cab or anything.”

Kraus is the only rifleman who is left from his original company, which fought on Omaha Beach at Normandy and in Northern France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

“When you’re in the infantry, you’re first,” said the recipient of the Bronze Star and other medals. “We were called dog faces because we lived like dogs during the war. As an infantryman, you face every kind of disaster – bombs from airplanes, artillery, tanks, mines and infantry from the other side. An infantryman sees it all.”

Weather permitting, Garner hopes to wear a jacket to the memorial that is decorated with ribbons and other memorabil-

ia from his experience as a tail gunner. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and several other medals for his service.

“We never flew a mission without coming back with shrapnel in the aircraft,” Garner recalled from his World War II experience.

“Sometimes the flack (anti-aircraft artillery shells) was so close we could see the red blast of the shell and see shrapnel hitting the aircraft. One time a large hunk of it came through behind where I was sitting in the tail. That was one of several close escapes.”

Gamble has been trying to save money for a trip to the memorial. In 1994, he went to Europe for the 50th anniversary of D-Day, but he was not able to get to the beach at Normandy because of the crowds.

“I think Honor Flight is a grand idea,” said the recipient of four Bronze Stars and other medals. “This is something I’ve always wanted to do. I just want to see the memorial.”

Once the first flight is complete and plans are being made for the fall flight, Fitzgerald said veterans will be selected based on their health, with priority going to terminally ill veterans and veterans in difficult situations.

But, all these plans, Fitzgerald said will be based on whether donors provide the funds to make them happen.

“We need money bad, and we need it soon, we need it fast to finalize all these plans,” he said.

“We are hoping donors will make a contribution to Honor Flight as part of their annual giving. It will take several years to get all the World War II veterans to their memorial. And, then we move on

to Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. We want to continue to honor veterans by taking them to their memorial.”

In addition, families whose veterans have died can have their veteran’s flag flown at their memorial during an Honor Flight.

“We will be taking on each trip a limited number of flags that have been draped on the coffins of our World War II veterans, and we will conduct a flag ceremony at the memorial to honor these veterans,” said Fitzgerald, who plans on taking the flag of his father, the late Marine Sgt. Thomas W. Fitzgerald who fought at Iwo Jima.

“We will place the flags at the state that the veteran was from and have a brief ceremony.”

Veterans and their families can make donations to Honor Flight, but those donations can’t affect a veteran’s priority for travel.

“We are going to do our best to take every World War II veteran that wants to go to the memorial,” Fitzgerald said. “But, we don’t want to choose veterans based on if they can actually pay for their trip or not. We want to give them priority based on their health.”

Veterans who want to apply for an Honor Flight and guardians who want to assist with the program can obtain an application from *The Huntsville Times* or the Veterans Memorial Museum. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to Honor Flight, c/o *The Huntsville Times*, P.O. Box 1487 West Station, Huntsville, AL 35807. Guardians are asked to pay up to \$1,000 for their trip, if possible. The Tennessee Valley chapter’s web site – honorflight.net – should be online soon.

Picture yourself on beach in Hawaii

Spaces available for fall venture

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer
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With winter weather varying between cold and colder, the Morale Welfare and Recreation Leisure Travel office reminds everyone that blue skies, crystal clear water and sandy beaches are only a phone call away. It's putting together a group trip to Honolulu, Hawaii for this fall.

The excursion is scheduled Sept. 19-26 and will be flying out of Huntsville. While that may seem like a long time away, anyone interested is encouraged to make their plans now due to booking deadlines.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

FOND MEMORY— Grace Bennett reminisces on last year's trip with her pictures from Hawaii.

An initial \$300 deposit is required, but the trip can be paid for lump sum or in several installments. For installments, the second payment of \$800 per person is due by April 18 and the remaining balance by June 21. No bookings will be taken for this trip after that deadline.

"We want to really have this booked with all deposits by the end of March," Grace Bennett, Leisure Travel coordinator, said.

Rates are based on rank or civilian pay grade, averaging from about \$1,700 to just over \$1,800 per person, based on double occupancy. A third or fourth person can be added for a reduced fee as well as discounted rates for children. Contractors' prices may vary slightly, based on how they fit into the scale.

"They have different pay

grades, so we have to figure out where they fall into our GS scale," Bennett said. "But it's not that much of a difference."

Regardless of which price community members fall under, the costs are still considerably lower than published rates outside of the Leisure Travel office. That is because of contracts and group benefits the office has negotiated on behalf of their patrons, Bennett said.

Accommodations for the trip are at the Hale Koa Hotel, a part of the Fort DeRussy Armed Forces Recreation Center on the beach at world famous Waikiki. Bennett praised the hotel, having stayed there on a Leisure Travel trip last year. She said the property is comparable in quality to the surrounding hotels, even though the difference in cost is astounding.

"It's great location, right on Waikiki," she said. "I really like the property. The Hilton Hawaiian Village is right next door. It's a perfect location."

Space on the trip is limited. Bennett said there are slots for 40 individuals. As a group tour, there are some scheduled events. A traditional Hawaiian luau is slated for one evening and a morning trip to the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor is set for another day. A second luau with a show at the Polynesian Cultural Center is planned later in the week. In between these planned activities, trip goers have plenty of free time to do as little or as much as they want. The combination of planned functions and free time makes for a carefree vacation, Bennett said.

"If it's your first time in Hawaii, you might be apprehensive about taking off on your own or not knowing what you want to do," she said "With this you have a little bit of guidance



Courtesy photo

ROOM TO ROAM— Travelers can look forward to breathtaking views from the Hale Koa Hotel.

and someone to ask questions. It can make a big difference."

Costs for airfare, hotel and the scheduled functions are included in the price. Additional meals and activities are not. Rooms are partial ocean view, but Bennett said upgrades are available for an additional fee. The island offers plenty of things to do. A tour desk within the hotel has optional tours and excursions both on Oahu and the other islands. Although, sometimes the most fun thing to do is nothing at all.

"Some days I just went to the pool and the beach for the whole day," Bennett said.

If the trip date doesn't fit into your schedule, Bennett can put together similar trips for individuals any time of year. The cost for such vacations varies according to exactly what is wanted, the time of year scheduled and rates available. Bennett said the airfare would probably be more than for the group trip because they got such a great group rate from American Airlines.

"We got such a great deal on the airfare, it's unbelievable," she said.

For those looking to venture a little farther than Hawaii, Bennett recommends checking out some of the discounts they offer on trips to Australia. Patrons can get all the information they need on the web site www.ittaus-tralia.com. An ongoing partnership with MWR Australia makes such deals possible. Bennett hopes to take a trip there herself in the future to check out the offerings.

"People can choose from pre-made packages or create their own. They have some packages on the web site that start at like \$1,500 per person. It's a pretty big discount," she said.

For more information on the Hawaii trip, Australia or any other destination, call Bennett at 313-0090 or e-mail grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil.

"When you book through us, we take care of all the little details," Bennett said. "It's a peace of mind thing."

Pan-Hellenic Council gives to clinic

The North Alabama Pan-Hellenic Council has contributed \$1,000 to the Huntsville Community Free Clinic.

Council president Cassandra Ingram of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority said the money was raised during a wine and cheese event sponsored by the 10 sororities and fraternities that make up the organization.

“All of our greek organizations are involved in raising money for educational scholarships, reading initiatives, mentorships and other community programs,” she said. “However, the Huntsville Community Free Health Clinic treats uninsured patients who suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure, and that is a growing concern in our community. We hope this money will help the clinic continue to help our community.” (*Pan-Hellenic Council release*)



Courtesy photo

COMMUNITY SUPPORT— Presenting a \$1,000 check to the Huntsville Community Free Clinic are, from left, William Fails, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; Carmon Fike, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Nina Corbin, office manager, Huntsville Community Free Clinic; Pan-Hellenic president Cassandra Ingram, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Dr. Sonya Brown Givens, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority; and Wendell Johnson, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Personnel support

AER campaign chairman Capt. Rob Dewberry accepts a \$1,375 check from Leonard Farbman on behalf of the International Personnel Management Association. Farbman served as president of IPMA's Huntsville Chapter, which is no longer in existence. Looking on are Kristi Foster, the Army Emergency Relief officer, and Don Dixon, who served as chapter treasurer. “We had the money in the (chapter's) account, and we talked about what to do with it,” Farbman said. “And it made sense (to contribute to AER).”

Bulldogs settle score against Marines

Bravo's defense shines in 17-point victory

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

This was Bravo Company's chance to erase its disappointment from the preseason tournament.

The Bulldogs had already beaten preseason champion Charlie on Feb. 8. Against the Marines last week, they could avenge their other preseason loss. They entered the game as the league's only unbeaten team at 3-0.

"We're all confident," Bravo center Marcus Crosby said after the win over Charlie. "Now we know we can beat anybody as long as we put forth effort."

Bravo beat the Marines 53-36 on Feb. 14 at Pagano Gym. The Bulldogs improved to 4-0 while the Marines fell to 1-3.

"We played really good team defense," Bravo coach/guard/forward Rod Brown said. "We did very well on help defense, and got a lot of fast breaks. I think our identity is starting to become team defense, which leads to a lot of easy baskets – fast-break points."

Ronell Roberson scored 21 points, Brown had 14 and Jeremy Church added 12. The Bulldogs led 25-14 at halftime.

The Marines got 13 points from Joshua VanKallen and nine from Brian Walker.

"They out-rebounded us," Marines forward Matthew Fitch said. "And they were shooting the ball very good."

Standings entering tonight include: **Eastern Conference** – Bravo (5-0), 326th Chemical (4-1), NCO Academy (3-2). **Western Conference** – Marines (2-3), Headquarters & Alpha (1-4), Charlie (0-5).

Here are last week's results:

- **Feb. 14** – Bravo def. Marines 53-36 and Headquarters & Alpha def. Charlie 48-36.

- **Feb. 15** – Bravo def. NCO Academy 49-39, 326th Chemical def. Charlie 41-40 and Marines def. Headquarters & Alpha 54-37.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PAYBACK TIME— Bravo center Marcus Crosby, at right, and his teammates get redemption for their preseason losses to Charlie Company and the Marines. They beat Charlie 46-31 on Feb. 8 and the Marines 53-36 on Feb. 14.

Soldier wins high-definition television in fantasy football

MWR competition delivers grand prize

By **TIM HIPPOS**

Family and MWR Command

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Spc. Anthony Owens mastered the art of playing fantasy football to win a high-definition television in the U.S. Army Morale Welfare and Recreation's 2006 Fantasy Football promotion.

From naming his team after one of his favorite coaches, to naming his prize after one of his most productive players, Owens, of Fort Irwin, Calif., epitomized the spirit of fantasy football.

Owens not only won the Army competition hosted on 12 installations, he claimed a second wide-screen, plasma television by capturing the national open competition waged on MJM Sports' Fantasy Sports Machines.



Photo by Kenneth Drylie/Fort Irwin

BIG WINNER— Spc. Anthony Owens clutches the MJM Sports' Fantasy Sports Machine that enabled him to win a big-screen television in the U.S. Army Morale Welfare and Recreation's 2006 Fantasy Football promotion. Owens, who played the game at Primo's Outer Limits sports bar on Fort Irwin, Calif., won another television by capturing the national open championship. "I've been playing fantasy sports for a long time, but I've never played in a league this cool," he said.

Helicopter crashes studied for incident prevention

Fort Rucker team
investigates in Iraq

By DONNA MILES
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As the Army investigates the recent spate of helicopter crashes in Iraq, it's working to get lessons being learned from them back to air crews in the field as quickly as possible.

The service also is stepping up efforts to identify and confront forces behind the attacks, Army officials said.

An Army "shootdown assessment team" from Fort Rucker, Ala., is in Iraq investigating the crashes of a UH-60 Black Hawk and two AH-64 Apaches between Jan. 20 and Feb. 2 that left 16 Soldiers dead, Col. Robert Quackenbush from the Army Aviation Directorate told American Forces Press Service.

"It's a real forensic-type investigation, so it's not something you can get the results of overnight," he said.

The tiniest fragments recovered from a crash site are analyzed to determine what type of enemy weapon system hit the aircraft. This information provides value clues into how the enemy is operating and what the Army needs to do about it, he said.

"So, it will take a little bit of time, but we are very confident that we will know when they are done exactly what shot those aircraft down," Quackenbush said.

That, he said, will reveal "what we need to do to improve our capabilities against whatever that threat was."

The Army has lost more than 120 helicopters in the war on terror, about 25 percent of them due to enemy engagements.

Determined to keep those numbers down, the Army already



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Guillory

AERIAL PATROL— UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment lift off from Forward Operating Base McHenry, Iraq, carrying Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment for an aerial patrol over the Hawijah District of Kirkuk Province.

has made huge efforts to improve aviation safety. As a result, statistics show that aviation safety has improved steadily since 2003, both in terms of accidents and lives lost, said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Lee Tutin, an aviation survivability equipment action officer.

"Since 2003, the Army has invested more than \$2 billion in aircraft survivability equipment," he said. "And that is part of the direct result of bringing the incident rate down."

All the Army's forward-deployed fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft are equipped with the Common Missile Warning System. In addition, the Army has improved the ballistic protection of its helicopters "so that if the aircraft does take some small-arms fire, it can still make it home," Quackenbush said.

For every aircraft lost in combat, many more have been engaged by the enemy but made it

back to their bases safely thanks to these protections, he said. "And we are continually looking at how we can improve our equipment," he added.

But aviation protections go beyond equipment, to include tactics, techniques and procedures to foil the enemy, he said. Much of it hinges on being unpredictable. "First of all, when we fly in and out of airfields, we vary when we come in and out, what routes we take in and out," Quackenbush said.

"We change our tactics and techniques for every mission," Tutin said. "For every mission, the commander and the crew assess what they should be using for that mission. They have a baseline they use, but they adjust them for every mission to prevent predictability."

At the Army's aviation center and school at Fort Rucker, a tactics branch regularly assesses lessons learned from the field and

disseminates them through the schoolhouse and combat theater. "A good idea for one unit may be a good idea for all," Tutin said. "It's all a learning process."

Lessons also are shared between the services to ensure all aviators operating in the theater have the benefit of the latest safety information, he said.

Ensuring aviation safety is critical because helicopters are critical to the mission in Iraq, Quackenbush said. "The value added that the helicopters provide — the reconnaissance capability, being able to see, being able to provide suppressive fire to Soldiers on the ground, being able to move Soldiers and equipment through the air with our utility aircraft — prevents deaths and injuries to Soldiers on the ground," he said.

That's in addition to the tremendous medevac capability helicopters bring to the mission. Quackenbush credits medevac aircraft with saving "countless lives that we would have lost if we had not had their aircraft there."

"It is a dangerous environment over there, but we do whatever we can to minimize and mitigate that danger," he said. "The value added that the helicopter provides ... outweighs the risk."

The Army's aviation safety record has improved significantly since the beginning of the war on terror, Quackenbush said. Accident levels initially spiked because aircraft were operating in new environments with harsh conditions and, in the case of Afghanistan, high altitudes, he said.

"But we gained a tremendous amount of experience there," he said. "We learned some lessons about how to operate in those environments. So we trained our aircrews how to operate in those environments."

As a result, he said, accident rates as well as combat losses

have declined yearly.

Quackenbush said he expects investigations of the latest crashes in Iraq to reveal details that ensure safety in the future. "Right now, we don't know the exact causes of the last three incidents that the Army has had," he said. "We don't know if that was just the law of averages catching up to us or if, in fact, the enemy is doing something different or has something different. We are going to find that out."

"But we still believe the Army helicopter is a tremendous value added, and it continues to save countless lives by preventing other deaths on the ground because they are out there operating."



Courtesy photo

Retired colonel

Retired Col. Jack Conway has been promoted to senior vice president, corporate initiatives, at Analytical Services Inc. The company also announced Larry Jess was promoted to vice president, customized software solutions, and Patty Popour was promoted to vice president, program support services.

Commissary's new director likes what's in store

Customer service
deemed excellent

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY

Staff writer
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The Army changes lives, often taking people in directions they never anticipated. When Amber Bray married a Soldier 18 years ago, she took a job at a commissary to help make ends meet. She had no idea where it would take her. Bray took over as store director for Redstone's commissary Dec. 18.

While studying chemical engineering in Seattle, Wash., Bray fell in love with a young Soldier, Robert. The two were married and found themselves stationed in Gelnhausen, Germany. Bray took a job at the local commissary, scanning prices.

"There was a job and I took it. I never thought in a million years that taking that GS-4 position would end up putting me into Redstone Arsenal as a store director," she said. "I told that to the staff here during our meeting."

Little did she know that not only would she stay with the Defense Commissary Agency after her husband left the military,



Amber Bray

but it would take her to places she never dreamt of – including Alabama.

"Before I knew it I was offered a promotion and then another promotion. The ball just started rolling," she said. "I've been blessed."

Bray had continued her studies while overseas, but in a different field.

"I went to school for chemical engineering," she said. "The University of Maryland didn't offer engineering."

Bray earned her bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Maryland before going on to get a master's in public administration from Bowie State University. She hopes to get a doctorate in the future.

"I hope to get my doctorate in the next one to two years in organizational behavior management," she said laughing. "That's a mouthful, huh?"

This assignment may be her first trip to Redstone, but it is not her first run as a store director. She held the same position for two years at the Menwith Hill Commissary in the United Kingdom before a four-year stint as a commissary management specialist with DeCA Europe Operations Assistance Division in Kapaun, Germany. Her newest assignment is not only a return to store director, it is also a return to living stateside. With the exception of a little time at a commissary in Maine, Bray's career has kept her in Europe.

"We've been married 18 years this year. Sixteen of those 18 years were spent overseas," Bray said. "We lived in a foreign country for a long time. Now we're back in the states. It's a big adjustment, but it's wonderful. It will just take some time to get

used to."

So far, Bray and her family are doing their best to settle in and make Huntsville feel more like home. She has two children, a 16-year-old son, Michael, and a 4-year-old daughter, Katelyn. They have bought a house in the community and even added a new family member.

"We have a dog named Harley now. We adopted her from the humane society," Bray said. "The vet said she's about 10 to 12 weeks old. We could have gone and purchased a dog from somewhere, but this way we're actually helping animals not have to be killed."

Being closer to family has also been a big bonus for Bray.

"For us, moving to Alabama was the best thing that could have possibly happened. This is the first time that we're able to just get in a car and drive to see family," she said. "My husband has a lot of family around Alabama. My husband's brother just stayed the weekend with us. His parents are coming to stay a couple weeks next weekend."

As store director, Bray is ultimately responsible for all operations at the Commissary. Having a good team is essential. Bray said she is excited to be a part of the team at Redstone. She said

while there are a few things she hopes to improve on behind the scenes at the Commissary, the customer service is excellent.

"The employees here are wonderful people," she said. "I'm very fortunate coming into this commissary, that the people who work here are so supportive."

She is also happy to be in a community where retirees play such a large role.

"We have gobs of retirees and I just love them! I want them all to come in. I love hearing the stories they have to tell," she said. "I have so much respect for those who have served their country. It makes me tear up just thinking about it."

Having been here two months, Bray is starting to set some goals.

"I'd like to see the store increase sales. Increasing sales allows us to increase man hours and I can have more employees or give employees more hours," she said. "My other goal would probably be to let employees know how much they are appreciated."

She also hopes to resolve some inventory issues the store has had in the past.

"Our biggest challenge is accountability," she said. "But because I have great people, the people part is the easy part."

■ Youth Center serves as home for learning

Skills

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"But, we've refocused it and are putting more effort into it to make it more structured and more of a school atmosphere. We are doing things where kids can start a project and develop a skill."

In the Youth Center's gym, students are learning the fast fun of cup stacking, which is a national competitive P.E. program. In the art room, kids draw, mold clay, paint and make bead art. In the computer room, they play educational games and compile a cookbook.

"Our parents are real supportive of this program," Baldwin said. "We have good relationships with them. They like the opportunities their children have here to

attend classes with other kids, have social events and participate in sports competitions."

Recently, the home-school program on Redstone Arsenal has been opened up to any home-school child in North Alabama. Their parents do not have to have a badge to get their children on post.

"We were able to get an exception from Garrison command for families that are not directly affiliated with Redstone Arsenal," Baldwin said. "We believe the more kids we have in this program the more we can offer, which benefits all the students."

About half of the children enrolled in the Home School Support Program are from families not affiliated with Redstone. Baldwin said there are about 500 families in the Tennessee Valley who

home-school children.

"We would like to get more of these students on post in this program," Baldwin said. "There is a large group of folks we could impact with our program. We want these children to come into our program and help us provide all of them with a well-rounded educational experience. We can give them opportunities to learn social skills in small and large groups."

Classes are offered for ages 5 to 7, 8 to 10, and 11 and up.

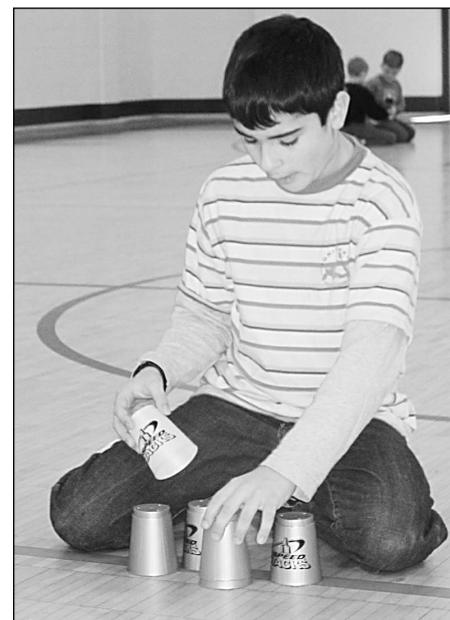


Photo by Kari Hawkins

ART OF CUP STACKING— Stephen Delany, 10, stacks cups as part of his P.E. time during the Home School Support Program. About 40 children in the program attend classes at the Youth Center on Thursday afternoons.

The oldest group of students has formed their own club called Children In Action. They are creating a cookbook to benefit families of deployed Soldiers. These families will get a free cookbook. The group will also raise money for these families by selling the cookbook.

But, on a recent Thursday, with their recipes collected and their cover design complete, the students were discussing how to set the price for the cookbooks. Some wanted to set the price haphazardly while other students wanted to analyze costs and figure out the profit margin they wanted to achieve.

Learning to work together to make decisions on the cookbook is a great learning experience for children who don't get many opportunities to work on school projects with children outside their home-school environment, Baldwin said.

In P.E., the middle group of students was learning to work together in team relays while the youngest age students in art class were working together in their own way – feeding off each other's ideas to make their unique nature drawings.

"You guys are becoming great artists," teacher Corley told them.

Then, Corley spotted something that she really liked – 5-year-old Kelly Biems writing her name on the back of her artwork.

"Oh, Kelly," Corley said. "You're writing your name in multi-colors. That's very pretty."

Other students took note, and they did the same. After all, copying is the best form of flattery.

Editor's note: The cost for MWR's Home School Support Program is \$18 a year. To register, call Baldwin at 876-7801 or e-mail dewayne.baldwin@redstone.army.mil.

Winner

continued from page 14

Fantasy football is an off-field game generated by the on-field statistics of National Football League players and teams. The same type of competition exists for the granddaddy of fantasy sports leagues, Major League Baseball, as well as the NBA, NHL, NASCAR, and the PGA Tour, to name a few of the most popular.

The Internet allows fantasy leagues to include competitors from around the globe. Army MWR joined the fray by installing arcade-style fantasy sports machines inside clubs, bowling alleys and theme restaurants on installations around the world.

"I've been playing fantasy sports for a long time, but I've never played in a league this cool," said Owens, who named his team Dazenman (pronounced Da-Zen-Man) after Phil Jackson, coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jackson, known as "The Zen Master" for citing Robert Pirsig's book "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" as one of his major guiding forces, was pleased and amused to learn of Owens' success.

"Obviously this guy has some thoughtful approach to life: sitting there watching things happen, and he's waiting for intuition to help him out," Jackson said.

Owens' intuition earned him a 40-inch, flat-screen television with a 5.1 dream sound system (retail value: \$2,500) for winning the Army MWR "You Pick" league, which revolved around competitors individually selecting a roster of players in each of the 17 weeks in the NFL's regular season.

Contractor Josie Jaramillo, also of Fort Irwin, won the same prize for finishing first in the Army MWR "Quick Pick" league, in which the Fantasy Sports Machine randomly generated lineups each week.

Owens and Jaramillo both played at Primo's Outer Limits on Fort Irwin.

Under the name of TeamCowboys4life, Jaramillo tallied 1,143 points to edge runner-up Mark Moll, whose Madmax580k entry accumulated 1,123 points. Moll played at the Impact Zone on Fort Sill, Okla.

Owens had 2,328 points to defeat runner-up Oscar Miller's Redskinfan entry (2,236 points) in the "You Pick" league, followed by third-place Team Anacondas, owned by Sgt. 1st Class Colin McKiel of Fort Dix, N.J.

In 2005, the first year of the Army MWR contest, McKiel, who since moved to California, won the "You Pick" division.

Miller wasn't upset to come in second and just miss winning the television. He'll watch the games on a wide-screen soon enough because Miller, coincidentally, is engaged to Jaramillo.

Owens attributed his victory to sticking with the time-tested theory that running backs are the most valuable players in fantasy football and by carefully exploiting the game rules. Like many 2006 fantasy football winners, he rode San Diego Chargers running back and reigning NFL Most Valuable Player LaDainian Tomlinson to victory.

"I read the rules and studied how you get the most points, and it was through the running backs," Owens said. "I concentrated on the match-ups each week. I made a mistake the first time L.T. scored four touchdowns. I didn't have him that week. But from like Week 6 on, I didn't even guess, it was L.T., L.T., L.T. — all the way to the championship."

Owens also benefited from a couple of big performances by Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson and by rotating quarterbacks Donovan McNabb of the Philadelphia Eagles, Carson Palmer of the Bengals and Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts.

"As guys would get hot, I would go with them," Owens said.

Entering the final week of the season, Owens was clinging to a 20-point lead when he started New York Giants tailback Tiki Barber, who had announced he would retire at season's end, against the Washington Redskins. Barber rushed for a single-game career-high 234 yards and three touchdowns in a 34-28 victory that sealed a playoff berth for New York and a fantasy football crown for Owens, who named his prize after the Giants' all-time leading rusher.

"I thought Tiki might have a big game going out, and he won me the TV, so Tiki Barber is my hero," Owens said. "I'm going to call my TV Tiki Barber. It's my Tiki TV. All my boys talk about it when they come over. I tell them: 'Yeah, go ahead and turn Tiki on.' When they come into my house, they have to acknowledge Tiki. It's a beautiful TV, the best I've ever had."

Owens also has a 42-inch plasma on the way for winning the national title. He says he may have to sell one of the units.

"I have a 3-year-old (Leonardo) and a 5-year-old (Antonio) and they're going to take a fork or a knife to one of them," Owens said. "I couldn't handle that; I'd cry. They've already done it to one of my TVs — my little one took a fork to my 19-inch flat screen so I'm scared to have two in the house. I can't protect them both.

"But this is every guy's dream. My buddies have been telling me: 'Man, you have your own sports bar, baby.' Then I start daydreaming for a minute and my wife slaps me upside the head and says: 'Nah, you don't need two big screens.' So, yeah, I might have to sell one."

Owens, 32, a native of Edmond, Okla., said he began playing Army MWR fantasy sports games last summer and got hooked when he won a Harley-Davidson shirt for playing Fantasy NASCAR.

"And I don't even watch NASCAR, that's what's funny," said Owens, who also won local prizes by playing fantasy college football and basketball. "I was just playing to play it. I read the rules and I adjust to them. I just read and react, that's all it is."

Owens, who recently reenlisted as a laboratory medical specialist, salutes Army MWR for giving him this recreational opportunity.

"I was surprised that you can actually win by playing a free game, usually there's a catch," Owens said. "I still didn't believe it until a TV showed up at my door the other day. My wife had to write an apology on her family blog for all those years she gave me (a hard time) for watching football."

Barber was featured in his final Pro Bowl appearance Feb. 11 before launching a sports broadcasting career. Rest assured that Owens will continue watching Barber on his big-screen Tiki, in high-def, no less, thanks to Army MWR.

"It's a neat thing that they're doing because you don't have to spend money to play," Owens said. "It's something that everybody can participate in."



Sports & Recreation

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 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, or e-mail the Redstone Leisure Travel office at grace.bennett@redstone.army.mil for vacation planning assistance.

Golf league

The Redstone OMMCS Golf League is

looking for players/teams to play in this year's golf schedule. Matches are held on the Redstone golf course each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon beginning April 3 and running until mid-September. Teams should have a roster of 6-12 players. All players who meet the eligibility requirements for the use of the Redstone golf course as defined by post regulations may participate. A final organizational meeting will be held March 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the Redstone course clubhouse. Team dues are \$110 per team. Individuals are also welcome and will be placed on existing teams when possible. If you need more information or plan to attend the meeting, call 313-4196 or e-mail dparker@camber.com.

Youth sports

Child and Youth Services' Sports will offer sports skill development camps during the Huntsville City Schools' Spring Break, March 19-23. Instruction will be provided in these individual sports: golf, tennis, racquetball and bowling; in team sports: basketball, baseball/softball, football, soccer and volleyball, as well as conditioning, speed, agility and strength

training. Transportation will be provided from School Age Services if needed. CYS registration and sports physical must be current. Registration paperwork and more information can be found at www.redstonemwr.com. For more information, call 313-3699.

Baseball league

CYS Youth Sports is registering youth ages 5-12 for little league baseball now through March 2. The registration fee is \$50, which includes the uniform plus the \$18 central registration fee if not already paid. To register, stop by CYS Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road, with a copy of the child's birth certificate and a current sports physical, if not already on file. Registration paperwork and more information can be found at www.redstonemwr.com. For more information, call 313-3699.

Scramble event

A Captain's Choice, Best Ball Scramble will be held March 3 at the Links at Redstone. Sign in begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9. Cost is \$50 for non-members, and \$36 for members of Redstone

golf course. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Kari Ley (910) 922-3404 or Staff Sgt. Sean Hegg (928) 202-1408. Proceeds benefit NCO Academy Basic NCO Course Class 645-89B30-007-07, and the Phoenix Project, a local non-profit organization that helps troubled youth become productive adults.

Golf tournament

The ninth annual George H. Hobson Memorial Golf Tournament, sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., is March 31 at the Hampton Cove Golf Course, 450 Old Highway 431 South in Owens Cross Roads. Tee times start at 8 a.m. Registration deadline is March 10. Cost, which includes the after tournament meal, is \$75 (\$100 after deadline). For more information, call Walter A. Baker 797-5673.

Ladies golf

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

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Rocket Announcements

course. Ladies meet on Wednesday mornings 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.

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.



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.

Bible studies

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

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>.

Test week 2007

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

week.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.

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.

Parents committee

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Committee will meet Feb. 27 at 11 a.m. in the Redstone Room, Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 (phone 876-7952). All parents are encouraged to attend the PAC meetings. Parent Participation Points are awarded for attendance – 5 points equals a 10 percent discount on childcare fees. "Please join us to learn what is happening at the Redstone Child and Youth Services facilities and to provide your ideas, opinions or concerns," a prepared release said.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon today at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Capt. Paul Lacey, officer in charge of the Tax Assistance Center and a judge advocate in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, is the scheduled speaker. The chapter's informal

monthly breakfast is 8 a.m. Saturday at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

Fleet reserve

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

Engineer society

The next SOLE luncheon is Feb. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the executive dining room, 2412, of the Sparkman Center. Bob Devlin, deputy director of the Office of Center Operations, Marshall Space Flight Center, is to speak on "Marshall's Role in NASA's Mission." Cost is \$14 for non-members (\$13 for members), and advance reservations are required. For reservations call Jane Reeves 544-7991 or Dave Welch 837-5282, ext. 1706.

University women

American Association of University Women will meet March 6 at the UAH Bevell Center. Registration begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 and program at 7. Local teachers Cathy Gutknecht and Debbie Kueger will discuss "Challenges Facing Elementary School Girls." Reservations for the dinner must be made by Feb. 28 with Lois Guendel 880-8643. The public is invited. After the program Marilyn Robertson, branch president, will present a proposed project with University of Alabama-Huntsville.

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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 259-6500 or visit the web site www.JIAMDSummit.org.

Toastmasters

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

Strategic speakers

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



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

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

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

Civilian deployment

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

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9-5 Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-12:45. The shop is accepting 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.

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

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duty, then you are allowed to voluntarily participate and enroll in Army ROTC through these Green to Gold Programs. For more information call toll-free (877) 863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu, or visit the web site <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/>.

Lateral entry

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

Scholarship program

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

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. 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.

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. For more information call Kristi Foster, AER officer, 876-5397, or e-mail 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. 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 dead-

line 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.

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.

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 Saturday 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.

Quarterly retirements

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is scheduled March 22 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are

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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.

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 individuals 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.

Health fair

Girls Incorporated of Huntsville and the James A. Lane and Sparkman Homes Boys and Girls Clubs are supporting Feb-

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

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 Thursday 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.

Elvis benefit show

Elvis impersonator Mitchell Brown and the Twickenham Orchestra will present an Elvis tribute show, "Return of the King," on Friday night at 7 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.

Florida Tech signup

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

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.

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 today and Thursday 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.

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.

