

# Redstone Rocket

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# Military lifestyle fits entire family

Teenager joins her parents  
in Army National Guard

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

The Army boots Dana "Marie" Cochran is wearing these days are a few sizes too big.

But, that's OK for now because Cochran knows she has some big shoes to fill.

This 17-year-old Huntsville High School junior has spent much of her life following in her mother's footsteps. On May 23, she will leave for boot camp as a private first class, continuing a family tradition of patriotic service to the military.

Among the family members she will leave behind will be two career Soldiers – her mother, Alabama National Guard Sgt. Dana Cox, and her stepfather, Alabama National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Joe Cox.

"I've been in ROTC since I was a freshman in high school," said Cochran, who describes herself as "not a girly girl walking around in heels," but as a girl who's not afraid of a physical challenge on a military course.

"Since I was 11 or 12, I knew I was going into the National Guard because of my mama. She did this when she was young. Ever since I was little I just looked up to her."

Like her mother, who joined the Alabama National Guard soon after high school, Cochran has already made it official that she is a future National Guard Soldier. Last Sept. 7, just two days after her 17th birthday, she and her boyfriend, Adam Billups, who attends Grissom High School, were sworn in as National Guard Soldiers at the Army National Guard headquarters in Nashville.

"I was in Nashville on Sept. 6. The only reason I didn't go on the 5th was because I had a bunch of tests in school that day," Cochran said.

"The people in Nashville told me 'You didn't waste any time.'"

Boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., will keep both Cochran and Billups busy this summer.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**FAMILY AFFAIR—** Dana "Marie" Cochran is continuing her family's tradition of military service by joining the Alabama National Guard – like her parents, Sgt. Dana and Sgt. 1st Class Joe Cox.

"I'm so scared of basic training," Cochran said. "It's just a new experience, and that makes it scary."

When she gets too anxious about her plans, she turns to her mother and stepfather for support.

"I tell her that boot camp isn't going to only be young ladies from the South," Dana Cox said. "There will be girls there from Chicago, New York, California and lots of places. They've grown up in different homes and had to do different things to make it in life."

"Marie only needs to make one good friend, and that good friend will be her battle buddy and someone she can stick with ... I also tell her that her drill sergeant will have the best interest of each Soldier at heart. Their job is to train her and they will train her to be the best Soldier she can be. As long as Marie is giving 100 percent, they will give her 100 percent. She can't fail."

Joe Cox's advice: "Sleep when you can sleep. You will be

awake during different shifts, you'll be woken up at all different hours, there won't be any consistency. So, sleep when you can sleep."

Cochran and Billups will return a few days after the new school year starts in August. After they graduate, the two will attend advanced individual training.

In the meantime, they will serve as part-time National Guard Soldiers through the Recruit Sustainment Program.

"They will report to duty one weekend a month," Joe Cox said. "They will participate in physical fitness training, and learning things like how to salute and be a Soldier. Right now, I don't think Marie understands the full impact of what she has taken on. But, once she gets her training, I think she will understand the gravity of it all."

Cochran doesn't consider herself especially noteworthy as a Soldier, although she has caught the attention of others for her determination and eagerness

to stand in the same boots her mother and stepfather have worn.

"I went into the military when she was 2," said Dana Cox, who was 16 when Cochran was born.

"I finished high school and was working a horrible job in a convenience store. My dad was National Guard and he kept telling me I needed to join. So, I joined the National Guard and that's how I paid for my college. When Marie was 5, she started realizing what my commitment was all about, and that's when she started saying that's what she wanted to do. She would list all kinds of things she wanted to do when she grew up. But, the list always ended with her wanting to be a National Guard Soldier."

Dana Cox grew up in a patriotic family in New Brockton, Ala. Her dad retired as a National Guard staff sergeant, and her grandfather served in World War II and retired from the Army. But, it was more than patriotism

See Family on page 7

# An open lane random survey

*Who was your favorite teacher and why?*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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Sgt. John Darnell  
Military working dog handler

**"I'd say Mrs. Debbie Smith, my senior year (at Moore County High School in Lynchburg, Tenn.). She was an English/business teacher. Her methods of teaching were very understandable. She was very professional**

**and we did a lot of interesting, fun things in the business class."**

Donald Lewis  
Recreation assistant  
**"Mr. Kennemer, when I was in the sixth grade (in 1969). I was one of the first blacks at Lincoln Elementary. He was a guy who looked out for me. He was very nice to me."**



Angie Lamb  
Recreation specialist  
**"It was a woman named Emily Guthrie. I had her for fifth and sixth grade (at Robinson Elementary in Birmingham). She was one of the most amazing, inspiring people I've ever met. She made us believe anything was possible."**

Joe Fuqua  
Intelligence and Security  
**"Probably Miss Christianson in fourth grade (at Wells Elementary in East Moline, Ill.). She was just a good teacher, real attentive. She really enjoyed her job, really enjoyed teaching. She cared about the kids and wanted them to learn."**



# Gate backup revisited

**W**hy doesn't someone change Gate 7 to a non-visitors access gate during peak morning traffic time when there are only two security guards? This morning when I approached the gate, there were two lanes open but someone needed a visitors pass so the left lane was closed and the traffic forced to merge to the right lane, causing a backup to Zierdt Road. There needs to be at least three persons manning the gate if visitors are to be allowed access.

**George S. Fox**  
TMDE Activity

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response from the Directorate of Emer-*

*gency Services. "The DES continuously looks at ways to get the job done better. During the bridge construction on Martin Road, we made some personnel adjustments to better facilitate entry onto the installation. A study has been conducted at Gate 7 to determine whether or not the mission could be conducted efficiently with only two security guards. As a result of this study, the determination has been made to assign three security guards to Gate 7. This will enable us to keep two lanes open to traffic accessing the installation while still being able to accommodate visitor traffic needs. Effective March 2 the access control point, Gate 7, is manned with three security guard personnel."*

# Martin Road overpass update

**W**hat is the 2007 update on the Martin Road overpass? The work so far has only been demo work and it's been months and months.

**Wesley Key**  
contract specialist

*Editor's note: The Garrison*

*provided the following response. "The current completion schedule for the Martin-Patton Road overpass is July. They are finalizing all interfaces with adjacent communication lines. The contractor presence on this project will increase due to the completion of the Gate 7 bridge."*

# Helicopter sustainment concern

**O**n March 1, as we all monitored the news and weather forecast for severe weather, we were shocked to see the disaster at Enterprise, Ala., and the scene at Enterprise High School. The whole world watched as Army UH-1 MEDEVAC helicopters from Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, were the first responders.

The Army National Guard is also dependent on UH-1's for dis-

aster relief and other critical missions and will continue to operate UH-1's for many years until the LUH aircraft are fielded. I am concerned that the Army does not have a plan to sustain the UH-1 fleet. I realize dollars are a key issue, but we cannot afford not to allocate resources and implement a sustainment plan.

**Bob Vlasics**

# Letter policy

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

# Quote of the week

**'T**he greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.'

— Mahatma Gandhi

# Setting priorities in life

**I**hope the following is at least thought provoking. Setting priorities early in life for most everyone is preparing for a career to earn a living, meet personal and family financial obligations and otherwise setting a standard of living they wish to follow.

However, some never bother to think about the most important thing and that is preparing the condition of the inward person to meet their maker when life on earth is over.

The Bible says, "It is appointed for man once to die and after that the Judgment." However, some people are so busy doing their own thing and never think of their soul's condition until some tragedy affects their lives like inclement weather or some terrible life-threatening disease invades their bodies then they need God. Then when things perhaps settle down and get back to normal, some pretty much forget God. Others might take this more serious and get things in order with the Lord. Wise choice. After all we are not promised tomorrow.

Some people might think that what Mom and Dad did for religion is good enough for them but that depends on what Mom and Dad did. If it lines up with the Holy Bible, fine. But if not, then they have a problem.

I realize there are various religious teachings and beliefs in the world and a person is free to choose what they want to believe. God made us free moral agents and he will never take that away. However, the Lord wants first place in your life or nothing at all.

Getting your soul right with the Lord is the most important thing you can do. However, going to a spiritual leader to get forgiveness for sins will not help you because no one on earth can forgive sins. They have no authority to do so — per the Holy Bible. The only thing spiritual leaders can do is give advice.

If you die in your sins, where Jesus is you cannot go. Jesus himself said so. Want to get your Spiritual life in order? Go with Jesus. He is the only answer. He will never let you down.

Name withheld by request

# Iraqi Dinar investment creating complaints

The Council of Better Business Bureaus is warning consumers across the United States and Canada to be wary when considering foreign currency investment, particularly alleged investment deals for the Iraqi Dinar.

The Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illinois has seen a recent spike in consumer complaints focused on Dinar investment. The BBB continues to field an increasing number of complaints from around the world, with many coming from military personnel claiming fraud over Dinar investment deals.

Michele McDaniel, president/CEO of the BBB of North Alabama, said "Two consumers from the Shoals area have reported being involved with this situation." (Better Business Bureau release)

# Redstone Rocket

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# Getting to know you

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

**Name:** Mervyn Webb

**Job:** Department of Army police officer, Directorate of Emergency Services

**Where do you call home?**  
San Fernando, Trinidad



**What do you like about your job?**  
Helping the public. I love to protect and serve.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
Play with my (nine) grandchildren. (They range from ages 2-16.)

**What are your goals?**  
My future goal is to retire at age 62, good Lord willing.

**What's your favorite type of music?**  
I listen to all types of music because I grew up in the West Indies. We listened to music from different countries. If I had to choose music to listen to I would listen to calypso.

## Public Affairs wants your updated information

Once a year, a new publication seems to appear out of nowhere – the Team Redstone Installation Guide and Telephone Directory.

Actually, the Garrison is the proponent for getting this book published.

This year, as in the past, the Directorate of Information Management and the Public Affairs Office are beginning their quest to ensure that the 2007-08 issues of this publication will be in the hands of organizations and employees by early July. However, to ensure that the publication contains the most current and accurate information available, the DOIM and PAO rely on Team Redstone organizations and their employees to furnish the input. In the next several weeks offices and organizations will receive requests for updated information and phone numbers.

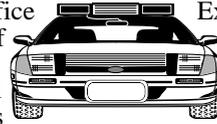
The 2007-08 Installation Guide and Telephone Directory can only be as good

# Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**Feb. 24:** An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during a traffic stop. He was issued two violation notices and released.

**Feb. 24:** Two individual were observed taking items from the Post



Exchange without rendering proper payment. One was stopped by the store detective. The other subject ran, police were called and processed the subject in custody. After the subject was processed, and given a violation notice (summons) they were released. Investigation continues by the Redstone Investigations Section.

**Feb. 26:** An individual was found to

be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license when he stopped at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**Traffic accidents reported:** five without injuries, one with injuries.

**Violation notices issued:** 31 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 expired tag, 2 driving with a suspended/revoked driver's license, 2 inattentive driving, 1 expired driver's license.

## Put safety first for vehicles

When was the last time you changed your wiper blades?

According to a recent survey commissioned by Rain-X, one out of every three drivers on the road today fail to change their blades at the National Safety Council's recommended frequency of once a year.

In fact, 78 percent of motorists only change their wiper blades after the blades begin to impair their visibility and have become a safety hazard.

During the winter months, when inclement weather is more prevalent, the Garrison Safety Office says motorists should take every precaution possible to

properly prepare for adverse conditions. Unfortunately, most drivers tend to consider their wiper blades as service replacement items, when in reality they are vital components of a car's safety features.

The Garrison Safety Office encourages you to make replacing your wipers an annual driving habit. (*Garrison Safety release*)

## Health tip to live by

**A**re you drinking enough water? On the average each person should consume eight 8-ounce glasses of water daily. Cold water is absorbed into the system quicker than warm water. If you are trying to lose weight, you should increase your daily intake even more. Did you know one of the best ways to relieve water retention is to drink more water? Challenge a co-worker and drink-up. (*Garrison release*)

## Black History contest winners announced

Team Redstone sponsored an essay writing contest and a static display contest in support of Black History Month.

The essay winners included first place, Richard Browning of Criminal Investigation Division; second, William Moses of the Integrated Materiel Management Center; and third, Patrick L. Jones of CID.

The display winners included first place, NCO Academy; second, Missile Systems Electronics Training Department; and third, CID.

## Time change to affect computer system

*Officials expect smooth transition*

Daylight Savings Time's arrival this Sunday will impact the post computer system, but workers shouldn't notice any difference.

The U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005 was passed by Congress that July and signed into law by President Bush that Aug. 8. The act changed the provisions of Daylight Savings Time, extending it by four weeks.

The new DST is March 11 until Nov. 4; and that's three weeks earlier and one week later than before.

Around households, the time change to DST is normally the manual operation of resetting clocks. In the automation world, things are completely different. Most computer and network devices have imbedded software that automatically changes the internal clock times. These devices require software patches that must be loaded to make the clocks change at the right time.

Customers supported by the Garrison Directorate of Information Management should not notice the changeover. DOIM is doing everything possible to ensure a smooth and transparent transition.

As far as your home computer is concerned, Microsoft did not make the DST Patch a critical update so you may have to go to the Windows update web site to load the patch even if your computer is set to automatically receive updates. Similar to Y2K, the Information Technology world always keeps things interesting. (*Directorate of Information Management release*)

# Conference takes action on quality of life issues

Annual event draws input from total Army family

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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Representatives from throughout the Redstone community gathered to address quality of life issues Feb. 27-28 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

They served as delegates and subject matter experts for Redstone's 19th annual Army Family Action Plan conference.

"I think it's a good process to bring up the issues that concern residents and (other) people on Redstone," said retirement services officer Cindy Anderson, who served as a subject matter expert for the Travel/Transportation/Personnel/Finance work group. "And it brings them through a process where (the issues) can be rectified and changes can be made."

Military retiree Robert Sawada was among the conference delegates.

"The input from the community is important," Sawada said. "It's a town hall meeting and it's important that we do have it and continue to have it."

Cathy Hays, community activities coordinator for Morale Welfare and



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**GROUP AT WORK**— From left Mona Merta, Kathryn Goyer, Jarkayzio Frank and K.C. Bertling participate in the Travel/Transportation/Personnel/Finance work group.

Recreation, led the event. Forty-five delegates included active duty and retired military, civilians, National Guard and family members. There were 21 subject matter experts. More than 70 issues were discussed; and 21 were briefed to Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski as the most important.

"A lot of hard work went into the last day and a half," Olshefski said at the report-out session Feb. 28. "Let's do a round of applause for the volunteers."

Staff elements will brief him on the status of the issues March 22 at the AFAP

Garrison Commanders Steering Committee meeting. Issues that cannot be worked locally will be sent to the Army Materiel Command AFAP conference April 23-27.

Here are each work group's top issues:

- **Medical/Dental work group** – Wellness Health Care Program; Telephone Health Referrals at Fox Army Health Center; and Civilian Care Provider Prescriptions at Fox Army Health Center's Pharmacy.

- **Family Housing/Facilities Maintenance work group** – Need for Directional Signs at Key Intersections and Access to Updated Site Maps; Redstone Arsenal Water Awareness; and Plumbing, Heat/Air, Key/Lock Replacement Repairs in the Barracks Not Being Completed.

- **Travel/Transportation/Personnel/Finance work group** – Department of Defense Priority Placement Program S (for military spouses); Leave Donation Between Civilians and Soldiers, and by Transitioning Civilians; and Shuttle Service to and from Housing Areas.

- **Consumer Services work group** – Child and Youth Services Two-Week DoD Fee Policy; and Military OneSource for Retirees and their Families.

## Puck drops for annual fund-raising campaign

Army Emergency Relief gets boost from Huntsville Havoc professional hockey team

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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The Army Emergency Relief campaign is off to a good start.

Representatives from the Huntsville Havoc hockey team are to present a \$28,900 check to AER at the campaign kickoff this Thursday at 1 p.m. at Heiser Hall. This represents proceeds from the sale of special jerseys worn by the Havoc players at Military Appreciation Night on Feb. 10 at the Von Braun Center.

"What a wonderful way to begin!" AER officer Kristi Foster said.

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski is the scheduled speaker for the kickoff, which was rescheduled from last week because of bad weather. The entire Redstone community is invited.

The annual fund-raising campaign is Thursday through May 15 with a goal of \$175,000. Last year's campaign collected

\$171,260 to surpass a \$150,000 goal.

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

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

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

Capt. Rob Dewberry is the 2007 campaign chairman, and Master Sgt. Odiri Hastings is co-chairman.

For more information, call Hastings or Foster at Army Community Service at 876-5397.



Photo by Stefanie McCrary

## Program executive honorees

From left, Maj. Luke Peterson, Maj. Alonzo McGhee, program executive officer for missiles and space Brig. Gen. Mike Cannon, Lt. Col. Jason Galindo and Lt. Col. Drew Clanton represent the PEO's quartet of fiscal 2008 Product Manager, Acquisition Key Billet selection list members. The PEO continues to "build the Army Acquisition Corps of the future," Cannon said.

# Army secretary resigns in wake of Walter Reed shortfalls

*Outpatient-care at medical center focus of alleged shortcomings*

By KATHLEEN T. RHEM  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced Friday afternoon that he has accepted the resignation of Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey in light of allegations of shortfalls in care of outpatients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here.

Published reports in February shed light on shortcomings in outpatient care for troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. Army officials announced Thursday that the hospital commander, Maj. Gen. George Weightman, had been

relieved of duty.

In announcing that Harvey had resigned, Gates expressed disappointment that Army leaders were not taking the situation seriously enough.

“I am disappointed that some in the Army have not adequately appreciated the seriousness of the situation pertaining to outpatient care at Walter Reed,” he said in a brief statement at the Pentagon. “Some have shown too much defensiveness and have not shown enough focus on digging into and addressing the problems.”

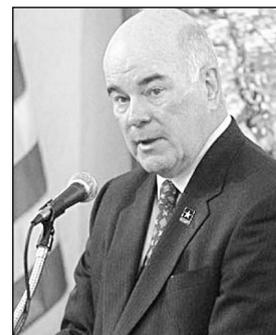
He also said he is concerned that some Army leaders hadn’t communicated well enough that caring for wounded troops is their top priority.

“Addressing (troops’ and their families’) concerns about the quality of their outpatient experience is critically impor-

tant,” Gates said. “Our wounded Soldiers and their families have sacrificed much, and they deserve the best we can offer.”

In contrast to his criticism of Army leaders, Gates praised the medical staff at Walter Reed for “their professionalism and dedication to providing caring treatment.”

“From what I have learned, the problems at Walter Reed appear to be problems of leadership,” he said “The Walter Reed doctors, nurses and other staff are among the best and the most caring in the



Francis J. Harvey

world. They deserve our continued deepest thanks and strongest support.”

Harvey had been secretary of the Army since Nov. 19, 2004. Gates announced that Undersecretary of the Army Pete Geren will serve as acting secretary until a new secretary is in place. Geren served as acting secretary of the Air Force from July to November 2005.

Army officials announced after Gates’ news conference that Maj. Gen. Eric R. Schoomaker will be the new commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and North Atlantic Regional Medical Command. Schoomaker currently is the commanding general of the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md.

## Units add 21 Soldiers during month

The Garrison provided the following in-processing list for February. In some cases, Soldiers were already here but transferred to other units at Redstone:

- Capt. Bernita Briggs, HHC 59th; Chief Warrant Officer Jonathon Refer, HHC 59th; Chief Warrant Officer Gregory Riggins, HHC 59th; Chief Warrant Officer William Bradshaw, HHC 59th; Lt. Col. Jason Crow, Garrison; Maj. Jonathan Bulseco, Huntsville liaison office; Maj. Dennis Carman, Space and Missile Defense Command; Master Sgt. Devin Dashawn Roberts, Logistics Support Activity; Master Sgt. Lawrence Ben Scott,

HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Damon Clifton, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Richard James, HHC 59th;

- Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Robar, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lamont Taylor, Charlie Company; Staff Sgt. John Bestall, NCO Academy; Staff Sgt. Marcus Church, SMDC; Staff Sgt. Corey Collins, NCO Academy; Staff Sgt. Michael Shane Davis, Charlie Company; Staff Sgt. Fatima Earley, NCO Academy; Staff Sgt. Randy Olinger, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Robert Floyd White Jr., HHC 59th; and Warrant Officer Michael Ortiz, HHC 59th.

## Employees’ union officers up for election

Members of AFGE Local 1858 will nominate officers at the union’s monthly meeting March 12 at 5 p.m. at building 3202 on Mauler Road.

The method of nominations will be from the floor and may include by telephone (876-4880) for employees located at Kwajalein, Fort Bliss, SMDC/HELSTF, SAMD employees overseas, Mofitt employees and AMCOM logistics assistance representatives worldwide. Employees on TDY or hospitalized may submit nominations in writing by mail to the AFGE Local Office to be received by 4:30 p.m. March 12. Each person nominated must accept or decline the nomination at the time of nomination. This may be done verbally or in writing.

The election will be held April 9 from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the union office. All dues paying members in good standing as of March 12 will be eligible to make nominations and vote in the election.

Requests for absentee ballots should be sent to AFGE Local 1858, Attn: Election Committee, Building 3202, Redstone Arsenal, AL 38898. The Election Committee includes Juan Mendoza, Robert Love, Suzanne Jefferson and alternate Karen Moten.

The following officer positions are up for election:

- President, assistant president,

executive vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms, fair practices coordinator, AMCOM non-professional vice president, AMCOM professional vice president, OMEMS vice president, PM TMDE non-professional vice president, Garrison non-professional vice president, Garrison professional vice president, HELSTF professional vice president;

- SMDC non-professional vice president, SMDC professional vice president, MEDDAC/DENTAC vice president, PEO STRICOM non-professional vice president, AAFES vice president, TECOM non-professional vice president, TECOM professional vice president, Commissary vice president, LOGSA vice president, Corps of Engineers vice president;

- PEO MS non-professional vice president, PEO MS professional vice president, CPOC non-professional vice president, DISA professional vice president, DISA non-professional vice president, NAF vice president, Kwajalein non-professional vice president, Kwajalein professional vice president, DFAS professional vice president, DFAS non-professional vice president, Printing Plant vice president, AMRDEC non-professional vice president and AMRDEC professional vice president. (*American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858 release*)



Photo by Mary Dixon

## Dining in

Honoring a long-standing tradition, the Officers and Civilians Club was packed Thursday as the PEO Missiles and Space held a dining in. The punch ceremony before dinner provides a forum for reading the unit lineage and concocting a mixture that embodies the experiences of the unit’s past.



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

## *Warranting note*

**Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski helps Austin Caudle, 9, promote his father, Chief Warrant Officer Anthony Caudle, to the rank of chief warrant officer 5 during a ceremony Friday at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. During the same ceremony Caudle, chief of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School Warrant Officer Training Division, was awarded the Army Meritorious Service Medal and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal by Col. Jose Enriquez, OMEMS and 59th Ordnance Brigade commander.**

### ■ Teenager takes on challenge of Army boots

## Family

continued from page 1

that drew her to the National Guard. It was also opportunity.

"It was a way out, to be honest, because I lived in a town with one red light," Dana Cox said.

"But, in order for me to go and do that, I had to make Marie believe it was a better thing for us. It was a hard sell because she is so hard-headed. When I would call her from basic training, she would tell me she wanted me to be home in the morning when she woke up. She was difficult. But, now, Marie is a planner. She has seen how the National Guard has helped me, and she knows that with four kids in the family the National Guard is the way for her to get help with college."

Over the years, Cochran has seen her mother and stepfather make tremendous sacrifices to serve their country. Dana Cox, who is part-time National Guard, deployed to Iraq in 2004 through the 279th Signal Battalion with the 711th out of Mobile, leaving Joe Cox at home with his daughter, stepdaughter Cochran and two sons, now 11 and 15. Currently, Dana Cox is deployed again through October, on leave from her job in human resources at Toyota to work at the National Guard Armory on Green Cove Road in support of the current deployment of the 1169th Engineer Group.

Joe Cox, who is full-time National Guard with the 279th Signal Battalion, has nearly 18 years active duty (23 total in the Army and Guard). During those years, he has served as an infantry Soldier, with the Patriot missile program, as an administrative sergeant, in recruiting and, currently, in communications. While a part-time National Guard Soldier with the Patriot missile program, he was named non-commissioned officer for the year.

Joe Cox also comes from a patriotic family. His father is a Vietnam veteran and served in the Air Force until his retirement. Joe Cox would like to continue that tradition by serving in Iraq. He has volunteered three times, but hasn't yet been deployed. The first time — when his wife was deployed — Joe Cox wasn't accepted because his skill was not needed. The other two times, the 279th needed to keep his skill and wouldn't agree to the deployment.

"If he does go, I will support him like he supported me," Dana Cox said. "From the practical side, for his career and Army resume, he needs to go."

Cochran isn't the only child from the Cox household who has made the military a big part of their life. Cochran's older stepsister is also in the National Guard and Dana Cox believes the couple's two sons will end up in the military, one in the Air Force and the other in the Marines.

"I support the kids joining the service," said Joe Cox, whose life as a troubled teen was changed by the military. "I think every young person in America should do a mandatory three years. It gives them respect, guidance and discipline."

Dana Cox is more reserved in her opinion on military service.

"It doesn't fit everybody," she said. "But, if it fits you and you enjoy it, then it's the right thing to do."

Cochran's military plans are straightforward. After her advanced individual training, she plans to attend college, eventually getting her degree in psychology and an officer's commission. She will then decide whether to go full-time or part-time Guard.

But, right now, Cochran's goal is to buy a car with the money she earns while at boot camp. And, to get a pair of Army boots that actually fit.

"I'll be fine as long as my boots fit," she said with a smile.

# Training pays off as Soldiers escape Bradley rollover

*Trio able to exit vehicle in Iraq*

By **KELLY WIDENER**  
*Army News Service*

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — Rollover drills and situational-awareness training turned a potentially deadly rollover into a survival story for three Soldiers recently when their Bradley fighting vehicle rolled into a canal in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Logan Wallace, Spc. Mark Hoiland and Spc. Ray Ness — attached to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Battalion, 34th Brigade Combat Team, of the Minnesota National Guard — were able to exit their vehicle after the bridge they were crossing gave way.

“When the road started to break away, causing us to slide into the canal, I yelled over the intercom system that we were sliding,” said Ness, vehicle driver. “Spc. Hoiland then yelled ‘rollover.’”

“We slid in and tipped upside down,” said Hoiland, gunner. “The BFV hit the bottom and



Courtesy photo

**UPSIDE DOWN—**Rollover drills and situational-awareness training turned a potentially deadly rollover into a survival story for three Soldiers recently when their Bradley fighting vehicle rolled into a canal in Iraq.

water filled the turret.”

As water filled the vehicle, the three Soldiers immediately began helping each other escape.

“I was able to turn myself around upwards after the water filled the turret,” Hoiland said. “I

then yelled for Staff Sgt. Wallace and started pulling on him because he was still upside down.”

“I was able to get down in the turret of the Bradley before we were upside down but was

forced into the BC’s hatch,” said Wallace, Bradley commander. “I was face-first in the mud and water. I tried to get free and upright, but was stuck in the mud and my IBA (Interceptor Body Armor) was catching on something.”

As Wallace continued struggling, Hoiland yanked on his IBA and pulled him upright. Meanwhile, Ness freed himself from the driver’s seat and opened the gunner’s door.

The driver and gunner of the Bradley following the Soldiers dove into the water to assist.

“The Soldiers knew the TTPs and procedures that helped save their lives,” said Maj Michael Murray, battalion safety officer. “By placing the turret in the 12 o’clock position, part of the training and preparation to cross canals, it allows the Soldiers to get the door open. Otherwise it could be blocked. Additionally, the crew conducted their rollover drill as the vehicle entered the water. That is training saving lives.”

Training and proper execution of TTPs also had the three Soldiers securing all of their equip-

ment as part of pre-combat checks.

“This prevented the vehicle from being cluttered and having items hit the crew members as the vehicle overturned,” Murray said. “The ‘Hell hole’ was clear, which allowed Ness to get out, as well as get back to open the door.”

“Training rehearsals are just as important as the mission itself,” said Capt. Chip Rankin, Co. B commander. “This event could have gone two ways — one being the worst day, where we lost three of our Soldiers, and the second being what occurred, our Soldiers successfully surviving. Training and engaging with your Soldiers always pays off.”

“These Soldiers did everything right,” Murray added.

Army statistics reveal that rollovers are decreasing. The service had an 82-percent reduction in rollover-related drowning fatalities between fiscal 2006 and 2005.

*Editor’s note: Kelly Widener writes for the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center.*



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Doscher

## ***Bomb victim***

**At Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, members of Task Force Med struggle to save an Afghan man caught in the blast of a suicide bomber's attack. Four were killed and 27 wounded when a suicide bomber self detonated at a Bagram entry control point Feb. 27.**

# German group sees Von Braun's workplace

*Command historian entertains State Department visitors*

By **CLAUS MARTEL**  
*For the Rocket*

They came from all over Germany with one common question: Where did Wernher von Braun work?

A group representing the media and political parties of Germany visited Redstone Arsenal Feb. 27 under a U.S. State Department program called "the International Visitor Leadership Program," or IVLP.

Michael E. Baker, AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal's longtime historian, hosted these distinguished visitors.

"I've given tours and briefing to many, but this was definitely a first in my almost 30 years here," he said.

Baker was contacted by the State Department in January about the group's visit and coordinated with AMCOM chief of staff Col. Tom Newman and Garrison plans and actions chief Todd Hutto.

After being greeted by Newman, the



Courtesy photo

**SPECIAL TOUR—** Participants in the International Visitor Leadership Program listen to AMCOM chief of staff Col. Tom Newman's welcoming remarks.

group was treated to an exclusive briefing in building 4488 and toured the second and third floors of that building to see where Von Braun and his Army commander Maj. Gen. John Medaris planned and launched this nation's space program.

From there it was off to see the Redstone Missile Test Stand, where many historic missiles were test fired.

Baker was surprised that most in the group knew that Von Braun worked for the Army and that it was the Army at Red-

stone that was responsible for the launch of Explorer I on Jan. 28, 1958.

"(The group's) sense of history was truly inspiring," Baker said. "They told me they had read all about Von Braun and wanted to see for themselves the birthplace of the Free World's space program."

Two State Department translators were on hand to help with the language barrier. Fortunately, all members of the group save one spoke fluent English.

All guests were given special DVDs of many history videos produced by Baker's office. These DVDs were encoded so that they would play on German television sets. Baker explained that Germany and most of Europe operates on a television system that is not compatible with American DVDs.

The IVLP operates under authority of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (Fulbright-Hays Act). The emphasis of the program is to increase mutual understanding through communication at the personal and professional levels. Notable past participants include British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

## Travel tool spreading across branches of service

*Risk assessment for private vehicles deemed effective as life saver*

By **KELLY WIDENER**  
*Army Combat Readiness Center*

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – A tool used by Soldiers to assess the risk of driving their privately owned vehicles on trips is now the same tool that Airman, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen will use beginning early March.

Formally adopted across the Department of Defense, the tool known to Soldiers as ASMIS-2 officially becomes TRiPS, or Travel Risk Planning System.

The tool was adopted because of its ability to give users a comprehensive risk assessment based on their travel plans and recommending certain actions to help lower risks.

"ASMIS-2's greatest value has always been the one-on-one interaction and dialogue it promotes between the supervisor and subordinate," Army Combat Readiness Center Sgt. Maj. David Griffith said. "The specific questions asked about an upcoming

trip allow supervisors and Soldiers to engage and help identify potential faults in driving plans and help provide other alternatives."

The online tool was adopted last year by the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and recently this year by the Air Force. Since its implementation in the Army, more than 1,783,000 assessments have been completed by Soldiers, with six fatalities occurring during an assessed trip. These statistics show that those using the tool may be less likely to be involved in fatal mishaps. TRiPS is expected to continue with the same results across all service branches.

"Since the release of TRiPS, 29,061 Sailors have registered for accounts and 15,452 risk assessments have been completed," Capt. Bill Glenn, director of Shore Safety at the Naval Safety Center, said. "To date, no Navy personnel who have been traveling on a risk assessment have been involved in a fatal motor vehicle accident."

While elements of ASMIS-2 remain the same – such as inputting information like the type of vehicle being driven, age, start and end points, expected sleep before



Courtesy photo

## Fish tank

The International Military Student Office took 13 international soldiers on a field studies program trip Feb. 10 to Cathedral Caverns, the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga and to a Huntsville Havoc hockey game at the Von Braun Center. Twelve of the students were from the Netherlands and one from Italy. Taking in the sights at the Tennessee Aquarium are Sgt. 1st Class William Kroon and Sebastiaan Kievith from the Netherlands.



Courtesy photo

## Space trip

Staff Sgt. Sebastiaan Kievith from the Netherlands tries out the Apollo Command Module Simulator at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Nine students from the Netherlands and Italy took part on this Field Studies Program trip Feb. 17 with the International Military Student Office.

See **Travel** on page 12

# Aviation association cites Corpus Christi civilian

By JAMEY GIDDENS

*CCAD publicist*

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Corpus Christi Army Depot deputy commander Roy P. “Pat” Oler has been named recipient of the Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award by the Army Aviation Association of America.

Sponsored by the Boeing Company, the award is presented annually to an Army civilian who made an outstanding individual contribution to Army aviation during the previous year. Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody will present the award to Oler on May 10 in Atlanta at the annual AAAA Convention.

The Joseph P. Cribbins DAC of the Year Award was first presented in 1976 to namesake Joseph P. Cribbins, then special assistant for aviation logistics, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Washington, D.C.

“It is an honor to receive this recognition from the Army Aviation Association of America,” Oler said. “I will go to Atlanta and accept this award, not just for myself, but on behalf of the men and women of Corpus Christi Army Depot who strive daily to provide the war fighter with the best quality product imaginable.”



**Roy “Pat” Oler**

He became the depot deputy commander in January 2004. He retired from the Army as a colonel after 27 years, which included commanding aircraft and supply units in both Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Under his direction, the depot has received certification to both the ISO 9001: 2000 standard and the aviation industry-specific AS9100 standard.

# Honoring sacrifices of nation's bomb technicians

Memorial at bomb school remembers lives lost

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

The stories of 13 of the nation's most honorable civilian employees are being brought to rest on Redstone Arsenal.

And, sadly, there are bound to be more. An explosive ordnance memorial commemorating the sacrifices of civilian bomb technicians who died in the line of duty is being constructed on the front lawn of the Hazardous Devices School on Redstone Road.

The memorial, which includes the words "Here Am I, Send Me!" from Ephesians 6:8 and a bronze statue of a civilian employee in a bomb suit, will be dedicated in a ceremony Monday, April 16.

Before that dedication, however, the names of 13 fallen civilian bomb technicians will be inscribed on the memorial. Those names go as far back as 1909 and include two bomb squad technicians who died on Sept. 11, 2001, in the World Trade Center attacks. They are Detective Claude D. Richards of the New York City Police Department and FBI Special Agent Leonard W. Hatton.

"The first three names – one in 1909 and two in 1940 – are the names of civilian employees from the New York City Police Department who preceded the Hazardous Devices School," said Pat Gehringer, a supervisory instructor for the school.

"All those who died from 1973 to 2001 are graduates of this school."

The Hazardous Devices School began 35 years ago on Redstone Arsenal, and is



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**LASTING TRIBUTE—** Employees of FAS Monumental Erectors work to line up the walls of an explosive ordnance memorial honoring the lives of civilian bomb technicians who were killed in the line of duty. They are, from left, Danny Simmons, Fred Smith (company owner), Earl Bonds and Joel Seagres. The crane operator is Tommy Lewis of Empire Crane and Rigging. The memorial, located on the front lawn of the Hazardous Devices School on Redstone Road, will be dedicated at a ceremony April 16.

managed by the FBI with instructors provided by the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

The memorial's design is similar to the explosive ordnance memorial at Eglin Air Force Base, which only honors servicemembers who died in missions dealing

with explosive ordnance, Gehringer said.

"They've run out of room on the wall at Eglin for those fallen military bomb technicians," he said. "They are having to add to the structure so they can place more names on the wall."

The FBI began training civilian employees – primarily law enforcement and firefighting personnel – as a result of the Vietnam War.

"Before we started training civilian employees, this was primarily a military

mission. Prior to 35 years ago, the military performed all bomb disposal missions. There were not a lot of improvised explosive devices in communities in those years," Gehringer said.

"During the Vietnam War, all our explosive devices expertise went to Vietnam with the military. It was a time of upheaval and unrest in the nation, and there were domestic terrorists who improvised explosive devices and placed them in communities. Since communities were left without the capabilities of handling these explosives, the country had to train civilians – police and firefighters – to handle and disarm explosives safely."

Once training of civilian employees began, there was no end to the need for explosive ordnance capabilities on the domestic front. The FBI agreed to manage an ongoing program for training and certifying civilian bomb technicians. Since the Army had the expertise, the FBI entered into an agreement with OMEMS to provide that training at Redstone Arsenal.

The memorial has been placed so that the civilian bomb technician portrayed by the statue will be facing toward the entrance to and from the Hazardous Devices School. The statue will serve as a reminder of what can be lost in the line of duty, said Jeff Fuller, chairman of the National Bomb Squad Advisory Council.

The memorial, costing more than \$200,000, was paid for by private donations through the Bomb Technicians Memorial Foundation established by the council chaired by Fuller. Donations were received from members of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators, manufacturers of bomb squad equipment and supplies, and members of police and fire departments nationwide.

For more information on the military and civilian memorials, check out the web site at [www.eodmemorial.org](http://www.eodmemorial.org).

## Other services adopt Army travel tool

### Travel

continued from page 10

traveling, seat belt use and more – TRiPS offers more than just a name change. The tool offers additional features specifically for supervisors. One of the new features allows supervisors to view the TRiPS activity of their subordinates two levels down, which offers more opportunity for leadership engage-

ment and awareness.

"TRiPS will continue to provide users with risk awareness features such as the mapping feature," Griffith said. "However, the new features make this positive and proven tool even more valuable in the fight against POV fatalities of not only our Soldiers, but all DoD servicemembers and civilians."

Army personnel can expect to notice the name change of ASMIS-2 to TRiPS on the Army Combat Readiness Center's web site at <https://crc.army.mil> in March.



Courtesy photo

## Commanders meeting

Deputy director Charles Chitwood gives an overview of Marshall Space Flight Center during the Joint Aeronautical Logistics Commanders meeting Feb. 7-8. Chairmanship of the group rotates every two years between the Army, Navy and Air Force. Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury became the JALC chairman in February 2006.

# Missile reset program keeps supplies flowing

*War equipment repaired for redeployment to troops*

By DAN O'BOYLE

*For the Rocket*

When it comes to traffic signals — green, amber, red — drivers know what to do.

Similarly, when it comes to project management, PMs and directors know what to do to keep things in the green and out of the red.

And so it is with the AMCOM missile reset project under the direction of team chief Tommie Cutts.

Specifically, the PEO Missiles and Space missile reset effort continues to return systems and stockpiles to predeployment conditions and levels, thanks to dedicated and hard-working employees. These workers use special technical inspections and execute a repair program that includes inspection, cleaning and the mandatory replacement of selected parts.

Cutts attributes his team's success to those who — on a daily basis — directly or indirectly touch the systems.

"Our teams have been extremely responsive across the board," Cutts said. "They have put in whatever hours have been necessary to support our Soldiers. They have been working at a high tempo for a long time. They are focused and proud of what they are accomplishing. This is a totally integrated effort."

The missile reset project has spent more than \$400 million in the fiscal years from 2003-06. This fiscal year, the missile reset

target funding level is set at \$169 million.

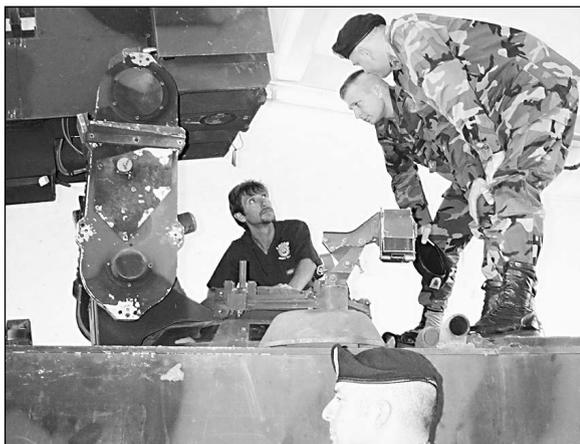
The missile reset team works with maintainers and commanders of deployed units to determine what weapon systems to induct. That determination involves space, personnel and repair teams, availability of special tools and the operational priority of the unit.

Plus the team holds biweekly video-teleconferences with Army Materiel Command and major subordinate commands to make sure that schedules are synchronized. Key to those conferences, also, is to ensure that monthly financial obligations are in place as equipment repair costs keep changing and need to be adjusted. Parts availability data is also refined, with the necessary data loaded up front to ensure a unit has everything it needs before going to the field.

In short, expedient, predictive logistics is the order of the day, with the goal of keeping turnaround times reduced to minimize impacts on training requirements.

"We have been tremendously helped by the IMMC Automation Center and their Web Desk in establishing a central information chart update location," Marilyn Moore, requirements/budget analyst, said. "We can keep customer requirements and workload ideas planned and flowing to take care of everybody's maintenance and supply transactions."

Reset brings missiles back to pre-deploy-



Courtesy photo

**WEAPON TUNEUP—** Missile system repairs are performed throughout the world, including at Redstone.

ment conditions and prepares them to be sent back to the theater. Reset is also an opportunity to incorporate engineering changes authorized after a missile system or launcher has been fielded.

A lot of the reset work involves dealing with the effects of damage caused by combat and sand abrasion.

Most reset work is done at installation logistics management directorates. For example, Apache missile launcher work is performed at Forts Bragg, Hood, Stewart, as well as in Hawaii and Germany. Missile round reset work, such as the Javelin and Hellfire, is done at the Anniston Alabama Munitions Center while some rounds are reset at Letterkenny Army Depot. Javelin

Command Launch Units are reset at the field level and Patriot work is done at the Red River Army Depot.

And right here at home, the two 40-foot vans that make up the Electrical Equipment Test Facility are reset on the Arsenal, with some work being done at the AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility.

"We use a systems approach for reset," Cutts said. "For example, we are responsible for the entire Patriot weapon system. We may subcontract repair to another command for the vehicular portion of the equipment. But we develop and manage the schedule for the entire process and we integrate the system.

"What's more, our focus is also on emerging missions, the Army transformation and modularity. Equipment comes into reset in one configuration, but when it leaves, it may be configured differently because of the unit's size or the configuration has been changed."

And how does reset success get measured?

"I think our true measure of success is how well we support our deployed Soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Japan, Kosovo or anywhere else around the globe," Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said. "And reset is a key element in that support.

"Our Soldiers are great. It continues to amaze me how diligent and responsible they are. They are true ambassadors for our nation and we need to do everything we can to support them and ensure their success."

# Realistic training within range for Soldiers

*Huntsville engineering center produces standard design*

By **ANDREA TAKASH**  
*Engineering and Support Center*

In today's Army, the Soldier quickly learns to adapt on the battlefield and work with a team to accomplish the mission, whether calling for air support from a nearby helicopter squadron or radioing the commander to dispatch armored vehicles.

With the development of the digital air/ground integration range or DAGIR, Soldiers will soon use these multi-functional, state-of-the-art training ranges to train in true combined arms scenarios.

Based on lessons learned from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Army Service School leaders are developing new training doctrine. With support from the Army Training Support Center, Fort Eustis, Va., the Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, produced a standard design for a range, which supports ground and air training. As the mandatory center of expertise for range modernization, Huntsville Center is responsible for range design at all Army installations in the United States.



Courtesy photo

**AUTHENTICITY— Training ranges prepare Soldiers for the battlefield.**

“The DAGIR design was unique because we worked with three Army service schools: Aviation School, Armor School and Infantry School,” said Mark Fleming, chief of Huntsville Center’s Range and Training Lands Program. “After all of the customers explained their

needs, we designed the technical aspects and infrastructure for the range complex. We also worked closely with the Program Execution Simulation Training and Instrumentation Office, who developed the special effects, targetry and instrumentation package for the range.”

The DAGIR combines aviation, military operations on urban training — MOUT — and combat live fire training onto one range.

“Like MOUT ranges, the DAGIR will have building facades, after action review buildings and targets,” said Bill Stephenson, deputy of the Range and Training Lands Program. “But the DAGIR will also have a hover pad for Army pilots to land helicopters. Soldiers will even be able to fast rope from helicopters onto the building facades.”

Since the DAGIR standard design is just a template, Huntsville Center works hand-in-hand with the Army Corps of Engineers’ geographical districts to assess different regional factors when working on ranges for specific installations.

“We have to take into account the landscape at the installation,” said Jerry Haley, Huntsville Center project manager for the Fort Bragg, N.C., DAGIR. “Noise levels, erosion, endangered species and historical areas also are factored into the design. For instance, on the Fort Bragg DAGIR, we made sure the design did not impact the red caucated woodpecker.”

Bill Edwards, Fort Bragg range manager, also noted that the team strategically

**See Ranges on page 15**

# Virtual Army Experience launches traveling exhibit

*High-tech interactive game simulates Soldiering mission*

WASHINGTON — The Army launched Feb. 12 the Virtual Army Experience, a high-tech, team-based experience designed to immerse visitors in the operational roles of Soldiers in the Army.

The Virtual Army Experience is managed by the Software Engineering Directorate in the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center at Redstone Arsenal.

This 10,000-square-foot interactive traveling exhibit brings the Army's exceptionally popular computer game, America's Army: Special Forces (Overmatch), to a life-size networked world to provide visitors with a virtual test drive of Soldiering. In the Virtual Army Experience, participants employ teamwork, leadership and high-tech equipment as they take part in a hands-on virtual mission to capture a terrorist leader.

The Virtual Army Experience debuted at Speedweeks in Daytona, Fla. During 2007 the Army will deploy the Virtual Army Experience to 35 events around the nation. The Virtual Army Experience schedule is available at [www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com) and [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com).

"The Virtual Army Experience provides visitors with unparalleled insight into



Courtesy photo

**SIGN IN, PLEASE— Gen. William Wallace, commander of the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va., visits the Virtual Army Experience in Daytona, Fla. Col. Casey Wardynski, project director for America's Army and originator of the concept for the Virtual Army Experience, registers the general as part of the experience.**

today's high-tech Army in which smart capable Soldiers work within elite teams to master the most complex and demanding situations," said Col. Casey Wardynski, project director for America's Army and originator of the concept for the Virtual

Army Experience. "Upon entering the Virtual Army Experience visitors meet virtual members of their team — skilled professionals in fields ranging from aviation to communications. From this point forward visitors gain an appreciation of the degree to which the Army prepares young adults to be confident, skilled and trusted."

In the 20-minute Virtual Army Experience participants receive video briefings by Soldiers who span the expertise, backgrounds and personal goals typical of Soldiers who make the Army the world's premier land force. At the Joint Operations Center, participants receive an intelligence, force protection, signal, support and current situation briefing to prepare them to enter a virtual combat operation.

Participants then enter the mission simulator area where, using adapted combat systems that employ laser engagement and force feedback technology to replicate the feel and function of Army equipment, they execute a simulated operation in the War on Terrorism. The participants fall-in on six Humvee simulators modeled on vehicles employed by Army Special Forces, and onto two overwatch or covering positions where participants employ light arms and TOW anti-tank missiles. Working as a team, participants are charged with executing the ground component of a raid on a terrorist stronghold.

Upon mission completion, participants move to the After Action Review area where they receive a debriefing on their performance. The Virtual Army Experience also includes several interactive exhibits

including multiplayer versions of the America's Army computer game and opportunities to operate the Packbot Robot.

The Virtual Army Experience will also host appearances by America's Army Real Heroes at select events across the country. Launched in September 2006, the America's Army Real Heroes program offers a glimpse into the accomplishments of Soldiers who have distinguished themselves in combat and earned citations for bravery and valor. Their accomplishments are highlighted in the America's Army PC game, in a line of collectable action figures and on the game's web site [www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com) and on the official Army [www.GoArmy.com](http://www.GoArmy.com) web site.

With more than 8 million registered users, who have invested over 200 million hours virtually exploring the Army from Basic Training to operations in the War on Terrorism, America's Army ranks among the top 10 online PC action games played worldwide. The game provides a unique, interactive experience allowing players to gain a perspective into Army occupations and assume virtual roles as Soldiers in the Army. Players navigate through challenges real Soldiers confront. Just as with real Soldiers, player progression and success in the game is governed by their adherence to the Army's set of noble values. As players navigate challenges within the game, new opportunities for advancement and development unfold ranging from service with the elite 82nd Airborne Division to roles with the Special Forces. (*Army News Service*)

## ■ Army training ranges adopt new doctrine

### Ranges

continued from page 14

worked around wetlands when designing the layout for the Fort Bragg DAGIR.

"Instead of building a convoy route through wetlands, the team designed bridges to go over the wetlands," Edwards said. "Bridges provide realistic training for Soldiers. So, this is a win-win for everybody."

Not only do factors on the ground affect the design but also items below the surface influence the layout.

"Per the Secretary of the Army's policy, installations must build all new ranges on an existing range, which sometimes contain various military munitions above and below the terrain," Stephenson said. "Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate is responsible for evaluating the military munitions on the proposed range location. An environmental analysis is done in the very beginning so installations can make an informed decision."

Huntsville Center also provides the installation with the cost analysis and cost estimate for construction of the range and additional technical features.

"We originally estimated the cost for the DAGIR at Fort Bragg to be \$70 to \$80

million, but after discussions and compromises from the customers, the actual cost was changed to \$28 million for military construction and \$12.5 million for targets and instrumentation," Haley said.

Now that the DAGIR design is published in the Training Circular-25-8 Army Training Ranges and Range Design Guide, several ranges will go to the construction phase at various installations, such as Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas; and Yakima Training Range, Wash. The DAGIRs at Fort Bragg and Fort Stewart are out for construction bids.

Once the DAGIRs go to construction, Huntsville Center will continue to monitor the range at various phases of the construction process.

"We will look at the project halfway through construction to make sure at least one of the required items from the standard design is done correctly. Then, we look at the project at the 95 percent completion phase and ensure that everything was done correctly," Stephenson said.

From cradle to grave, Fleming said he focuses on the ultimate customer — American Soldiers.

"The DAGIR makes for the most realistic training in the Army," Fleming said. "These ranges are the best training facilities in the world and produce the best Soldiers."

# Command has plan when disaster strikes

*Program in place ensures continued operations*

No one will soon forget the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001 or the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the southeastern United States devastating large areas. All three of these disasters caused severe disruption to critical services and highlighted AMCOM's need to have plans in place to ensure its ability to provide continuous support to the war fighter. Even in the event of a tornado damaging the Sparkman Center, the command needs to keep open the aviation and missile parts pipeline to Soldiers fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Within the AMCOM G-3 office is a team of military, civilians and contractors working in conjunction with the command's leadership. They collectively developed a Continuity of Operations program that offers alternate work sites, secure lines of communication, and remote networking options to keep the command functional. For instance, critical data is backed up regularly and secured remotely from central storage depositories. Key mission essential functions are recognized and resources identified to sustain them for significant periods of time. The COOP plan is a collaborative effort between every primary organizational element in the command to include the PEOs and AMCOM center/depots located in south central Alabama, Texas



Courtesy photo

**OPEN FOR DISCUSSION—** Angie Paxton, AMCOM's contractor lead, gives a briefing on the Continuity of Operations program.

and Pennsylvania.

Col. Tom Newman, chief of staff at the Aviation and Missile Command, recently participated in a staff ride touring the facilities and emergency response activities that would play a part in any disaster scenario on Redstone Arsenal. The staff ride was organized by the AMCOM COOP team from the G-3 and led by Maj. Brian Taylor, who supervises the command's planning and coordination efforts. Taylor emphasized the importance of being prepared to continue critical functions immediately following, or in some cases, during a crisis. Where the COOP fits is often confused, the G-3 takes an omnipresent posture with the understanding that first responder and damage assessment teams must do their work first in order for the command to make informed decisions.

"We want to be smart, limit redundancy of effort, and continue to support the war fighter as best possible," Taylor said.

The COOP staff ride has become an annual event allowing the leadership of various organizations to coordinate responses, review agreements, and evaluate the ever changing landscape as witnessed over the past years and will continue to do so under base realignment and closure.

A critical element in continuing operations is the close coordination between the AMCOM Operations Center, the Garrison Emergency Operations Center, and other tenant organizations who must work in unison. Taylor addressed some of the ongoing challenges facing the command.

"We recognize that during a cata-

strophic event, many local, state and federal organizations may be involved," he said. "Developing relationships with our counterparts and understanding the various responsibilities of each will help us focus our resources properly."

Angie Paxton, AMCOM's contractor lead, said AMCOM has collected a team of subject matter experts who address communications, planning, data preservation/recovery and regulatory compliance. Working with the staff, primary organizational elements, and both Program Executive Offices, this team of experts is connecting the mission requirements with available resources to continuously support the war fighter.

This team has developed a COOP plan for the identification of key personnel, critical data and information for the resources necessary to return to an acceptable level of functionality should an office, a building or an entire complex be evacuated for extended periods of time.

Every year Redstone Arsenal conducts disaster response drills to exercise the post emergency response teams to test their ability to protect and save lives in event of a major catastrophe. Imagine that the Sparkman Center was damaged in a tornado strike or becomes uninhabitable due to a colossal gas leak and all its employees sent home for a week or a month while repairs and new construction were done. What effect would that trickle down have on the logistics support pipeline and how would this impact Soldiers fighting overseas?

See Operations on page 17



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Master sergeant

**Sgt. 1st Class Odri Hastings is promoted to master sergeant Friday in a ceremony at the Aviation and Missile Command, where she is a logistics service NCO. Her new rank is pinned on by 1st Sgt. Brian Fryer from Fort Campbell, Ky., where he serves as first sergeant of G Company, 3rd Battalion of the 320th Regiment. "This is a good day," said Hastings, co-chairman for the Army Emergency Relief campaign. "And my family has been there for me."**

# Investigation command on lookout for serious crime

## Prevention and awareness goals for new program

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — The Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, has announced a new Armywide crime prevention and awareness program dubbed “CID Lookout.”

The program is a CID initiative to partner with the Army community by providing a conduit for members of the Army family to help prevent, reduce and report felony-level crime. CID simultaneously announced its related “CID Cyber Lookout” program initiated by the Computer Crime Investigative Unit. The CID Cyber Lookout is designed to promote Internet safety by educating the Army community about the dangers posed by cyber-criminals on the Internet.

The USACIDC is an independent criminal investigative organization

that investigates serious, felony-level crime such as homicide, rape, sexual assault, robbery, arson, contract fraud, and intrusions into Army networks.

“Solving and preventing crimes of this nature takes community involvement and cannot be achieved solely by CID special agents. Together, professional law enforcement officers and the Army community must work hand-in-hand to fight serious crime,” said the Provost Marshal General of the Army and Commanding General of CID, Brig. Gen. Rodney Johnson.

Part of the new CID Lookout initiative will be disseminating topical and useful crime prevention and crime awareness information to the Army via the internal Army media, according to Chris Grey, CID’s chief of public affairs.

“The information will cover topics such as identity theft, logistics security, preventing sexual assault

and robbery – anything that prevents our Soldiers and their families from becoming victims,” Grey said.

CID Lookout also asks Soldiers, family members and employees to “Be On The Lookout” and to report crimes and suspicious activity.

“We want people to know who we are, what we can do for them, and what they can do for us to make our Army even more Army Strong and safe,” Johnson said. “The new CID Lookout program provides that two-way communication mechanism for members of the Army family to get involved.”

To view the latest CID Lookout press releases involving felony crime prevention and awareness visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil).

For more information on CID or to report a felony-level crime or provide information concerning a serious crime, contact your local CID Office, the Military Police, or visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil). (CID release)

# Teledyne Brown wins quality award

LOS ANGELES – Teledyne Technologies Inc. has announced that its subsidiary, Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc., has been awarded the 2006 George M. Low Award, NASA’s highest honor for excellence and quality.

The award, presented annually, is given to a NASA contractor that has demonstrated excellence and outstanding technical and managerial achievements in quality and performance. Teledyne Brown, a NASA contractor for more than 40 years, was selected over a highly competitive field of contractors for the Low award in the Large Business Service Category.

“It is an honor to be a recipient of this prestigious NASA award,” said Robert Mehrabian, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Teledyne Technologies. “This award is a reflection of the caliber of Teledyne Brown employees and their commitment to NASA’s success. Teledyne Brown is dedicated to its commitment of exceptional quality and innovation to help NASA achieve its goals.”

Candidates for the Low Award must be nominated by a NASA center and are evaluated on customer satisfaction and technical performance; schedule; cost; leadership and continuous improvement; research and development of innovative technology breakthroughs and items of special interest to NASA. Marshall Space Flight Center nominated Teledyne Brown for the award.

The award is named for George M. Low who was dedicated to quality and excellence. His career spanned space science, aeronautics, technology and education. He served as an engineer, mathematician, scientist, NASA director and deputy administrator, chairman of the National Research Council and president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In the space program, he provided management and direction for the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and advanced piloted mission programs.

Teledyne Brown has supported every space initiative including the Saturn and Apollo programs, Skylab, Space-lab, the International Space Station and currently the Ares 1 rocket.

Teledyne Brown president Jim Link accepted the George M. Low trophy at NASA’s Project Management Challenge Conference in Galveston, Texas. (Teledyne Brown release)

## Continuity of Operations program serves as insurance

# Operations

continued from page 16

A key element in the COOP effort has been the development of the Redstone COOP Information Management System, a dedicated data base that provides AMCOM leadership with rapid access to the critical data and information (e.g., facility

requirements) needed to continue to operate in times of emergencies. RCIMS is being expanded to support COOP efforts and planning for Corpus Christi Army Depot, Letterkenny Army Depot, and the Aviation Center Logistics Command.

Continuity of operations is an old requirement which has received heightened visibility by the events of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the

growing terrorist threat. The AMCOM COOP team’s efforts will ensure the command maintains its support to the war fighter no matter what emergencies may occur. Taylor said he welcomes the opportunity to provide information or answer any COOP-related questions. He can be reached by e-mailing [brian.hugh.taylor@us.army.mil](mailto:brian.hugh.taylor@us.army.mil). (AMCOM G-3 release)



Courtesy photo

## *Crafts demonstration*

On Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Arts and Crafts Center will be the site of demonstrations in Windsor chair construction and bowl turning. David Sapp (pictured), a longtime teacher of 18th century Windsor chair construction techniques, will show the century tools and techniques 18th century chair makers used in the construction of this enduring chair. Also demonstrating the art of bowl turning will be Edward Herbster, a local wood turner with 25 years experience in wood-working. The Arts and Craft Center plans to offer both spring and summer Windsor chair and bowl turning classes; and signup sheets will be available after each demonstration.

# Soldiers urged to safeguard property in barracks

## Things to remember about Claims Act

By JAMES FRIDAY  
Claims examiner

The following information is provided to help you understand the importance of safeguarding your property while residing in government assigned quarters.

**Thefts from barracks rooms:** Cameras and similar expensive items, such as ipods and MP3 players, should be secured in a wall locker or unit supply room. Stereos and other similar electronic items should be secured in a wall locker or unit supply room when the Soldier is going on extended leave or will be absent. Leaders must also ensure that an inventory of all high value items is conducted and that a copy of the inventory is kept by the unit and by the Soldier. A barracks room is not a proper place to store cash and valuable jewelry. Normally, \$100 is a reasonable amount to have on hand. Soldiers should bank amounts over \$100 or store them in a safe. Also, unit commanders must promptly secure and inventory property belonging to Soldiers who are hospitalized, AWOL, imprisoned or on emergency leave.

Soldiers are expected to take extra measures to protect cash, valuable jewelry, and similar small, easily pilfered items. Such possessions should be kept in a locked container within a secured room. Also, Soldiers are expected to secure their barracks windows and doors, and other storage areas.

**Thefts from quarters:** As with barracks, family quarters must also be secured to include storage areas such as sheds so that a thief must force an entry, leaving behind visible signs of forced entry. Do not leave expensive jewelry in plain sight where it can be seen through a window. Secure your expensive jewelry even if you are going to the PX or Commissary and will only be gone for a short time.

**Theft of lawn decorations and other property kept outside of quarters, such as barbecue grills, and lawn mowers:** Claimants are expected to exercise a degree of care commensurate with the risk of loss, and are expected to secure items of any significant value to make them difficult to steal. Barbecue grills and lawn mowers should also be secured with a chain and lock. During the summer, these items are prime targets for thieves.

**Theft of bicycles and motorcycles:** With spring and summer around the corner, bicycles will be a favorite target for thieves on Redstone. Claimants are expected to keep a bicycle, motorbike or motorcycle indoors or to chain it to a fixed object outdoors (such as a rack, pole, post or tree), if one is reasonably available to prevent the item from being stolen. Locking handlebars or locking the wheels together normally does not provide sufficient protection. Also, because motorcycle helmet chinstraps can be easily cut, securing a helmet to a motorcycle by the chinstraps or a lock run through the chinstraps does not provide sufficient protection. Like motor vehicles, bicycles must be registered on post through the Provost

Marshal Office. Unregistered bicycles are not considered properly on the installation and are therefore not payable under the claims system if they are stolen.

Bottom line, if you suffer a loss while in government quarters, you have the right to file a claim for compensation. However, there are a few things you should know prior to filing.

You should remember three things about the Military Personnel Claims Act.

- It is not insurance, therefore, it does not provide full-insurance protection, nor will it cover the full replacement value. If you have private insurance that will cover your loss or any of your loss, you must first file a claim with your insurance company before this office can process your claim.

- It does not alleviate your obligation to substantiate the ownership and value of the type of property involved, or the fact of loss, damage or destruction in the manner alleged.

- Report the theft or incident to the Military Police within 24 hours of the theft or incident. Reporting the incident to the Military Police is essential. However, a Military Police report does not guarantee the payment of your claim. Normally, a Military Police report cannot substantiate the ownership, value or fact of loss in the manner alleged. This responsibility belongs to you. Although you have two years from the date of the alleged incident to file your claim, do not wait. Failure to file within this two-year period will result in the denial of your claim. Early filing helps the Claims Office resolve any questions that might come up about your

claim. Additionally, unresolved questions about your claim may delay any payment to you or result in your entire claim being denied.

If followed, these guidelines should go a long way in helping you receive fair compensation for your loss and may save you some money. If you have further questions, call 876-9006 or visit the Claims Office at building 111 and ask to speak with the claims examiner.



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

## Room for four

Chief Warrant Officer Curtis Blanchard, right, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School warrant officer training division instructor, helps his wife, Carla, place the rank of chief warrant officer 4 on his beret, during his promotion ceremony Thursday at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center.

# 326th Chemical hoping to erupt in playoffs



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**READY FOR POSTSEASON—** 326th Chemical Company's Jeremy Hamilton plays guard for the Dragons.

*Defending post champion faces repeat challenge*

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

Tonight's games conclude the regular season for troop basketball, which means the beginning of March madness.

The double-elimination, post-season tournament starts March 12 and concludes the following week, probably about March 20. This will crown the post champion.

Defending champion 326th Chemical Company has struggled lately, but hopes to turn things around in the tournament. Entering this week, the Dragons (5-4) lost three of their last four games.

"We've just got to learn how to play together and get on the right track," small forward Kenster Shannon said.

The NCO Academy beat the 326th 52-47 on Thursday night at Pagano Gym. The Academy benefited from offensive rebounds, according to Shannon.

"They were getting second chances (at the basket)," he said. "We've just got to get more aggressive and put a body on somebody and block out a little more."

Said Dragons coach Eddie Bryan, "They just out-hustled us."

David Gleaton had 20 points and nine rebounds for the 326th. Shannon had 15 points and four rebounds. Darrin Johnson grabbed 10 rebounds while Louis Baldwin had four assists with three steals.

"Tonight the shots were there, they just weren't going in," Bryan said. "Postseason, hope-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**ON PROWL—** Charlie's David Lopez (5) and Arthur Brown (22) race up-court with the ball during the Wolfpack's 39-29 loss to Bravo.

fully our game will be on and somebody will take the lid off the rim."

The NCO Academy led 24-23 at halftime. Its lead grew to 42-32 by 8:28 before the Dragons closed within 48-47 in the final minute.

"We out-hustled them towards the end of the game," Academy coach Bernard Gaines said.

James Godine had 12 points, five rebounds and three assists for the Academy (5-3). Richard Morgan added 11 points and seven rebounds. Tyron Stanley had nine points and seven rebounds.

**Bravo 39, Charlie 29:** Ronell Roberson scored 15 points for the first-place Bulldogs (7-1), who led 18-12 at halftime.

"They had a lot of turnovers," Bravo player/coach Rod Brown said. "We had a lot of easy baskets off of turnovers. We created a lot of turnovers."

Brown hopes to see the Bulldogs continue to capitalize on

their team defense and transition game in the playoffs.

"The regular season really doesn't matter, because we're all undefeated when it gets to the postseason," he said.

David Sullivan scored 11 points for Charlie (0-8), which has struggled since winning the preseason tournament.

"They just outplayed us," Wolfpack coach Chelsie Stokes said.

Standings entering this week included: **Eastern Conference** – Bravo (7-1), NCO Academy (5-3), 326th Chemical (5-4). **Western Conference** – Marines (6-3), Headquarters & Alpha (2-6), Charlie (0-8).

Here are last week's results:

- **Feb. 26** – Bravo def. 326th Chemical Company 54-53 and Marines def. Charlie 46-38.

- **Feb. 28** – Marines def. NCO Academy 56-46 and 326th Chemical won by forfeit over Headquarters & Alpha.

- **March 1** – NCO Academy def. 326th Chemical 52-47 and Bravo def. Charlie 39-29.

# Special Olympics rolls on with annual tournament



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**YES YOU CAN—** Pvt. Nathan Mayes encourages Special Olympics bowler Stephen Dexter.

## *Redstone Soldiers support the athletes*

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

*Staff writer*

*kelleyqa@bellsouth.net*

The Special Olympics helps millions of people with intellectual disabilities find the potential within themselves. Much like the Army, it gives them a means to be all that they can be. Every year, the Army and Special Olympics come together to celebrate the spirit of community at events such as the Special Olympics bowling tournament.

This year's tournament was held Feb. 22 and 26 at Plamor Lanes. Winners from Huntsville will go on for the state competition and a shot at making the trip to Shanghai, China for the 2007 Summer Games. Regardless of the final scores, the partnership between Redstone and the Special Olympics is a win-win situation.

The Soldiers are always a big hit with the athletes. They are also deeply appreciated by tournament coordinators.

"We are really thrilled to have the Soldier support this year. They do such a wonderful job encouraging the athletes as they participate in the bowling tournament," Natalie Taylor, Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member coordinator, said.

While the athletes are having a great time bowling and spending time with real Soldiers, the Soldiers themselves are learning that there is another side to their mission – service and compassion.

"This is the greatest part of the Army. It's not all about war and shooting. It's also helping your community and making someone's day brighter," Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker said. "It's a chance to give something back."

Approximately 45 Soldiers from Redstone came out over the two days to lend a hand and a smile.

"We've got Charlie Company here, Bravo Company, and Headquarters & Alpha," Drill Sgt. Scott Fuchs of Charlie Company said. "We're glad to be here."

Organizations outside of the usual groups have also begun to see the good such a partnership does and want to be a part of it.

"In addition, this year five enthusiastic members of the BOSS group volunteered to participate in the event," Taylor said. "It is a heartwarming event, one we are all proud to be apart in. We look forward to it every year."

While not part of a group, Master Sgt. Oscar Hernandez came anyway. He and his wife, Esther, spent his day off helping Special Olympics athletes and just enjoying the excitement of the tournament. He said that soaking in some of the positive feelings there does him good.

"It's fun. I love doing this. I did it last year, too," Hernandez said. "I try to encourage other Soldiers to come. I enjoy helping these challenged athletes. They're so happy without a worry in the world. I wish we could all be a little more like that, with that outlook."



### Singers wanted

The Huntsville Stars baseball team will hold an open audition March 17 at 10 a.m. for those wishing to sing the national anthem at a Stars home game for the 2007 season. Singers will be required to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" without musical accompaniment. However, individuals wishing to play the anthem on a musical instrument are invited to audition as well. Those wishing to audition as a group are also encouraged to participate. Each singer/group will be judged equally no matter age or experience and you must audition again even if you have sung for the Stars in the past. The first round of auditions will be held in the Observatory Skybox on the third level of Joe Davis Stadium, with the second round moving to the field (weather permitting) and a chance to sing with the on-field microphone and the half-second delay. Singers are encouraged to bring earplugs for the on-field portion of the audition. Competition will be open to singers of all ages and will be judged on knowledge of the song, style and overall talent. For more information, call the Stars office 882-2562.

### 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](http://www.redstonemwr.com). For more information, call 313-3699.

### Bass tournament

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Army Aviation Association of America invites you to participate in its spring 2007 bass tournament April 21 at Goose Pond Colony on Lake Guntersville. A social will be held April 20 at 5 p.m. at rental cabin 11, tournament headquarters. The tournament starts at first safe light April 21 and ends at 2 p.m. with weigh-in immediately following. For more information call Bob Vlasic 881-4144, Chuck Ogle 883-7974, Matt Boenker 313-9117 or Tom Geoffroy 876-5359 or visit the chapter web site <http://www.tennvalleyquad-a.org>.

### 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 Saturday. Cost, which includes the after tournament meal, is \$75 (\$100 after deadline). For more information, call Walter A. Baker 797-5673.

### Inline hockey league

Join CYS Sports for its Inline Hockey League, which is for children ages 5-18 as of April 1, 2006. Registration continues through March 30. Registration is \$85 per player. Practices begin the week of April 9 and games run May through June. Teams are age-appropriate. For more information, call 313-3699. Registration paperwork and more information can be found at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

### Babe Ruth baseball

Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the summer season this Saturday and March 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of April 30, 2007 are invited; and 12-year-olds are eligible to sign up, too. Registration forms will be accepted after March 17 on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. HBRL boundaries are the Huntsville city limits. The registration fee is \$70, and a birth certificate is required for all players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to

apply. The Babe Ruth parks and their primary contacts are: Central Division, Brahan Springs, call Bud Gambrell 564-5612; Northern Division, Mastin Lake, Dewayne Friend 830-7077; Southern Division, Sandhurst, Tim Harrison 544-3180; and Eastern Division, Optimist Park, Mike Samples e-mail [michael@samplesproperties.com](mailto:michael@samplesproperties.com).



## Conferences & Meetings

### Materials conference

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

### Bible studies

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

### Export controls

NAITA will hold an "Export Controls and Compliance Roundtable Discussion" Thursday from 3-5 p.m. at the Heritage Club. "This roundtable will provide an introduction to a process-orientated approach to export control jurisdiction decision-making for end-items, components, accessories, attachments, parts or systems to be exported from the United States," a prepared release said. RSVP to 532-3505 or [naita@naita.org](mailto:naita@naita.org).

### Retired employees

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Refreshments start at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10. Brad Huffines, chief meteorologist at WAAY-TV 31 News, is to speak on severe weather alerts, warnings and how his station covers such events. For more information, call 881-4944 or 882-2406.

### Computer users

High points of the Consumer Electronics Show, a Las Vegas major event for the introduction of new products, and the Association of PC User Groups national

convention will be discussed in a special meeting Saturday at 9:15 a.m. at the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Rod Rakes will also introduce several new software programs. Rakes is the Huntsville Personal Computer User Group newsletter editor and the Southeastern regional adviser for APCUG. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 830-2232.

### Civil War round table

Michael Flannery, associate director of historical collections at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will give a presentation for the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin St. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 for \$6.95. For information call 858-6191.

### Historical society

Dr. Jonathan Bass of Samford University will speak to the Huntsville Historical Society at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library auditorium, 915 Monroe St. The public is welcome. "Bass' topic is both lighthearted and informative," a prepared release said, "Everything but the Squeal: Hogs and Alabama Culture."

### Veterans association

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

### Test week 2007

The Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center, in cooperation with the International Test and Evaluation Association, will sponsor Test Week 2007 from June 11-15 at the Von Braun Center. The theme this year is "How to Make Test and Evaluation Relevant to the Joint Warfighter." The web site is [www.testweek.org](http://www.testweek.org), where you can pull off a preliminary agenda, registration form, exhibitor registration form, and floor plan. The conference is also in TIP, Catalog F73TW. For more information, call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.

### Toastmasters

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

### Strategic speakers

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



### Miscellaneous

### Civilian deployment

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

### 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 Master Sgt. Harold Cook 319-8456 or Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

### 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.

### Surplus sales

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

### Thrift shop

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

### Green to gold

The Army ROTC at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana seeks talented young enlisted Soldiers who want to earn baccalaureate degrees. If you are a quality enlisted Soldier with officer potential and have

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

### AER scholarships

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

### Community volunteers

Do you have a few hours to volunteer with Soldiers and family members? Volunteers are needed at Army Community

# Rocket Announcements

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.

## Grissom High reunion

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

## Military collectibles

A military collectibles show will be held March 17-18 at the Jaycees Building, 2180 Airport Road. Buy, sell, trade or display. For more information, call 651-7302 or visit [www.almilitarycollectors.org](http://www.almilitarycollectors.org).

## 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 Friday. 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.

## Call for papers

A call for papers has been issued for the "Workshop on Algorithms for Autonomous & Aided Target Recognition" June 6-7 at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, e-mail Angie Cornelius at [angie.cornelius@us.army.mil](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil). ... A call for papers has also been issued for the Conference on Reconfigurable Systems, Microsystems and Nanotechnology, May 8-10. For more information, e-mail [angie.cornelius@us.army.mil](mailto:angie.cornelius@us.army.mil).

## Women's luncheon

The fifth annual Women's History Luncheon will be held at Post 237 on March

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

## Math tutoring

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

## Florida Tech sign-up

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

## Senior school

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

## Spring registration

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

## Master's program

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Center is offering a Master of Science in Management program on Redstone Arsenal. Students applying for admission to the Master of Science in Management may choose from specializations in Management of Integrated Logistics; Aviation/Aerospace Industrial Management; and a General Management Option. Courses are offered in nine-week terms and are available online as well. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. For more information visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222; the web site at <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>, or e-mail the center at [huntsville.center@erau.edu](mailto:huntsville.center@erau.edu).

## Youth classes

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

## Greyhound adoptions

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

## Car wash benefit

The Optimist Club will hold its annual car wash fund-raiser, benefiting local youth, May 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Lee's Magic Tunnel Car Wash. Wash, vacuum and double hot wax costs \$8; and street or "walk in" sales are \$14.

## Civilian of year award

The Association of the U.S. Army, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, will sponsor the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award and Dinner on April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. This award and dinner recognizes local DA civilians who have demonstrated exceptional performance as members of the Army team. This year AUSA will expand its award program by recognizing nominees from three groups: Management/Executive Award, Professional/Technical Award, and Supporting Staff Award. Support your outstanding civilian nominees by attending the recognition dinner. Tickets can be purchased from the AUSA event coordinator, Jerry Hamilton. Cost is \$30 for individuals,

and \$240 for a corporate table of eight. For a reservation form, call Hamilton 971-7065.

## Business honorees

The first Junior Achievement of Northern Alabama Business Hall of Fame, "A Celebration of Legends and Legacies," will be held April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, South Hall. This black tie event will honor four laureates who were chosen because they have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and have set new standards for future business leaders while serving as inspiring role models for young people. For more information, call the Junior Achievement office 533-4661.

## Moonbuggy race

Teams of high school and college students from across the country and around the world are 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.

## Book sale benefit

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for the Army Emergency Relief campaign is April 16-20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 5300, first floor, in the corridor between buildings 5303 and 5304. "As in the past, we accept donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes," a prepared release said. "We will be able to receive donations (now) until April 18." If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange delivery and pickup.

## Space Camp scholarships

The ACS Volunteer Committee announces the Space Camp, Space Academy, and Aviation Challenge Scholarship Program for 2007, open to active and retired military family members. Children of Guard and Reserve members having served on active duty from March 16, 2006 to March 16, 2007 are also eligible. Applications are available at the Post Exchange, local schools, Army Community Service and [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com). The applications must be returned by noon March 16 to ACS, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Previous winners are not eligible. For more information, call 876-5397.

## Business scholarships

The Redstone Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals

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