

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 56 No. 17

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

May 2, 2007

Post profile

Base supply store thanks customers

Page 3



Getting technical

Combat trainer like real thing

Page 4



Just for kids

Children's day to visit work

Page 8



Over there



Marines back from Iraq

Page 14

Win or lose



'Mad Bomber' grabs victory

Page 17

100th tower ready to go to war

Surveillance system cited for saving troops' lives

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

The guest of honor for this ceremony April 24 was a surveillance tower with an American flag flying atop it.

This was the 100th of its kind produced by Raytheon for the Army. And like its deployed predecessors, the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment tower was destined for Iraq within the next 30 days to help save lives in the Global War on Terrorism.

"The significance of today represents a growing need for persistent surveillance weapon systems and represents the success of a specific one, and that is RAID," Lt. Col. Steve Reed, RAID product director, said.

During his remarks at the ceremony, held at Raytheon, he recalled a conversation last summer in Iraq with a battalion commander. The commander expressed his concern for the safety of his troops because his tower's night camera wasn't working. There are personal accounts throughout the war theater of how the system is saving lives, Reed said.

"I would say it's arguably the

most important system to the current fight in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

The tower was 24 feet tall during the ceremony, but it has four sections and can extend to 107 feet. It is part of a larger system which includes an aerostat that can carry radar or electro-optical sensors to a higher altitude for surveillance.

The Army's first requirement for RAID came in October 2002 because of the need for a force protection system in Afghanistan, and the system was deployed by March 2003. Since then 100 towers and 24 aerostats have been deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. Its role has expanded from defensive force protection to collecting surveillance and reconnaissance for offensive operations.

Raytheon has been the contractor since the beginning. Among the Raytheon attendees at the ceremony were Paul Johnson, engineering lead for RAID, and Donato Lezcano, the contract logistics support technical manager.

"Raytheon had developed a system to perform surveillance with a small aerostat and it was a Raytheon funded effort, and it was demonstrated in 2002,"

Johnson recalled. "And it was mentioned to the vice chief of staff of the Army. At that point, he decided he wanted the system immediately overseas."

In 2002, a 30-day rapid reaction contract sent an aerostat and two 117-foot towers to Afghanistan. "That's how it started," Johnson said. The primary tower local supplier is Consumer Fuels Inc. of Huntsville.

"The appreciation of the people over there is unbelievable," Johnson said of the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"In this program you get instant gratification," Lezcano said.

The 30-member RAID Product Office is located at 106 Wynn Drive in Huntsville. It is under the Project Management Office for Night Vision/RSTA (Reconnaissance Surveillance Target Acquisition), which is part of the Program Executive Office for Intelligence Electronic Warfare and Sensors.

Reed thanked the Raytheon workers for building a system that helps save lives of Soldiers and Marines in the war.

"I need you guys at your very best every time you come to work," he said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MILESTONE— The 100th RAID tower, produced by Raytheon, is destined for Iraq within 30 days.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

COMPARING NOTES— From left are Raytheon's Mike Staid, RAID product director Lt. Col. Steve Reed, Raytheon's Ralph Acaba and Raytheon's Peter Choate.

An open lane random survey

What's the answer to gun violence?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Johnny Mitchell
Northrop Grumman
"It's not more gun control. I think it's raising our kids better."

Gail Fincher
Northrop Grumman
"I personally don't think it's taking away the guns. (I know) because I did this paper in college on violence – and my brother worked for the sheriff's department. People that have guns and use them in criminal ways are going to get them. So it's not more gun regulation. I think it's you have to understand people more."



Sgt. Isaac Burrell
Headquarters & Alpha Company
"I think it's the violence in culture, the video games and movies. The kids are seeing this and not realizing it's entertainment. I kind of blame the parents because they're letting the kids watch and see this stuff at such a young age. I've got (five) kids and I don't let them watch things or play games that aren't age appropriate. I pretty much screen it before I let them play it or watch it because some of it's just ridiculously violent."



Claudia Scott
Garrison command group
"In my opinion it is to make the rules stricter to purchase weapons, and to clean up the streets. To have access to guns is just too easy."



Signs of construction projects

In reading the (April 18) *Redstone Rocket*, I saw an article about a change of responsibility ceremony in Heiser Hall. Is Heiser Hall the old movie theater? I ask because I used to watch movies in that theater and now when I go by that building I see part of a sign. The part I can read is "er Hall." So, question one is why doesn't someone trim the trees in front of the old movie theater so one can read the current (whole) name of the building?

Question two: Is something going to be built across the road from the Patton and Neal Road intersection? Or is the dirt being moved to another area for some reason?

Lindy Kewatt
Phoenix Services

Editor's note: *The Garrison*

Letters to the Editor

provided the following response. "Heiser Hall is the old movie theater and we will trim the trees in front so the sign can be read from Patton Road. Thank you for your inquiry and bringing this to our attention.

"Regarding question two, the area just east of the intersection of Patton Road and Neal Road is a "Borrow Area." Many of the construction projects on Redstone Arsenal require additional compactable soil for construction and it is taken from this area. Once the area is depleted of usable soil, it will be graded for proper drainage, covered with top soil and seeded for grass.

"Again, thank you for your inquiry, as it keeps us aware of the community's concerns for Redstone Arsenal."

Golf fund-raiser above par

The Reliability Availability & Maintainability Engineering and Test Division and Production Engineering Division hosted the fourth annual Army Emergency Relief 4-Man Scramble, Charity Golf Tournament on Thursday, April 19 at the Redstone Golf Course. Participation in the tournament was outstanding with 128 golfers representing personnel from the Redstone Arsenal and local community. Additionally, more than 30 local businesses provided donations and also participated in the event.

As a result, this year's tournament raised \$12,890 for AER. The RA and PE Divisions, of the Engineering Directorate, express their sincere appreciation to the participants and coordinators of the tournament and recognize the following businesses and individuals for their generous contributions:

Tournament donors – COLSA, Driving 2000, Wal-Mart Super Center on South Memorial Parkway, and Carrabba's Italian Grill;

Hole donors — Rise Real Estate (Team Richard), CAS, White Fleming CPA; Morris, Conchin and King Attorneys; Regions Bank, Supreme Beverage, GMAC Distinctive Real Estate, Rebecca Lowery, Intuitive Research & Technology Corp., Express Oil Change, Mark Harris Homes, Huntsville Surgery Center, Wildman Eye Care, Goody's Family Clothing, GEICO Insurance, Knights of Columbus in Madison, Brenda Johnson and Loretta Dillon;

Contributors (prizes, gift certificates, food and beverages) — McAlister's Deli, Lenny's Sub Shop, Smokey's Barbecue, Pauli's Bar and Grill, Target (Carl T. Jones Road and University Drive), Domino's Pizza (South Memorial Parkway and Jeff Road), Outback Steakhouse, Wal-Mart Bakery, Wilson's Office Supply, Home Depot on South Memorial Parkway, Hooters, Cracker Barrel of Madison, Spike McRoy (professional golfer), Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Jacks of Madison, Purity Dairies, O'Reilly Auto Parts in Hartselle, and Chick-fil-A of Madison.

Chris Farmer
Production Engineering

Commissary is handicap-friendly

The Redstone Arsenal Commissary's warm and friendly staff stands ready to meet all your shopping needs. Special orders are accepted for bakery, deli and decorated cakes for all occasions. The store's specialties include a produce, meat, bakery and deli.



Redstone Arsenal Commissary is a handicap-friendly facility, and physically disabled patrons may begin shop-

ping 30 minutes prior to normal commissary hours. This will allow free easy access through the store without the congestion of regular shoppers.

Cashiers will be ready to serve all patrons at 9 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

We look forward to your next visit.

Amber Lee Bray
store director

Quote of the week

'A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.'

– epitaph on Jackie Robinson's gravestone

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.

Redstone Rocket

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

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

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

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

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

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The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

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

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Getting to know you

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

Name: Tammy Bratton

Job: Administrative assistant for chief of master planning, Garrison

Where do you live at home?
Huntsville

What do you like about your job?

I like the challenges. I love my co-workers. I've been blessed with wonderful co-workers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Go out to eat with friends. Movies. Spend time with my niece and nephew. And (do) research on the computer.

What are your goals?

Due to being diagnosed with kidney failure, to realize that we're not promised another day. And that I need to learn to live life as if it were my last day.

What's your favorite quotation?

"You may not remember what a person said or did for you, but you'll never forget how they made you feel."



Post profile

Base Supply Center celebrates 10th year



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BIG DAY— Base Supply Center manager Morris Burbank shows the ceremonial cakes for the store's customer appreciation day and 10th anniversary celebration April 24.

Store offers convenience, savings to customers

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

Customers started trickling into the Redstone Base Supply Center on a rainy morning April 24.

It was the store's customer appreciation day and 10th anniversary celebration. Two ceremonial cakes were ready; and a barbecue lunch was planned.

"We offer convenience for everyone here on the Arsenal," manager Morris Burbank said. "We save them time, we save them money. They don't have to go off post to get their supplies.

"We have more ways to get their stuff than anywhere around. They can come in person. They can fax their orders in. We've got the web site, and plus we take phone-in orders. We have customers all across the U.S. Believe it or not, I just got off the phone this morning with a customer down in Louisiana."

Last year the store, at building 3775 on Maintenance Row, did almost \$5 million in sales. Operated by the Alabama Industries for the Blind, the center is open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It has 11 employees.

Claudia Long, a logistics analyst in the procurement department of Missile Defense Agency, was among the customers that morning.

"The Missile Defense Agency has been using this store I think since it got there but personally I've been shopping here since June of last year," Long said. "They carry a wide variety and pretty good stock. They're helpful whenever we need (to order) special items. All the guys and gals who work here are very, very helpful."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

INDUSTRIAL ITEMS— Laura Drinkwater, left, a vendor with CCP Industries, shows the Ohio-based company's industrial products to customers Evelyn Carson of Program Executive Office for Aviation and Cindy Lewis of the Acquisition Center, collocated at PEO Aviation.

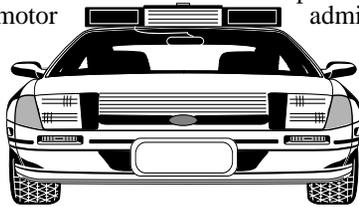
Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

April 22: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license and a warrant for his arrest at Gate 9. He was arrested, issued a violation notice and released to Madison Police Department.

April 24: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license after stopping at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released.

April 25: An individual stopped at Gate 10 for an ID check, and was observed to have two open containers in the console between the front seats.



He submitted to a series of field sobriety tests, which he failed. He was arrested for DUI, then transported to the police station, where he was administered a breath test, with results of .22 percent. He was processed and placed into the detention cell until his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level. He was issued citations to appear in court and released.

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

Violation notices issued: 12 speeding, 2 driving with a suspended driver's license, 1 driving under the influence, 2 improper backing, 3 cell phone violations.

New simulators get Stryker drivers up to speed



Photo by Jason Kaye

MORE ON WAY— Soldiers at Fort Lewis, Wash., are already using the new Common Driver Trainer/Stryker Variant. Nine more simulators are scheduled for delivery during the next six months to installations across the country.

Realistic training vehicles put Soldiers on right road

By **DON KRAMER**
Army News Service

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — New Stryker simulators at the John A. Pittman Mission Support Training Facility here are already earning their keep.

Perhaps the most realistic training simulator to date, the Common Driver Trainer/Stryker Variant is designed to provide initial training for drivers and vehicle commanders on all 10 variants of the Army's workhorse urban combat vehicle. The \$800,000 simulators are expected to save lives, money and time.

An additional nine simulators are scheduled for delivery during the next six months to installations across the country, according to program director Dr. James Blake of Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation.

"Stryker drivers will be able to familiarize themselves with the controls and dynamics of their individual variant of Stryker before operating the vehicle," deputy commander of I Corps, Brig. Gen. William Troy, told Soldiers and press April 16 at an MSTF ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Drivers will be able to do things that are dangerous in the real world — driving on ice, fording streams, driving under blackout conditions, driving down a steep embankment, all without risking injury or the loss of a vehicle," Troy said.

Fort Lewis may receive up to four of the trainers, which would enable company commanders to coordinate platoon maneuvers. The developers' goal is to tie the simulator's computers into video games the Army currently uses for training, to provide even more realistic small-unit training.

Soldiers already familiar with the Stryker have marveled at the Common Driver Trainer's exact duplication of the original.

"The inside of the Stryker looks exactly

the same. The feel of it and functionality of all the buttons and levers — when you get into it, you have the feel exactly of a Stryker," said Cpl. Matt Hewitt, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran with 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment. "Somebody could get inside a simulator, drive around a little bit, then get in a real one and know exactly what they're doing. It wouldn't surprise me one bit."

A console behind the pod gives the vehicle commander a view of a large computer screen, segmented into four quadrants. Two give the VC a view of the driver to make sure he is properly checking his mirrors and gauges. The bottom two provide views of the surroundings, smaller versions of the display that serves as the driver's view. But that's only the beginning.

"We've loaded 50 scenarios off road, heavy traffic, desert and urban areas," said Matt Latimer, a representative of Science Applications International Corporation, whose joint effort with PEO STRI of Orlando developed the simulators. "I can adjust his environment at any time. I can pick up the wind; I can bring in cold, foggy snow, which will create ice on the road. The tires will start slipping. I can even do a sandstorm."

Evaluators can kill oil pressure to gauge a driver's reaction or detonate an improvised explosive, causing the vehicle to rock violently. They can even weigh down the Stryker with slat armor and a full combat load.

All the while, a digital video recorder makes a record of the driver's actions and reactions. A commander can burn a disk of the complete record of a simulator session for training purposes to take back to his unit, and print a paper output of each driver's score with a place for a trainer's comments. Soldiers' identities are also saved in the system as historical data for later access.

"This training capability is going to save lives in combat," Troy said, "and it's going to give us a more capable force than we've had before. This is a great step."

Editor's note: Don Kramer writes for the Fort Lewis "Northwest Guardian."

Might as well be comfortable while you work at desk

Ergonomics in mind for work site design

By **CHERIE MILLER**

Fox Army Health Center

“My job is a pain in the neck.” Unfortunately, this can be literally true due to poor work station design. The science dedicated to this phenomenon is ergonomics, the study of man/machine interface.

Poor work station design can lead to Cumulative Trauma Disorders affecting the soft tissue and joints. Good ergonomic design can improve worker comfort, increase productivity and efficiency and decrease lost work time and worker’s compensation claims.

In our automated age, we spend countless hours in front of a computer monitor in stationary postures with awkward angles of the wrists, hands, back and shoulders that can create discomfort and lead to CTDs. Ergonomics aims to reduce stress on the body by achieving “neutral posture”: feet flat on the floor, knees and elbows bent at approximately a 90-degree angle, wrists and hands flat and straight, forearms supported. We can improve our comfort level by doing a few things to fit ourselves to our work station to try and achieve this neutral posture.

Start with your computer. Adjust the monitor to approximately 20-24 inches away from you and with the top of the screen at eye level. Use a document holder that attaches to the side of the monitor to hold documents to reduce frequent re-focusing of the eyes when the document is placed on the desktop. The keyboard and mouse should be on the same level and next to each other. The keyboard should

be placed so that the arms hang loosely and the forearms are approximately parallel to the floor. (This may require adjustment in the chair height if the keyboard is on the desktop.)

The most challenging thing to adjust in the work station is the chair. There are many styles of chairs with a variety of ergonomic features. The chair may have illustrations on the levers that tell you how to adjust each feature or may have an instruction card attached. If not, visit the manufacturer’s web site to download instructions. Here are some general guidelines:

- **Seat height** — Adjust so that your feet are flat on the floor when seated properly against the back of the chair. Note the position of the arms required above for the keyboard. If you are short, you may find that you need a footrest to be able to achieve this position.

- **Seat pan** — This is the part you sit on. Often there is a sliding adjustment on the back or bottom of the chair that allows the seat pan to move back for shorter people and forward for taller people. If available, adjust this to allow 2-3 inches clearance between the back of your legs and the front of your chair.

- **Arm rests** — If you have adjustable arm rests, move them so they are approximately the same height as your desktop or keyboard tray to provide support to the forearms when working. (This may require raising the height of the chair, which might result in a subsequent need for a foot rest to keep the feet flat. Think of all of these adjustments as putting together a puzzle — changing one piece may require changing others.)

- **Tilt** — To avoid sitting forward in the chair, set the tilt to lock the chair in a fully upright and level position.

- **Lumbar support** — Look for a button or lever on the back of the seat that moves the back of the chair higher or lower. Adjust it so the fullest part of the chair rests at the small of the back to provide good lumbar support. Sit fully back in the chair to reduce strain in the back when sitting unsupported.

When working at the computer for long periods of time, take hourly “ergonomic micro-breaks” of about five minutes length. Get up from your desk and move around or try some light stretching exercises. For eye comfort, focus on an object at least 20 feet away about every 20 minutes. Place frequently used items such as phones and calculators within arms reach to avoid strain from stretching. Getting comfortable with your office hardware can make your “software” stand the test of time.

Editor’s note: Cherie Miller is an environmental health coordinator in Preventive Medicine Service at Fox Army Health Center and the installation ergonomics officer. For more information about ergonomics or to schedule ergonomics assessments, call 955-8888, ext. 1441 or e-mail cherie.a.miller@amedd.army.mil.



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

Flag of retirement

Col. Jose R. Enriquez, 59th Ordnance Brigade commander, left, presents Sgt. 1st Class Henry Dickerson with a flag that was flown over the capitol in Dickerson’s honor during his retirement luncheon April 20 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Dickerson was also presented with a Meritorious Service Medal for culminating a 25-year military career as the training management noncommissioned officer for the Directorate of Instruction.

Things to do for Army Emergency Relief



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FISH FRY— Contracting officer Ellaphine Ragland fries fish for the Acquisition Center's third annual benefit Fish Fry on April 25 in front of building 5303.

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- Watch through May for the AER Online Auction at www.aer-redstone.com. New items are added weekly. Brought to you by PEO Aviation. For information call Maj. Mathew McCauley 313-4260.

- You can support AER by drinking Bay Springs 100 percent Natural Spring Water. During the campaign, Bay Springs will donate \$1 to AER for each 5 or 3 gallon bottle ordered by any Redstone Arsenal offices or post housing occupants. The delivery price for 5 gallon bottles is \$5.75. Monthly cooler rental is \$9. No contract is required; and only a \$6 per bottle deposit is required – or they'll accept any bottle you may have already bought. To start delivery or get a sample of Bay Springs water, call toll free 1-800-815-7704.

- AMRDEC is offering patriotic lapel pins, patriotic Boyd's teddy bears, patriotic tote bags and many other items until May 15 in building 5400, room A-220. Call Janet Martin 842-0691.

- Check out the Integrated Materiel Management Center events at web site <http://immcweb.redstone.army.mil/aer/>.

- IMMC is holding an aluminum recycling campaign. Collection boxes are located in break rooms throughout the Sparkman Center. If you have aluminum cans at your house that you would like to donate, call Maj. Owen Ward 876-4541 or Eric Cowan 313-1572.

- T-Shirts, Polo Shirts and Twill Shirts are for sale in assorted colors and sizes. This is sponsored by AMRDEC, ASGE Directorate. Call Bertha Cole 876-2536 and Kristie McClure 842-8791.

- AMCOM G-8 is selling Sonic Value

Cards for a minimum donation of \$5 until May 15. There are two cards to choose from. Call Larry Bowlin 842-7103.

- From now until May 31, you can support AER by eating lunch at Chick-Fil-A on Thursdays. Every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the campaign, Chick-Fil-A at 11820 South Parkway – just past Redstone Federal Credit Union and Wal-Mart — will donate 10 percent of its total lunchtime sales to AER. Be sure to tell the cashier that you are there to support Redstone Arsenal's AER campaign.

- Coupon books are being sold by ILS/Manprint Office. The \$15 books contain discount coupons for local restaurants and businesses. Call Cheryl Baker 842-8695, Ranny Vinson 842-8793 and Kim Sharp 876-8696.

- Handmade lanyards are offered in the SELA lobby, building 5400, daily from 6:30-9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call Dorothy May 842-8391 and Gay Horry 842-8389.

- A bake sale, sponsored by the Utility Helicopter Project Office, is May 8 from 7-9 a.m. in the lobby of building 5308. For information call Donna Luke 955-8964.

- IMMC will hold its fourth annual bowling tournament today with a second event Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. Tickets are \$10 for each event and include three games plus shoes. Call Lynn Moore 313-1302.

- A disc golf tournament, sponsored by AMRDEC Engineering Directorate, is Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Redstone Disc Golf Course. Call Pat Kelly 842-9421.

- The Engineering Support Division will hold a bowling tournament May 9

from noon to 4 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. The entry fee is \$40 per team, four players per team. Deadline for team entries and payment is May 7. This will be a scratch tournament; and three games will be played. Total team pins wins. There will be prizes for first and second. All participants will be eligible for door prizes. Call Jarius Palmer 842-7328 or Ronnie Goodloe 313-2884.

- A fishing tournament, sponsored by the Engineering Support Division, is May 10 from 6-11 a.m. at the Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area. The entry fee is \$10. There will be special prizes for four categories: Most Fish, Biggest Fish, Smallest Fish and Best Fish. In addition, each participant will be entered to win door prizes. Call Reginald Leslie 955-4120.

- Barbecue lunch plates, sponsored by IMMC, are available May 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5309. Call Roosevelt Pitts Jr. 313-1068, Dave Moudy 313-1069 and Pam Reyer 313-1077.

- Garrison AER Fun Day is May 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the NASA Picnic Area. There will be barbecue rib and chicken plates. Some of the planned activities include a hula-hoop contest, live auction and deal-or-no-deal. Everyone is welcome. Call Kim Wright 842-2565.

- Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity will hold its second annual Bake Sale and Silent Auction on May 17 at building 5435 from 7 a.m. until everything's gone. Call Tenna McGee 955-6398, Teresa Salmon 955-6185, Mary Ann Brown 876-3638 and Michele Green 876-9914.

See Relief on page 7

Upgraded cameras keep watch on shoplifting

Exchange stores pursue thieves

DALLAS – The state of shoplifting on military installations is becoming a good news/bad news proposition as sophisticated anti-shoplifting measures work to decrease incidents, while increasingly aggressive thieves increase costs for all exchange shoppers.

The good news is that upgraded camera systems capable of recording to DVR as well as a 2002 amendment allowing federal retailers to pursue losses and administrative costs related to shoplifting, produced a decrease of occurrences for Army & Air Force Exchange Service BX/PXs of 12 percent, from 8,537 in 2005 to 7,542 in 2006.

The bad news is that while occurrences decreased, the average cost of products involved in detected cases increased AAFES-wide from \$99 per incident in 2005 to \$119 in 2006. This resulted in increased costs for the military community last year as the amount of merchandise went up from \$848,293 in 2005 to \$898,851.

With a dual mission to provide quality goods and services at competitively low prices and generate earnings to support Morale Welfare and Recreation programs, AAFES, which has contributed more than \$2.4 billion to military quality of life programs in the past 10 years, continues to focus efforts on reducing theft.

“Shoplifting at the exchange results in a reduced return on investment to our primary shareholders — the entire military community,” Col. Jorge Garza, AAFES director of loss prevention, said. “Because AAFES is a command with a mission to return earnings to

MWR activities at Air Force and Army installations, shoplifting at the BX or PX, in my mind, is the same as taking money directly from the pockets of military families.”

In an effort to protect the MWR dividend and reduce shoplifting incidents, AAFES Loss Prevention associates proactively identify store display areas that tend to have high theft rates. These areas include electronics, sporting goods and cosmetics which offer small, high value items. All AAFES exchanges have camera surveillance systems manned by detectives to monitor these areas, and with new DVR capability, review more than 100 hours of recording on all cameras. Most exchanges also have Electronic Article Surveillance systems that alarm when un-deactivated tags on unpaid merchandise attempt to leave the store. A highly successful partnership by major retailers has created a win-win by having most manufacturers tag merchandise at the source.

“No one likes catching shoplifters,” Garza said. “In fact, a major effort by Loss Prevention is to educate the public on our capability to monitor and record suspicious activity as a tool to deter shoplifting before it ever happens. It’s our hope that individuals who might be considering theft will see the security measures and think twice.”

If shoplifting is suspected, AAFES Loss Prevention associates turn the issue over to military police. In addition to possible disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution, the Federal Claims Collection Act, which began March 1, 2002, allows AAFES to enact a flat, administrative cost (civil recovery) of \$200. There may be further fees, in addition to the Civil Recovery Program, depending on the condition of the stolen merchandise. (AAFES release)

■ Army Emergency Relief campaign goes through May 15

Relief

continued from page 6

- A car wash, hosted by TMDE, is May 17 from 1:30-3 p.m. at building 5435. Call Tenna McGee 955-6398, Mary Ann Brown 876-3638 and Teresa Salmon 955-6185.
- AER Hoop it Up 3-on-3 basketball, hosted by Missile Logistic Directorate, is May 17 at Redstone Fitness Center. Cost is \$20 per team by May 11, or \$25 per

team on May 14. Tickets to attend will go on sale April 30 for \$2, or \$3 at the door. For information call James Minnon 955-9300 or Whitney Stone 842-6218.

- 2007 AER Idol final performance is May 23 at 1 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Cost is a \$5 suggested donation. Call Anthony Grayson 955-9002, Sherry Miller 842-0736 and Sharon Nolen 842-9431.

• A barbecue, sponsored by AMRDEC Engineering Directorate, is May 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rustic Lodge. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Call Mary Burnett 876-1501, Patrick Kelley 842-9421 and Lisa Ryder 842-7078.



Sun shines on Bring Your Child to Work Day

Second annual event draws over 500

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

The morning rain didn't spoil the day.

Redstone's second annual Bring Your Child to Work Day drew more than 500 people Thursday for activities at the Fitness Center, the nearby parade field and other locations. They saw helicopters and other Army hardware, robots, working dogs, wetlands and missile firings.

Some 493 had signed up, but unregistered attendees swelled the number to easily more than 500, according to event coordinator Kim Henry of the Public Affairs Office.

"Today was phenomenal," she said. "Despite the weather, we were still able to pull off most of the events. And I think we gave Redstone employees and their children an opportunity to see

what we do out here every day. So I consider it a success."

Danielle Denno, 13, attended with her father, Douglas, who works in the Aviation Engineering Directorate of the Research Development and Engineering Center.

"It's interesting," Danielle said of the event. "I got to play with robots and got to see working dogs in action."

Youngsters who attended are invited to compete in an essay contest, describing in 300 words or less "What I Learned about Redstone Arsenal." Essays must be submitted by May 10. Send them to John Schocke by fax 876-1086 or e-mail at john.schocke@us.army.mil.

Each essay must include the child's name, age, parent's name and parent's work organization. Winners will be selected for ages 8-11, 12-15 and 16-18. First and second place in each division will meet senior leaders of the Aviation and Missile Command's command group and receive a certificate and coin.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CLOSE LOOK— Jeffrey English, 7, gets a good view of the Pacbot robot during a demonstration at Redstone Fitness Center. He is the son of Bill English, assistant product manager for Surface Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile in the Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

JOINING CROWD— The Pacbot robot climbs the stands at Redstone Fitness Center.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

NEW MODEL— Attendees visit the CH-47F, which is the first new Chinook since 1962, according to Dick Ruhlman of the Logistics Support Activity, who is assigned to the F model program management office.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MISSILE FIRING— The Javelin weapon system is explained by Robert McCain, engineering and test lead in the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office, before a successful firing at Test Area 6.

Flying Activity invites Redstone community to open house

More than 300 people expected Saturday

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Flying Activity manager Tim Thompson isn't surprised when someone discovers his organization for the first time.

"Believe it or not, there are people that don't even know we're here," he said. "Maybe it's because we're off the beaten path a little bit."

The Flying Activity spreads the word by holding an open house twice yearly – in the spring and in the fall – at its facility off Hale Road, building 4828, from Rideout Road.

The Redstone community is invited to the activity's open house this Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

"We try to get people involved in aviation," Thompson said. "We'll do mini-flight lessons. Cost for

age 12 and under is \$25; and 13 and above is \$30."

There will be free food – including hamburgers, hot dogs and pizza — and drinks.

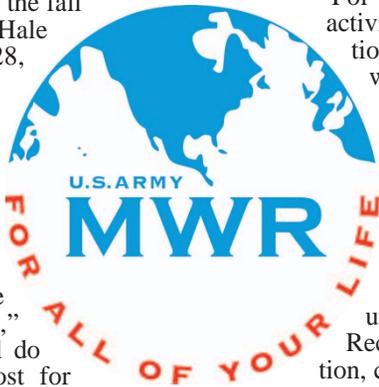
The average attendance is more than 300. And about 170 are expected to take the mini-flight lessons.

The activity holds this event "to promote aviation and try to recruit new members," Thompson said.

Its 314 members range from student pilots to private pilots, instrument pilots and commercial. The activity's 11 aircraft include four Cessna 152s, four Cessna 172s, a 182RG Cessna and two Piper Arrows.

"For anybody that joins the activity, we'll waive their initiation fee of \$30 during the week of the event," Thompson said. "And for the ones who do join up, their names will be put into the pot for a special drawing. We're having like a headset, flight bag and a couple of other items."

The Flying Activity is under Morale Welfare and Recreation. For more information, call 880-9495.



The U.S. Army Materiel Command Band proudly presents an

American Showcase
FREE PUBLIC CONCERT!



Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 6:30 PM

Princess Theatre – Center for the Performing Arts
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Tickets will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

To get your **FREE** tickets or for more information about the concert please contact:

The Princess Theater at 256-350-1745

Army moves to fix wounded warrior care

Vice chief of staff updates changes

By **FRED W. BAKER III**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Walter Reed Army Medical Center's woes in wounded warrior care have either been fixed, or are being fixed, the vice chief of staff of the Army said here April 25.

"These things that were problems at Walter Reed ... almost all of them have been resolved or are being resolved and we are now moving out to fix it across the Army," said Gen. Richard Cody talking to reporters at Walter Reed.

"We've got the right people working the right issues. Our Soldiers have been absolutely honest and forthcoming. They want to make it better for the Soldiers who come behind them," Cody said.

Cody was at the center for the activation of its new Warrior Transition Brigade. The new brigade structure will serve as the model for all of the Army's medical treatment facilities with a wounded warrior population.



Photo by Fred W. Baker III

MEET THE PRESS— Vice chief of staff Gen. Richard Cody, right, and Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker, deputy commander of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, talk to reporters April 25.

"We'll learn here ... and we're going to take that and cascade it throughout the Army," Cody said.

He conceded that some problems, such as some changes to the medical board process, cannot be fixed quickly because those changes are made above the Army level. But all recommendations for those changes have been sent to the Defense Department.

Since March, an Army team tasked with surveying wounded warrior care across the service has visited all Army medical treatment facilities and hospitals. The team reported its findings to Cody April 24, but the report is not yet final or released.

The team's preliminary findings were not surprising and mirrored those of the Independent Review Group tasked by the Defense Department, Cody said.

Among other things, the team found that:

- The medical and physical board process has too many forms and is too problematic and too bureaucratic;
- Better and standardized training is needed for liaison officers and case managers; and
- The organization of the Army's medical hold and medical holdover companies needs restructuring.

"We have got to change our bureaucracy and turbocharge it, and make it much more caring and much more accommodating to these Soldiers," Cody said.

Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker, deputy commander of the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed, reported that his staff has 104 actions in progress.

Tucker cited the following improvements made since March:

- All wounded warriors have been

relocated out of Building 18, a substandard temporary lodging facility;

• Walter Reed officials have established a Soldier and family assistance center that consolidates seven inprocessing locations down to two;

• Every family member who travels to Washington to be with a wounded warrior is now met at the airport upon arrival by a Soldier in uniform and brought to the assistance center;

• All backlogs of awards have been eliminated;

• Trained ombudsmen are now on staff at all medical treatment facilities at the patient representative office; and

• A clothing-issue point is now open. Soldiers are measured on arrival and uniforms are delivered to them.

Cody said one reason poor outpatient care was not reported sooner was because the system lacked quality control, especially in monitoring and reviewing case-manager care and the medical and physical board processes.

The general said he will launch an Army inspector general review of the medical system every six months, and simple feedback forms to collect Soldier and family input are being developed. Cody also said he will meet with hospital commanders every four to six weeks to ensure all needed changes are made to gather feedback on their needs.

Mission possible: Control your blood pressure

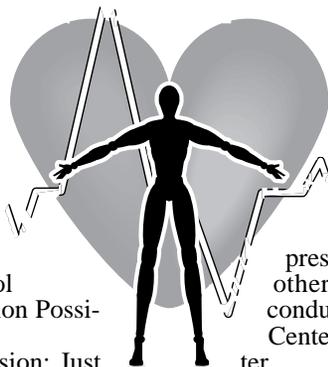
Education, screening encouraged in May

By **RICK STOCK**
Fox Army Health Center

May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month. And the theme this year is "Prevent and Control High Blood Pressure: Mission Possible."

It's easy to join the mission: Just ask your doctor what your blood pressure numbers are, what they mean, and what you need to do to prevent or control this "silent killer."

Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine Department is conducting on-sites in the upcoming months for various agencies throughout Redstone Arsenal. To schedule a blood pressure screening and/or bone density screening at your



location, call Health Promotion at 955-8888, ext. 1443.

Be sure to attend the MWR Health Fair at Redstone Fitness Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 8 where you will have an opportunity to experience a blood pressure screening plus several other free medical screenings conducted by Crestwood Medical Center and Fox Army Health Center.

High blood pressure affects one out of every three American adults. Although it has no signs or symptoms, uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to heart disease, stroke and kidney disease — the first, third and ninth leading causes of death in the U.S.

The good news is that it is possible to prevent high blood pressure, and to control it. Often simple lifestyle changes can

do the trick. These include the following:

- Losing weight, if necessary, and maintaining a healthy weight;
- Following a healthy eating plan;
- Eating less salt and sodium;
- Limiting your alcohol consumption;
- Being physically active.

Physical activity is one of the most important things you can do to prevent or control high blood pressure. Just 30 minutes of moderate physical activity most days of the week will help. You can even divide the 30 minutes into shorter periods of at least 15 minutes each.

Plus, you don't have to go to a gym to get those 30 minutes. You can work them into your everyday activities. For example, take stairs instead of an elevator or escalator when it's practical. Park your car a little farther from where you're going than usual. If you take public transportation, get off a stop early and walk the rest of the way.

Here are some activities that will pro-

vide you with moderate exercise: brisk walking (at 3-4 miles an hour), cleaning house, mowing the lawn or raking leaves, riding a bicycle (at a moderate speed of 10 mph or less), and dancing.

Most people don't need to see a doctor before they start a moderate-level activity, but you should check it out with your doctor first if you: have heart trouble or have had a heart attack, are older and not used to doing a moderate-level activity, have a family history of heart disease at an early age, or have any other serious health problem.

So join the mission. Find out what your blood pressure numbers are and what they mean; then gradually work more physical activity into your life. It can save your life.

For more information about how to prevent or control high blood pressure, visit the NHLBI's "Your Guide to Controlling High Blood Pressure" web site at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/hbp/index.html>.

Behavioral health web site offers answers

New online resource for war veterans

By **JERRY HARBEN**
Army Medical Command

What exactly is a Post-Deployment Health Reassessment? Where can I get help for my spouse who is having nightmares about experiences in combat? My buddy said he's thinking about committing suicide, what should I do?

Such questions come to the fore when Soldiers must deal with the stress of war. Now there is a new source for quick access to answers.

A new web site located at <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil> provides information for Soldiers, their families and other interested members of the public.

Topics include behavioral-health needs before, during and after deployments; pre- and post-deployment health assessments; post-traumatic stress disorder; suicide prevention; Battlemind training; and resources where Soldiers and families can get help. Links and points of contact are provided for additional information.

"Although many web sites have information relevant to behavioral health in general, not many are relevant to Army personnel," said Col. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatry consultant to the Army Surgeon General. "We created a portal where people can find relevant and reliable information about behavioral-health needs specific to the Army."

Fifteen to 30 percent of Soldiers returning from Iraq experience post-traumatic stress symptoms or other mental-health symptoms. This is not unusual after combat. Recognizing and treating these

symptoms early is key to preventing them from becoming a disorder such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

From the new site's front page, people can navigate quickly to pages for news about military behavioral-health issues, frequently asked questions or other sources of information. A page labeled "Get Answers" will allow people to submit specific questions to be answered by experts.

Other links from the front page lead to pages where information is gathered for groups of people with common interests — Soldiers, couples, children, extended families, National Guard, Army Reserve or behavioral-health providers.

"It is for Soldiers and their families — not just the nuclear families, but also members of extended families who may not be military health-care beneficiaries, but can access the web site," Ritchie said.

Other pages provide information on specific issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide prevention, behavioral-health research, Battlemind training or the assessments and reassessments the Army conducts to detect health problems for deploying and redeploying Soldiers.

Some of the tools available will help families recognize symptoms of stress disorders, and help parents explain deployments to children of various ages. Army programs to help — such as the deployment assessments and Battlemind training, which teaches Soldiers how to improve resiliency and mitigate stress — are explained.

Ritchie said specific information for unit commanders will be added to the site, and other additions are being made to adjust to changing needs of Soldiers and their families.

Losing weight gives second chance on life

Company vice president benefits from surgery

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

For years, Larry Jess has been a good dieter.

He's tried all kinds of diets and diet programs — Sugarbusters, South Beach Diet, Weight Watchers, Hilton Head Diet, Adkins, Zone, Fit for Life and the American Diabetes Association Diet.

And, on each diet he lost weight.

But, that weight eventually came back "with interest." In 2004, the then 46-year-old lost yet another 25 pounds on a weight loss regiment supervised by his doctor. But, it wasn't long before Jess regained the weight plus some, coming in at more than 370 pounds.

Not only was Jess morbidly obese, he was also suffering from obesity-related health problems, including asthma, sleep apnea, gastro-esophageal reflux disease, joint pain and failure, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, insulin resistance and depression.

On top of those problems, Jess was also facing a "death sentence" he received from his doctor at his 40-year physical.

"He told me I would probably have five

more years to live," Jess recalled. "He said I would have a massive heart attack or stroke that would kill me within five years. He told me 'You are not going to be there to walk your daughter down the aisle on her wedding day.'"

At 46, he'd made it past those five years, despite his weight problems. But, Jess knew the clock was ticking too quickly for him. It was time for something drastic. This successful military contractor wanted to change his lifestyle in such a way that he would be able to get his lifelong battle with obesity under control. He wanted his 6-foot-2 frame to carry only the 200 pounds it was built for.

"Everyone in my family has had weight problems, with the exception of my brother," Jess said. "My older sister was interested in gastric bypass surgery. She wanted me to go to a meeting about it with her. I decided that I would look into it for myself."

It was the right meeting at the right time in Jess' life. He met Dr. Doug Olsen of the Centennial Center for the Treatment of Obesity in Nashville, who convinced Jess that he could overcome his problems with obesity and learn how to live as a healthy person.

According to the American Society of Bariatric Surgery and the National Institutes of Health, Roux-en-Y (pronounced ROO-en-why) gastric bypass surgery is the



Courtesy photo

BEFORE BYPASS— Larry Jess weighed more than 370 pounds before he underwent RNY gastric bypass surgery. The risks of the surgery were far outweighed by the benefits of losing 170 pounds and establishing a lifelong healthy lifestyle.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

LIVING RIGHT— Military contractor Larry Jess lost 170 pounds after undergoing RNY gastric bypass surgery. He maintains his new healthy lifestyle by eating right and running.

See **Weight** on page 13

Weight

continued from page 12

most popular bariatric surgery in the U.S. In this procedure, the surgeon creates a small stomach and then constructs a "bypass" for food. The bypass allows food to skip parts of the small intestines so that the body can't absorb as many calories or nutrients.

Today, Jess, 49, is a walking – and running – tribute to the positive outcome of RNY gastric bypass surgery.

"I'm a fanatic about things," Jess said. "I won't do anything halfway. I was a fanatic about eating all those years. I told Dr. Olsen 'If I'm going to do this, I am going to be the best at it. I'm going to be your poster child for gastric bypass surgery.' Now, I am one of many poster children."

Nearly three years after his surgery, Jess weighs in at about 200 pounds. His waist, once 55 inches, is now around 34 inches. He lost seven inches alone from his neck. He no longer takes medications to treat various medical problems. He is now an avid runner, participating in several local races, including the Cotton Row Run. By the end of this year, Jess hopes to run a half marathon.

Jess, who is writing a book about his experience with obesity and gastric bypass surgery, is sharing his success with others through a weight loss support group he started earlier this year. "Let's BOAST (Battle Obesity and Succeed Together)" meets every first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Huntsville Public Library, and includes presenta-

tions from surgeons, psychiatrists, nutritionists, dieticians and other health professionals. In May, the group will have a special meeting on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

"This has been a remarkable rebirth for me," Jess said. "Dr. Olsen helped me to save my life. I'm happier now in my adult life than I've ever been. This is a second chance at life for me. And, I have to give back by helping other people with their weight problems."

But, before Olsen could help him, Jess had to overcome his own hesitations about surgery. Even though gastric bypass surgery would certainly free Jess of a premature death "sentence" due to obesity, he was afraid of the risks of surgery.

"One in every 200 people who have gastric bypass surgery dies," Jess said. "But, that's not necessarily because of the surgery. Morbidly obese people are high-risk people, period, for any kind of surgery."

In September 2004, Jess wrote a letter to Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama outlining his health problems and pleading for insurance approval for the surgery.

"This surgery is not something you can rush into," Jess said. "Medical doctors and insurance companies won't let you rush into it. This is an expensive operation and a permanent operation. You have to be physically, financially and emotionally ready for it."

Before the surgery could be approved, Jess had to provide proof that he was morbidly obese and that he had tried for two years to lose weight. He also had to attend a seminar on the surgical proce-

dures and undergo a psychological exam. "The psychological issues with weight loss surgery are huge," he said. "They are much bigger than the physical issues."

But, once he underwent the surgery, Jess saw immediate results.

"I was losing two to three pounds a day, as much as 15 pounds a week," he said. "I lost 50 something pounds in the first month. My goal was to reach my ideal weight in 12 months. But, at nine months, I passed that and actually became underweight."

Because gastric bypass surgery involves reducing the size of the stomach, Jess can only eat small quantities of food at a time. His diet must always be high in protein-rich foods. He can't eat sugar or high-fat meats.

"Let's BOAST is a support group primarily for people who've had weight loss surgery or who are considering weight loss surgery," Jess said.

"The surgery itself is not enough to be healthy. It's not a quick fix or an easy way out. There are still things you have to do to make it successful."

But, gastric bypass surgery does give morbidly obese people a way to get their diet problems under control, to be able to start an exercise program, and to establish and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"All the health problems I had were horrible," Jess said.

"But, what was even worse were simple things that I had to deal with every day. I couldn't bend over and tie my shoe without feeling light headed and out of breath. I couldn't fit into a theater seat or a booth at a restaurant. I got an airplane seat belt extension that I traveled with because it was embarrassing to always be asking for

one from a flight attendant. I couldn't walk up a single flight of stairs without feeling tired and being out of breath."

Jess couldn't shop at local stores. He couldn't go anywhere without feeling like people were staring at his size. He couldn't exert himself without gasping for breath. He didn't like being the subject of jokes and insults because of his size.

Within six weeks of surgery, Jess was, physically, a different person. He began walking, working up to three to four miles a day before he began a running regimen.

"It is a very personal thing for me," Jess said. "Running lets me exercise and meditate. It has helped me get over the emotional attachment to food."

Jess' renewed sense of energy has spilled over to his work for a military contract company, where he is now a vice president.

"I'm sure this has changed the way people view me," he said. "I was successful before I lost weight. But, things are even better now. I can work longer hours and I don't feel exhausted."

Jess has given away 18 garbage bags full of clothes that no longer fit him. He has given back the seat extension that he no longer needs on airplanes. He can now go on fun outings with his wife of 23 years, and their two teenage children. He attended his 30-year high school reunion, where few people recognized him.

But, most importantly, Jess intends on being there on that day sometime in the future when he will give his daughter away in marriage. It is one of many family milestones he plans on being around for during the years to come.

Editor's note: For more information about Let's BOAST, visit its web site at www.letsboast.com.

Returning Marine says job isn't finished yet

Reserve staff sergeant led group in Iraq

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

After spending nearly a year on a deployment in Iraq, Marine Reserve Staff Sgt. Jimmy Wittkop knows it will take time to stand up a stable government in the still volatile country.

And, he hopes American politicians and citizens will be patient in providing Iraqi officials the support needed to stand down the insurgents trying to undermine the nation's new government. Efforts are complicated, he said, by insurgents who don't care about establishing order or a better life for Iraqi citizens.

"Insurgents just want to increase chaos," Wittkop said. "They don't have a mission. The Taliban's objective is not to win the war. They have an objective to disrupt. Their mission is not to control the country. They just want us to leave."

"The only way they can win is if we hand it over to them and leave prematurely. If we left, they could cause even more chaos. Leaving is a good thing. But, let's not leave prematurely."

Congressional talk of a pull-out of American troops in the October time frame worries Wittkop.

"There will be a bloodbath between the Shiites and Sunnis," he said. "And, the ones who will pay the price are the women and children who are stuck in the middle."

"We are going in the direction of making the Iraqis more in control of their country, of making them understand the concept of one Iraq. But, it gets complicated and I don't have all the answers. There are Shiite and Sunni conflicts, tribal conflicts and social conflicts. It takes time and awareness to get the country to a place where it can run itself."

Wittkop, a 17-year Marine reservist from Huntsville, was the senior staff non-commissioned officer in charge among a small group of Marine reservists from Battery K, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines of Huntsville who deployed last May to Iraq to provide military police support at detainment facilities, along the Syrian border and for convoys and police departments, among other duties. The Marines worked on police transition teams, combat support teams and border security teams.

Wittkop returned April 21 along with Cpl. Eric Thomas of Madison, Lance Cpl. Jacob Cude of Corinth, Miss., Lance Cpl. James Roberts II of Huntsville, Sgt. Frank Byers of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Cpl. David Sherrod of Tusculumbia. Three other



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TEAM OF MARINES— Marine Reserve Staff Sgt. Jimmy Wittkop, third from left, led a group of eight Marine reservists from Battery K, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines during their deployment in Iraq. Six of the Marines returned home April 21. They were, from left, Sgt. Frank Byers, Cpl. David Sherrod, Wittkop, Lance Cpl. James Roberts, Cpl. Eric Thomas and Lance Cpl. Jacob Cude. The three remaining Marines – Lance Cpls. Michael Rickard, Chad Yeager and Zeth Tayes – returned Thursday. After finishing out a few remaining days on their service, the Marine reservists will go back to their civilian lives. Wittkop, Byers, Thomas and Rickard have been deployed multiple times.

Marine Reservists – Lance Cpls. Michael Rickard of Florence, Chad Yeager and Zeth Tayes, both of Killen – returned Thursday.

"We broke up among several different missions," Wittkop said. "My battery ran a detainee operation for insurgents at a regional detention facility in the Al-Anbar Province."

While Wittkop served as the senior staff NCO in charge at the detention facility, the other Marines were assigned to duties throughout the Al-Anbar Province, which is located west of Baghdad along the Syrian border. Thomas, 26, assisted in training Iraqi police and performed convoy security. Roberts, 29, provided border security along the Syrian border. Sherrod, 25, and Byers, 25, served in mobile combat patrols. Cude, 21, performed convoy security. Rickard and Tayes worked on police transition teams. Yeager was a machine gunner.

At the detainee facility, Wittkop was in charge of a platoon consisting of Marines from all over the U.S. He was charged with bringing the platoon together as a team for the mission.

"You have to work on unit cohesion as well as mission accomplishment," he said. "It was team building at the same time we were doing our mission. Even though I didn't know the Marines in my platoon, I still had to develop junior lead-

ers. I had to train my subordinates to take my place."

The Marines processed insurgents and suspected insurgents into the detainment facility, questioned them and then released them or sent them to a more permanent detention facility. Detainees were moved in and out of the facility within 14 days.

"They could be innocent. They could be guilty," Wittkop said. "We really didn't have a clue. They could be 10-year-olds or very elderly ... But, if we had even the least bit of suspicion, we would bring them in for questioning. If they weren't guilty, we'd release them and pay them \$6 a day for each day we had them in detention. That's a lot more than they are paid at their jobs."

The insurgents that U.S. troops dealt with in Al-Anbar were of two kinds: the fanatical insurgents who believed in their cause and the for-hire insurgents who would do anything as long as they were paid. Whatever type they fell in, insurgents continue to have a detrimental impact on all aspects of life in Iraq.

"They don't have a lot of economy," Wittkop said. "They're trying to get up and going. But, when you have a lot of businessmen who ... I don't know if they are insurgents, but I suspect they are ... you can't get a lot going. They do not think the way we think. They are interesting people."

Wittkop said it would be easier for Iraq to grow its economy if they had a government-based job corps program similar to what the U.S. did to help end the Great Depression.

"If everybody had a job, life would be a whole lot easier over there," Wittkop said. "But, the Iraqi government doesn't have the money to do something like that. And, the Iraqi government isn't at the point where they are well organized."

"Each individual region is doing its best to control itself and the interior is working in the direction of bringing everybody together. But, it takes time."

Wittkop said the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police face danger in their native country every day. Yet, they continue to report for work out of a sense of honor and duty. The country's lack of an infrastructure or communication system makes it difficult for them to defend the nation against insurgents.

Occasionally, Wittkop went out on missions to perform an intelligence raid, look for suspected insurgents or search for hidden weapons.

"There still is an insurgency there in the area along the Euphrates River," Wittkop said. "There are high value detainees from up in that area. But, for the most part, the insurgents don't hang out long in the area. They want it to stay quiet so they can't be found."

Assisting the Iraqi Police and Army is a team effort of all U.S. forces in Iraq.

"The Marines have their own officers and missions," Wittkop said. "But, everybody does their best to cross over and help each other out. The Army and Marines are doing the field work in Iraq. We're the ones getting dirty."

Wittkop and the rest of the Marines were involved in several dangerous situations, particularly during convoy missions.

"There were close calls. But, it's like any life over there," he said.

"Everyone is threatened by VBIEDs (vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices), sniper fire and IEDs (improvised explosive devices). In a convoy, there was a higher chance of hitting an IED at night. During the daytime, there was a higher chance of attacks by ambush. But, at any time of day, you didn't want to move too fast so you wouldn't see the IEDs and you didn't want to move so slow that you set yourself up for a potential ambush."

Although most of his work involved processing and overseeing the care of detainees, Wittkop believes he made a difference in the war in Iraq.

"We treated them fairly and impartially."

Marines return to loving arms of family, friends

Airport reunion culminates yearlong deployment

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

One of Redstone Arsenal's very own came home Thursday from a nearly one-year deployment as a Marine in Iraq.

Marine Reserve Lance Cpl. Michael Rickard of Florence, who left his job as a Redstone Arsenal security officer for his deployment last May, and two other Marine reservists – Lance Cpl. Chad Yeager and Lance Cpl. Zeth Tayes, both of Killen — returned to a hero's welcome at Huntsville International Airport. They were greeted by relatives, friends, fellow Marines, local residents, media and a color guard from the all-volunteer 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment.

The three were the last to return of the nine Marine reservists deployed from Battery K, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines of Huntsville. The six other Marines returned on April 21.

Rickard worked on a police transition team in Fallujah, where he helped train Iraqi police to become a "formidable force."

"It was dangerous," he said. "There were a few close calls. But, we're home now. I'm ready for a little bit of time off."

Rickard will spend that time with his new wife, Jeni. They were married less than a month before Rickard deployed.

"It was important to both of us to get married," Jeni Rickard said as she waited for her husband with his sister, Ashley, and brother, Jonathan. "I spent the time he was away going to school at the University of North Alabama and working on our house."

Rickard's deployment was his second tour in Iraq.

"We worried about him more this time," Jonathan Rickard of Sheffield said. "Last time it wasn't as crazy. I never got over an uneasy feeling while he was deployed."

Jonathan Rickard exchanged that uneasy feeling Thursday for "cold chills" of excitement that stayed with him until his brother's evening arrival at the airport.

While all the Marines returned home safely, Lance Cpl. Zeth Tayes sustained two injuries during his deployment with a 14-member Marine police transition team in Hit.

"He was injured the first time when he was with three other Marines in a jeep," said his grandmother, Frances Tayes. "He caught a hand grenade that was thrown at him. He threw it behind the jeep and it exploded. What he did saved all their lives."

Tayes received a concussion in the explosion. His second injury – a concussion and knee wound – were sustained when he was near three roadside bombs that exploded.

"We don't know if he is going to need knee surgery or not until he gets checked out here," Frances Tayes said. "I'm just thankful he's coming home. I'm proud of him. He's a Marine all right. He's very dedicated."

It's been a long year filled with worry, prayers and plenty of shipments of cards and homemade goodies for Frances Tayes and her longtime friend Eloise Yeager, who is the grandmother of Chad Yeager. Their efforts to support their grandsons were aided by church friends, who sent cards and contributed money to purchase things the Marines needed.

"There were a lot of phone



Photo by Kari Hawkins

HOME WITH BRIDE— Marine Reserve Lance Cpl. Michael Rickard is looking forward to spending a lot of time at home with his new bride, Jeni. The couple were married about a month before Rickard's second deployment to Iraq. Rickard plans to return to his job as a security officer at Redstone Arsenal.

calls and we sent packages constantly," Frances Tayes said.

Many packages sent to Chad Yeager were filled with little homemade pecan pies that his grandmother made and individually wrapped.

"His dad served with the 115th National Guard in Iraq," Eloise Yeager said. "I learned then that the pecan pies travel well and if you wrap them individually they can share them. They like to share."

Retired 1st Sgt. Mike Yeager served in Iraq in 2004-05. Both Chad Yeager and his brother, Aaron, joined the Marine Reserve while their father was deployed.

"I expected both of them to be

deployed," Mike Yeager said. "I knew it was coming. But, I knew it would be worse for them. The year I was there it continually got worse."

Mike Yeager spent his year setting up satellite communications, working with local contractors to set up civilian communications, helping with the construction of two schools, providing school supplies to Iraqi children, and getting to know the people in 21 villages in a rural area of Iraq. His son, Chad, spent his deployment as a machine gunner for a Marine unit in Fallujah. He worked closely with Iraqi police.

"I'm very proud of him. I think it's been a good experience for him," Mike Yeager said.

"He did lose some good friends while he was there. One was a Navy SEAL that he had worked with during his deployment and others were Iraqis he had gotten to know. I worried about him a lot. His deployment brought back a lot of memories. I knew what he was going through."

Mike Yeager will also understand what his son goes through as he acclimates himself back into his everyday life of college and work.

"It's good to be home," Chad Yeager said, after greeting his girlfriend, Halley Phillips, and his family. "I was surprised to see so many people here. That's great."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

GREETING— Marine Reserve Lance Cpl. Chad Yeager is greeted by his girlfriend, Halley Phillips, upon his return to Huntsville International Airport. Yeager was among nine Marine reservists from Battery K, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines of Huntsville to be deployed to Iraq during the past year.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

WELCOMING A HERO— Frances Tayes looks up into the face of her grandson, Marine Reserve Lance Cpl. Zeth Tayes, after his nearly yearlong deployment in Iraq. Zeth Tayes was injured twice while serving in Iraq, once when a hand grenade exploded near his jeep and another time when three roadside bombs exploded near where he was standing.

And, then as he turned to his family, Chad Yeager's next words were spoken like any young man returning home from a long absence.

"All right, let's go get something to eat. I'm starving," he said.

That was a request Chad Yeager's family could easily accommodate.

Marine worried by congressional talk of pull-out from Iraq

Marine

continued from page 14

We gave them food and medical treatment. If they could speak some English, we would talk with them and joke around a bit," he said. "I hope they figured out that we're not there for the long term. We just want them to figure out how to run their country and then we'll leave."

Wittkop's first few days home were spent with his wife, Cathe, and 7-year-old daughter McKenna. Cathe Wittkop works on Redstone Arsenal.

As for the Marines who returned home with him, they also spent their 96-hour leave with family and friends. Roberts first went to church, and then traveled to Atlanta to see his fiancé and present her with an engagement ring. Thomas also

went to church with his family. Cude visited friends at the University of North Alabama, where he worked on writing some new songs. Sherrod spent his time playing music with his dad and visiting his grandfather in the hospital. Byers went on a quick trip to his home in Murfreesboro and then went on to have breakfast with friends in New Orleans, and travel on to Mobile and Pensacola.

Once he gets resettled, Wittkop plans to return to his job as a sale representative for maintenance products. But, there is always a chance he could be deployed again. Wittkop, who has also been deployed during Operation Desert Storm and to work full-time at the Marine headquarters on South Memorial Parkway, doesn't worry about future deployments.

"I'm a Marine," he said. "Tell me where I need to go, and I'll be there doing my job."

Iraqi police becoming 'very capable'

Senior military police officer sees growing independence

By TIM KILBRIDE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Iraq's growing police force is technically competent and functioning as it should within the country's legal system, a top U.S. police trainer said April 25.

The operational problems they have experienced are primarily the result of an unusually tumultuous security situation in Baghdad and elsewhere, said Brig. Gen. David Phillips, deputy commander of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team and the senior military police officer in theater.

"I believe the Iraqi police are getting very capable in handling the law enforcement type mission and traffic mission. The problem you have is ... that there's a lot of terrorists and insurgents who want to see them fail," Phillips said, speaking to online journalists from Baghdad.

The Iraqi army, Phillips explained, is trained to contend with terrorism.

"When you compare the Iraqi army, who are over here fighting in an insurgency and against terrorists, we are training the police to perform law enforcement," he said. "The training we give them — although they get tactical training — is primarily focused on being a police officer."

Under normal conditions, Phillips said, the police would be engaged in "investigating crime and traffic patrols."

In these capacities, the general said, the police are performing dramatically better now than even two years ago, when Phillips was last deployed to Iraq. He cited examples of traffic cops waving his convoy through traffic circles, and patrol officers walking their beat in a Baghdad neighborhood while local children played nearby.

With nearly 170,000 regular police on the country's rosters, Phillips noted that in many areas of the country the Iraqi security forces operate virtually independently of U.S. and international guidance.

"Approximately 75 percent of the country gets very minimal coalition force presence," he said. Those areas are "under the control of the Iraqi police and the Iraqi army, and they're out there doing what you'd expect them to do."

It is in Baghdad and other particularly restive areas, Phillips explained, that though "it is truly Iraqis in the lead now," the coalition continues to provide support. And in areas such as violence-prone Anbar province, Phillips said, tribal sheikhs are now encouraging their relatives and affiliates to create local units to stand up to terrorist and insurgent activity — in effect, a "community watch."

Such forces are being created under the



Photo by Sgt. Tierney Nowland

ON PATROL— An Iraqi national policeman pulls security during a cordon and search mission March 23 with Soldiers from the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division in Ghazaliya.

umbrella of the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior and will function as an extension of the standard police force.

An official government sanction is crucial to the success of these initiatives and will be forthcoming, Phillips said, though he noted there are worries among the sheikhs as to where and how their associates could be used.

"They want to come into the system, be sanctioned as police; they want to be trained as police," Phillips said. "Their concern is if they're trained will they be sent out of that area and then have to work in an area — they're predominantly Sunni — would they have to work in a predominantly Shiia area? That's where they object."

The Iraqi leadership, with coalition assistance, is trying to work out the command and control relationships for these

organizations, Phillips said.

The general admitted the question of sectarian loyalty remains an issue throughout the force, but said its effect is less severe than commonly believed.

The police are trained at academies close to their homes and return to those homes at the completion of their courses, as opposed to Iraqi army Soldiers, who train as a unit and then deploy to different locations.

For the graduating policeman, he said, "you go back to the same community you were in, ... and you're policing in the neighborhood where your family is, with the same influences you had, with people who are like you."

Sectarian bias will naturally apply in these cases, Phillips said.

"When you look, is one police force in this city predominantly Sunni and one in

another city predominantly Shiia? Yes, it's going to be natural that way. But we also have mixed forces in the towns that are mixed."

Baghdad is a prime example of a mixed-force town, Phillips said, and working out the dynamics there among diverse populations will remain a challenge.

Useful progress is being made in screening out known risks from the police recruiting pool, however. Phillips noted an Iraqi-operated "Automated Fingerprint Identification System" and other biometric information are being used to check potential recruits against a data base of known or suspected criminals.

"I think the vetting process is not perfect, but it's catching quite a few who you would not want to be one of your community cops on the corner," he said.

Addressing another common criticism of the Iraqi force, the general said overcrowding in police detention facilities does still occur, but is the product of temporary delays in legal processing rather than a flawed system.

"Yes, there's overcrowding," Phillips said. "And the reason is because of the number of investigative judges." The number of judges is not equal to the backlog of criminal cases.

To compensate, in addition to training more judges, Gen. David Petraeus, Multi-national Force Iraq commander, is expediting work on a "Rule of Law" complex in Baghdad that will house investigative judges, investigators, trial judges, police and detention facilities all in one compound. The proximity of all the key players in the Iraqi justice system should streamline the legal process and help keep detention centers operating at normal levels.

"If there's a delay there, that's where you start seeing crowding in the jails," Phillips said. "The system in place as templated is a pretty good system; we just have to get the number of judges, the facilities and all of that, stood up."

Capacity issues aside, he noted, the police are performing admirably in their assigned roles in a situation that is grossly outside their traditional mandate.

Until that security situation stabilizes, U.S. forces will continue to support the police in their mission.

"If they're out there doing a simple operation and all of a sudden a terrorist starts shooting at them, of course they do not have the firepower to return — they're police officers — but they contact us and we respond," Phillips said.

Still, despite the underlying security challenge, there is reason for optimism regarding the police's long-term effectiveness.

"If you took the equation of the terrorists and the insurgents out of the mix," Phillips said, "you have a nationally trained police force that, I think, would be able to do quite well."

Extreme fighter grabs easy victory

Soldier beats opponent
in only 36 seconds

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

“The Mad Bomber” had an easy night in the ring April 20 at the Von Braun Center.

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Kniest needed only 36 seconds to win his mixed martial arts bout against Mike Slavin of Madison. The night of 16 fights, promoted by Extreme Combat International, drew 1,600 fans.

“Man, it was real exciting,” said Kniest, an instructor at the Hazardous Devices School. He fights at 170 pounds (welterweight).

At the opening bell, Kniest leg kicked Slavin; and the pair exchanged punches. Slavin stayed back. Kniest let Slavin take him down and reversed him. Kniest hit his opponent a few times and rolled him over in a choke hold, which is called a rear naked choke. Slavin tapped out in submission in 36 seconds.

“It was a little bit of a let-down. I had a hard six weeks of training camp to fight for 36 seconds,” said Kniest, who improved to 6-3. “But nobody got hurt. I didn’t get touched.”

He’s training for his next fight, also scheduled for three



AND THE WINNER IS— Referee John Sturgis of Madison raises the arm of Sgt. 1st Class Mike Kniest after his win over Madison’s Mike Slavin.

five-minute rounds. Kniest will fight May 26 in Osage Beach, Mo., against Brian Jordan of Sedalia, Mo., in a bout called Cage of Honor. He’ll fight again

June 23 in Birmingham in the International Cage Brawl against Suzuki Zapata (3-1). And the guest referee is Tito Ortiz, a former light-heavyweight champ of

Ultimate Fighting Championship.

“I was really happy,” Kniest said of his latest win. “I’d lost a couple so I felt like I needed a



Photo by Lisa Clements

TAKE THAT— Sgt. 1st Class Mike Kniest punches Mike Slavin in their bout April 20 at the Von Braun Center.



Photo by Lisa Clements

END NEAR— A choke hold by Sgt. 1st Class Mike Kniest finishes his fight against Mike Slavin.

good smoking win, now that I’ve gotten better, to show I belong there.”

Troop softball season starts at Linton Field



Photo by Skip Vaughn

READY FOR SEASON— The NCO Academy’s David Beier warms up for the softball season, which begins this week.

The troop softball season begins this week, after the preseason tournament final between the National Guard and the Marines.

Tournament results last week included:

April 23 – National Guard def. Headquarters & Alpha 12-8, NCO Academy won by forfeit over HHC 59th and Marines def. 326th Chemical 29-10.

April 24 – Marines def. NCO Academy 22-2 and Marines def. Headquarters & Alpha 12-9.

Bass anglers have big time

Seventy anglers, with 35 boats, competed April 21 in the spring bass tournament sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America.

Godwin and Jeff Abele caught the big fish, a 5.2 pound bass, at the tournament held at Goose Pond Colony in Scottsboro. The three top finishers who caught their five fish limits averaging over 3 pounds each were Taylor Vinson and Terry Harbin with 17.5 pounds, Wayne Pierce and Wayne Creel with 15.2 pounds, and Paul Eickholt and Bill Taylor with 15.1 pounds.

The organizers included Chuck Ogle, Matt Boenker, Bob Vlasics and Tom Geoffroy.

Reeves reflects on road to retirement



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

GOING HOME— Bill Reeves retires as a senior executive at the Space and Missile Defense Command.

Senior executive remembers roots

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
 Staff writer
 kellyqa@bellsouth.net

As people go through life, their path takes many turns. Some are the result of careful planning. Others stem from the influence of the people met along the way. As he prepares to retire after almost 40 years, Bill Reeves looks back on the road he has traveled and the people who have made the journey what it has been.

Reeves' career plans began at a young age. He grew up in Doster, Ala., with six siblings. His father's Army service, along with a woman's careful planning, had bought and paid for the home he grew up in.

"My father went off to World War II. My mother saved the money he faithfully sent home while he was gone," Reeves said. "When he got out of the service, they purchased an 85 acre farm where they raised and educated seven children."

He recalls vividly being 10

years old, sitting on the front porch and watching his older brother return home when the workday was done.

"My older brother, James Otis Reeves, would work from sun up to sun down. I would see him when he'd drive up in his car. He would open the door, put his foot out and just sit there. He'd be covered in mortar mix and mud," Reeves said. "He was so exhausted he would have to sit there before he could get out. I made up my mind then that I wasn't going to do that unless I had to. I was going to go off to college. He was instrumental in keeping me motivated. I didn't want to work that hard."

He decided to take his love of math and parlay that into a career as an accountant – the only job his young mind could connect to math at the time. For that he would need college. However, the segregated school he attended only offered math up to an eighth-grade level. Thankfully, fate and a favorite teacher intervened his junior year of high school.

"Dr. Mamie Handy, my eighth-grade math teacher told me if I wanted to go to college I was going to need more than just

eighth-grade math. The black school just didn't have it in their curriculum," Reeves said. "I went over to the white school to make sure I had at least college algebra and trigonometry before I went off to college."

Reeves would be the oldest boy in a group of 23 black students to be integrated into the formerly all-white school in Clio, Ala. As a teenager, Reeves lived with the tension and danger of being part of that first group. Being a parent himself now, he wonders how his own parents dealt with the worry every day.

"It had to be traumatic. We were just children. I can't imagine what went through their minds," he said.

While attending a summer enrichment program at Alabama A&M University, a college professor made him an offer he could not refuse – a grant that would help pay for the expenses he would incur at college in addition to tuition. The catch was that he would not be studying math per se.

"Dr. Howard Foster was chairing the program at the time. He

See Road on page 19

Road

continued from page 18

was over the physics department at A&M. He said he would give me an \$800 grant per semester while I was an undergraduate – if I would major in physics,” Reeves said. “He said I could minor in mathematics.”

Reeves laughed that even though he had spent years avoiding “the hard classes,” he had signed on to study them almost exclusively.

“In high school I had avoided physics and chemistry. I took four years of typing. I could type 85 words on a manual typewriter,” he said. “When I decided to major in physics I couldn’t even spell it.”

While attending Alabama A&M, Reeves had a pivotal moment in his life. He met a girl while doing his laundry one day.

“With the exception of God, my Lord and Savior, the next best thing to ever happen to me happened September of 1970. I met my wife and best half, Lucille,” Reeves said. “She was the manager of the washeteria. I would see her there. We married in July 1971 after I graduated.”

He had joined the youth opportunity campaign program in 1968. He worked part time during the school year and full time during summers. While he laughs now about the pay, it was a lot of money to him then.

“I made \$1.60 an hour,” he said. “Some people now won’t even work for minimum wage.”

He continued on with the government after graduating with a master’s degree, working as a physicist in the Advanced Sensors Directorate of MICOM for 10 years. He then went to work at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., for six years with Precision Guided Munitions. When he was recruited for a job back at Redstone in 1985, his wife’s family ties in the area played a large role in the decision to come back.

“It was a lateral move for me,” he said. “But once they found out my wife was from Huntsville, I didn’t have a choice.”

Reeves was selected for Senior Executive Service in 1996. He has spent the last seven years as the director for the Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center of the Space and Missile Defense Command. May 1 was his last day on the job. Walking out the door on that last day would be a bittersweet moment for him, he said, but he knows it is the right move to make.

“I have a family and a wife who is the best thing to happen to me, next to God,” he said. “While I’m still young I want to do things with my wife and my family before I miss that opportunity.”

He also has some promises to keep to himself and his family. One of the biggest has been completed. Years ago Reeves and his wife purchased two acres of land. The plan was to build their dream home on it one day. They planted tree seedlings, hoping that one day they would shade the yard where their children would play. The house design was a true family project.

“I would have my four sons and my wife draw what they wanted our dream home to look like. They would draw rooms and things,” Reeves said. “I kept all those notes and things all those years.”

His wife retired from the SMDC Technical Library with 27 years of service in 2004. She oversaw the building of their home. Those seedlings are full grown now, as are the Reeves’ children. However, Reeves has the yard full of laughing kids he wanted. His six grandchildren are happy to oblige – and swim in Grandpa’s pool.

“They’ve got their rooms picked out,” he said.

When asked about his plans, Reeves said he intends to keep things simple. He has promised his wife a fishing trip. He intends to do some gardening. He plans to get a little grease under his nails.

“I like to work on classic cars,” he said. “I have a 1970 Monte Carlo, a 1966 Mustang, a 1971 Chevelle and a 1986 Z24. I’m going to restore them so I can drive them.”

Reeves said he has another promise to keep, but this one is to his community. He plans to spend a large portion of his time working with his church and educational groups.

“I want to give back to the community. I want to support the academic world, schools in the area and I am a deacon at my church,” he said.

Reeves said he is fortunate to know how lucky he has been.

“I don’t do anything on my own. The Lord has blessed me,” he said. “Nobody achieves anything without the support of people. I’ve had excellent support from people who mentored me, gave me opportunities to succeed, and opportunities to fail and learn. I won’t forget that.”



Sports & Recreation

Football camp

Seattle Seahawks offensive lineman Walter Jones will present his third annual football camp, for ages 8-18, May 26 at his estate at 2699 Jeff Road in Harvest. Pre-registration is April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Dick's Sporting Goods, 6275 University Drive. The Walter Jones Foundation will also present a camp June 30 at Aliceville High School, with pre-registration June 2 from 10-2 at the school. For more information, call Karen (281) 788-6405.

Military golf

Felix Milar Active Duty Post Championship Tournament for the active duty post championship is May 18-20 at the Links at Redstone. That Friday is the unit-level team competition, part of the intramural leagues and Commander's Cup; and Saturday and Sunday is the individual Post Championship competition. This event is free. Greens fees, cards, lunch and drinks are provided. Deadline to enter is May 8. Call 842-2574.

Stars military discount

The Huntsville Stars baseball team offers a military discount for all Sunday through Thursday home games. Active duty or

retired military personnel showing their military ID at the Joe Davis Stadium ticket office or windows receive half price lower box, upper reserve or general admission tickets for all Sunday-Thursday regular season home games. The Stars will have its Armed Forces Day Celebration on May 19 at 2:05 p.m. at Joe Davis Stadium. The organization will hand out camouflage baseballs.

Armed Forces salute

Mark your calendars to attend the annual Civilian Welfare Fund Council's Team Redstone Salute to the Armed Forces baseball game at Joe Davis Stadium on May 19. The Huntsville Stars will take on the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx. Doors open at noon and the game starts at 2:05. There will be military displays in front of the stadium before the game, and many other special events. A souvenir baseball will be given to the first 2,000 people inside the gate. General Admission tickets are free. Your free ticket may be upgraded for up to a \$5 credit per person on upper or lower box seats for this game only. Free tickets are being distributed to several locations on the Arsenal such as the Post Exchange, Post Restaurants in the Sparkman Center, and buildings 5400 and 4488. You can also contact your CWFC representative to obtain free tickets in or near your office.

See Announcements on page 22



Photo by Kevin Merenda/Corps of Engineers

Coming down

Charter Environmental begins the second phase of demolition of building 408 at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., April 2. Phase one involved removing asbestos from the building. Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program is working with the installation, New York District and contractor partners to remove, by traditional demolition, three multi-use buildings that were used for barracks, administrative and dining facility. The plan is to recycle or reuse as much of the material as possible and use the concrete and cinder block rubble to raise the elevation 4-6 inches in the area. This project is expected to be completed in May.

See Announcements on page 22

Rocket Announcements

You can find your representative in the CWFC link on the AMCOM home page.

Youth soccer

AYSO Region 160 is taking registrations for soccer for fall 2007 and spring 2008. American Youth Soccer Organization is open to all children in Huntsville and Madison County without limitation to your residence. Teams are provided for ages 4 through 18 based on the age of the child on July 31, 2007. There are all-girls teams and coed teams in every division. Games and practices are at John Hunt Park (Airport Road and the Parkway). Registration is \$80 per player until after June 30, when it will be \$85. A \$5 per player discount is available if you pre-register online. Registration fees cover both the fall and spring seasons and include the uniform. For more information, call 539-6852. Instructions and other registration information are available at www.ayso160.org www.ayso160.org.



Conferences & Meetings

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.

Small business forum

North Alabama Small Business Conference 2007 is Thursday. The various speakers include the luncheon speaker, Tracey Pinson, Secretary of the Army's director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. The cost for this all-day event is \$95, which includes lunch. There is also the option to attend the lunch and networking session only for \$20. You must be an NCMA or HASBAT member to attend the lunch only. Anyone can attend this conference. Register through

National Contract Management Association www.ncmahsv.org.

Test week 2007

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

Logistics seminar

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics joins forces with the Defense Acquisition University South and the Logistics Support Activity to bring you their annual Logistics Seminar on May 15-16 at the Trinity Community Development Center at 607 Airport Road. Attendance is limited and seats are going fast, but there is still time to register. Log on to www.asihsv.com/sole and download the registration form. Fill it out and fax it to Cheryl Baker 876-4471. For more information, call Mike Murphy 842-7753.

Computer users

The Huntsville PC User Group will meet May 12 at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Group president Kevin Wangbickler will give a presentation at 9:15 a.m. on Windows XP accessories. The general meeting starts at 10:45. Visitors are welcome. For information call 830-2232.

Civil War round table

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club, 725 Franklin St. Shirley Farris Jones, an award winning author from Murfreesboro, Tenn., will speak on "From Wife to Widow in 630 Days," the story of Martha Ready Hunt and her influence and on her husband, Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan. Visitors are

able at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. For information call 858-6191.

Autism society

The 2007 Autism/Asperger Conference, sponsored by the Autism Society of Alabama and Whitesburg Baptist Church, is May 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Whitesburg Center, 7300 Whitesburg Drive. For information call 1-877-4AUTISM or Whitesburg Baptist Church 704-5678, ext. 202.

Family rights

The Alabama Family Rights Association meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Firefighters Union Hall, 2606 Artie St. southwest. This non-profit organization supports non-custodial parents as well as rights of children and grandparents. For information call Bill Baker 533-7234.

Model railroad club

The Redstone Model Railroad Association is building an HO scale model railroad, currently under construction in building 3463. The era represented will be from the 1950s to the 1970s. The model will feature digital command control operation. There are regularly scheduled work periods, and once the model becomes operational, there will be regularly scheduled operations times as well. The club is open to all active duty and retired military and Redstone Arsenal civilian employees. If you're interested, viewing hours are Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Building 3463 is located on Zeus Road, just south of Aerobee Road and just west of Ajax Road. For more information, the web address is www.rmrrc.net.

Technical conference

Registration has begun for the "Reconfigurable Systems, Microsystems and Nanotechnology" conference May 8-9 at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, visit the conference web page <http://smapper-center.uah.edu/rsmn07>, or e-mail Angie.Cornelius@us.army.mil.

Trade show

The 2007 GSA International Expo is May 15-17 in Orlando, Fla. This free training conference and trade show is designed for procurement and program professionals.

Training will be available on topics such as government contract law, performance based acquisition, strategic sourcing and other procurement-related courses. All classes grant Continuous Learning Points. Admission is free. For more information and to register, call 1-888-272-5565 or visit web site www.expo.gsa.gov.

Toastmasters

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

Strategic speakers

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



Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Master Sgt. Harold Cook 319-8456 or Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

See Announcements on page 23

Civilian deployment

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

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9-5 Thursdays. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-12:45. The shop is accepting spring and summer items. Volunteers are needed for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The shop will be open this Saturday from 10-2. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

Water cooler refills

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

Computer classes

Self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service to assist military spouses in learning or enhancing their computer skills. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher and Windows XP. All classes are free and are offered Monday through Friday anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Certificates will be given after successful completion. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Chapel services

Weekly services at Bicentennial Chapel, on Goss Road, include: Weekdays (except

Friday) — noon Catholic Mass. Saturday — 5 p.m. Catholic Mass. Sunday — 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, 10:45 a.m. CCD, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, 11 a.m. Protestant Worship Service. Many Bible studies are throughout the week. For information call 876-2409.

Lateral entry

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

Green to gold

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

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

Community volunteers

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

Benefit breakfast

Alabama Marine Moms is hosting a pancake breakfast May 12 to raise funds in support of deployed troops and fallen heroes. The second annual event will be held from 7-10 a.m. at the Applebee's at 302 Hughes Road, Madison. The cost is \$5. Funds raised from the event will be

Announcements

used to send care packages to deployed Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force servicemembers, to help with the cost of compiling keepsake scrapbooks for fallen servicemembers and to support events organized by Alabama Marine Moms for Marines stationed at Redstone Arsenal. For more information call Pam Adcock 683-8212, Terry Smith 658-0594 or Sharolyne Harbin 379-4082.

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.

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.

Bone density screenings

Fox Army Health Center will conduct bone density screenings May 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Redstone Fitness Center for the MWR Health Fair. The fitness center is located on Aerobee Road, east of Patton Road.

Anxiety screening

To help individuals learn about anxiety disorders, their symptoms and effective treatments, the Mental Health Center of Madison County and the Mental Health Association will hold a free and confidential screening today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Huntsville Hospital Dowdle Center as part of a national outreach program. The program includes viewing a video, completing a screening questionnaire, meeting a mental health professional to review the questionnaire and receiving information about various anxiety disorders and mental illnesses. The Dowdle Center is located at the corner of Governors Drive and Gallatin Street.

Flying open house

The Flying Activity will hold an open house Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. There will be Mini Flying Lessons with a certified flight instructor for \$30 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under. There will also be free food and drinks. This event is open to the entire Redstone community. For more information, call 880-9495.



Photo by Keith Coates/Garrison

Drive safely

Vehicle Safety Day is held April 25 in front of the Commissary. Sponsors include Safety, Fire, Provost Marshal Office and the motorcycle rider coach.

See Announcements on page 24

Rocket Announcements

Financial workshop

Redstone Federal Credit Union, partnering with Army Community Service, will present "Financial Matters," a sneak preview party about new monthly financial seminars and workshops. This event is May 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Anyone who lives

or works on Redstone Arsenal is invited to this free event. For more information, call Kathleen Riester at Army Community Service 876-5397. Register online by May 17 at www.redstonemwr.com.

Block party

The Month of the Military Child "Block



Photo by Sgt. Eliamar Trapp

Time for sergeant

With a proud smile, Sgt. Rosa Arreguin, left, shows off her certificate of promotion with Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Garcia-Aponte, command sergeant major of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, 59th Ordnance Brigade, during her promotion Friday to sergeant. A native of Guanajuato, Mexico, Arreguin is the first in her family to join the military. A new Soldier to the battalion's personnel office, she recently returned from a deployment to Iraq with the 502nd Personnel Service Battalion out of Fort Hood, Texas. After being in the Army a little more than three years, her promotion was a great personal achievement. "I am very excited," she said. "When you join the Army everyone talks about the NCO and how important they are. You always just imagine that one day you'll be one. I'm very happy to have taken that step."

Party" is Saturday from 1-4 p.m. at the Youth Center. For more information, call 955-8401 or 876-3704.

Women's club

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold a farewell in honor of Becky Pillsbury, honorary OCWC president, and Gabriel Cannon and Marilyn Phillips, OCWC advisers, May 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Luncheon choices include: salad, stuffed pork tenderloin, Anna potatoes, and asparagus spears for \$11. Alternative menus include soup and cobb salad or a hot vegetable plate for \$9. Both meals include rolls/butter, coffee, iced tea, and chocolate dipped sugar cone filled with a fresh strawberry mousse. Reservation and menu choice are required by May 10 to Chris Swart 955-6703.

Motorcycle registration

Personnel who would like to obtain a decal for their motorcycle must first complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider training course. The Garrison Safety Office offers this course free of charge with priority to active duty DoD personnel including Reserve and National Guard, current DoD civilians, retired service-members, DoD contractors working on Redstone, NASA, and family members of active duty Soldiers. Riders must provide a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement and a street-legal motorcycle that must pass a safety inspection by the instructor. You are required to provide your own DOT approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeve shirt or jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves and boots or shoes that cover the ankles. Participants must be at least 18 years old and should have ridden more than 1,000 miles on their own motorcycle. Course is held rain or shine, starts at 9 a.m. with a 30-minute lunch break and ends at approximately 4 p.m. The course is held next to Heiser Hall across from the Bowling Center on Patton Road (Gate 10). Courses are scheduled for May 12, 16 and 22. For more information, contact rider coach Ralph Harris at 93hdstc@bellsouth.net.

Quarterly retirements

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is scheduled June 21 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are required to participate in one



Courtesy photo

International grad

Cpl. Duane Thomas of Guyana graduates April 24 from the Ammunition Specialist Course.

of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. Call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969 to make arrangements for participation. Deadline for signing up to participate is June 1. A Retirement Ceremony is also scheduled Sept. 20. "While it may be appropriate to notify your chain of command that you plan to participate in this retirement ceremony, you must notify HHC Garrison (Walker) by the stated deadline in order to participate in this event," a prepared release said.

Resource managers' picnic

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will have its annual picnic/membership meeting May 10 at 11 a.m. at the NASA picnic area. Meal includes chicken, cole slaw, beans, potato salad, bread and drink. Cost is members \$3 and non-members \$5. The event will include bingo

See Announcements on page 25

and a cake walk. Make your reservations no later than today by calling Jessica Dunaway 955-2405 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Language center

The Huntsville Foreign Language Center's third anniversary ceremony and open house is May 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the center, located on Sparkman Drive, Executive Plaza, Suite 822.

Garage sale

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center is once again hosting the postwide garage sale in the Post Exchange parking lot Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Spaces are on sale for \$7. No vendors allowed. For more information, call 876-4531.

Customer appreciation

Stop by the MWR Car Wash, on Vincent Drive behind the Shopette, May 8 and wash your car for free in the "Customer Appreciation Car Wash." Customers washing their cars will also get a choice of one hamburger or two hot dogs, with chips and a drink. There is a 10-minute limit on all vehicles. This event is open to the Redstone community. For more information, call 955-7728 or 955-7727.

Army birthday

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will hold a dinner June 14 to celebrate the Army's 232nd birthday. The event will also celebrate Flag Day (the 230th) and will serve as a general membership meeting for the chapter's individual and corporate members. The official portion of the event will introduce the new slate of chapter officers and board members for the upcoming year. The dinner/meeting will take place at the Officers and Civilians Club, beginning with a social at 5:30 p.m. The program and dinner will follow at 6. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$28, and corporate tables are available for \$225. For information on tickets, call Donna Palumbo 655-5147 or e-mail dapal@bellsouth.net.

Latin dance

Saborlatino invites everyone to celebrate Cinco De Mayo and the Pre-Mother's Day

Dance on Cinco De Mayo, Saturday at 9 p.m. at the American Legion on Drake Avenue. Cost is \$10. Call Saborlatino 783-5756 or DJ Ed 651-9626 to reserve your tables.

Marine volunteer rally

The Semper Fi Community Task Force of Northern Alabama is a new organization comprised of current, former, retired, reserve and future Marines. The task force was organized to serve the local community and to help veterans. An Inaugural Rally is scheduled Friday from 5:30-8 p.m. at the new Raytheon Building at 401 Jan Davis Drive off Old Madison Pike Road in Cummings Research Park. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to attend and enjoy the company of fellow Marines volunteering to make an impact on the community. Refreshments will be furnished. For more information, call Mike Dahl 876-9804 or visit the web site www.semperfictf.org.

Warrant officer team

A Warrant Officer Recruiting Team will visit May 8-9 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the DOI Auditorium, building 3301 on Zeus Road, room 213. Those interested in becoming warrant officers should attend. The contact is Chief Warrant Officer A.J. Williams at adam.williams@usarec.army.mil.

Uniform donations

The Warrant Officer Association is collecting dress blues which have been outgrown or no longer worn — enlisted or officer blues. This is a collection project for a high school Junior ROTC program in Kentucky. Drop any off at the safety office, building 3300 near Gate 10 on Patton Road. This is a tax free donation. Call Chief Warrant Officer William Bradshaw 876-5628 or Dolores Bradshaw 489-3383.

Ordnance ball

The 59th Ordnance Brigade will host a ball to commemorate the gallantry of the Ordnance Corps and to enhance esprit de corps and morale. The ball will begin at 6 p.m. May 18 at the Officers and Civilians Club. All Ordnance Corps members, present, past and future, are invited. For more

information, call Priscilla Sanders 955-0127 or 876-6699.

Old school jam

An "old school" dance is May 12 at 8 p.m. at Erney's Ballroom, 1605 Pulaski Pike (between Oakwood Avenue and University Drive). Tickets cost \$15 and are available at Nurturing Nails, Salon Prestige & Boutique, and James Records & Tapes. For information call 603-9160 or 694-2527.

Prayer day

Restoration Church is the host site of The City of Madison National Day of Prayer 2007 event Thursday at 7 p.m. The Madison mayor will present a proclamation during the event. Refreshments are included. The church is at 5810 Wall Triana Highway, off of Highway 72. "All are welcome to attend and church doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for those wanting or needing prayer," a prepared release said. "We are seeking prayer warriors." For more information, call Larry Ward 325-7313 or visit www.ndptf.org.

Commissary sales

The Commissary will have case lot sales May 16-19 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. "We're very proud of our employees who work hard in providing our customers with a well-stocked store and clean, pleasant shopping environment," store director Amber Bray said. "Some of our employees were recognized recently as being 'high achievers' at the Redstone Arsenal Commissary Team Meeting. When you see them in the store, please congratulate them. They truly deserve it!" For information on products currently on promotion or sale at the Commissary, visit the Defense Commissary Agency's web site www.commissaries.com.

Aeronautical university

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is now registering for the summer term, May 29 to July 30.

Rocket Announcements

Classes offered include Production and Procurement in Aviation/Aerospace, Supply Chain Management, Astronomy, Public Administration, and Strategic Management of Technical Operations. Deadline to register is May 25. For more information, call 876-9763 or visit ERAU Huntsville in the Education Center, building 3222.

Master's in management

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, among others. 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 huntsville.center@erau.edu.

Job fair

The Alabama Career Centers in Huntsville, Decatur and the Shoals area are coordinating a Military/Civilian Job Fair on May 17 from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. at Calhoun Community College on Highway 31. They have several employers scheduled including Adtran, American Proteins, Alldyne, Decatur City Police, Comcast, Intergraph, Kelly Services, Product Action, Satellites Unlimited, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Verizon Wireless, West Corporation, and Westwind Technologies. Still Serving Veterans will also be present.

