

Redstone Rocket

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Santa makes rounds on post

Redstone children better watch out

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Santa Claus has an important date on Redstone Arsenal this Saturday.

At the request of the Sergeant Major Association, Santa Claus will pull himself away from the hustle and bustle of making lists of good girls and boys, and watching over his elves as they make toys to spend a few hours visiting with children in Arsenal neighborhoods.

And, along with Santa Claus will come plenty of Christmas cheer courtesy of the Sergeant Major Association, the Redstone Arsenal Fire Department and post security.

"This visit from Santa Claus is unique to Redstone Arsenal," said retired Sgt. Maj. Jean Rose, who helps coordinate the annual Santa Run.

"I was in the Army for nearly 30 years and this is the only place I know of in the military where Santa Claus visits the neighborhoods. Redstone Arsenal and its children are very special to Santa Claus."

Santa will meet with members of the Sergeant Major Association — who will serve as his temporary elves during the Santa Run — at the Vincent Fire Station at about 9 a.m. Shortly after arriving, Santa will hop up into the back of a pickup truck, take his place on a special Christmas chair and allow his elves to drive him through Arsenal neighborhoods. Santa will visit Columbia Centre, Voyager Village, Apollo Landing, Freedom Landing, Pathfinder Pointe, Endeavor Village, New Endeavor Village, Saturn Pointe and Challenger Heights neighborhoods.

As Santa makes his way through the neighborhoods, his fire and police escorts will sound their sirens and his elves will call children out from their homes to sit on Santa's lap so they can talk to him about their wish lists.

"The sirens will wake up the neighborhoods and the kids will come running out," said retired Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain, secretary of the Sergeant Major Association.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

ALL SMILES— It doesn't take much to put smiles on the faces of children when Santa Claus is around. Last year — the Seltzer family, including from left, children Thomas, Joey, Grace and Sarah, and their father, Staff Sgt. Scott Seltzer — was ready for Santa's visit. Each child got to sit on Santa's lap and talk to him about their Christmas wish list during the annual Santa Run. Santa Claus makes the special visit to Redstone Arsenal's neighborhoods each year at the invitation of the Sergeant Major Association.

"One year we had to wait so the kids would wake up and come out. We're always glad to wait for them, and we'll even go back and get them if they don't get outside when we come by. We'll take the children right up to the truck. We want to make sure we don't miss any kids."

Children don't have to be dressed in "proper attire" to visit with Santa. "A lot will come out in their pajamas or with coats on over their pajamas," McSwain said. "Most of the children are really excited about seeing Santa and they'll just run out to him and want to jump up on his lap. They can sit with Santa with their brothers or sisters or even with a parent."

Santa will have time to talk with all children who visit him during the Santa Run. Parents are welcome to take pictures of their children with Santa.

"We love bringing Santa to the children," said Rose, who has been one of the Santa Run elves for about 10 seasons. "It's a fun way to give back to the children of Soldiers. Just seeing the looks on the children's faces

when they see Santa is our reward."

Some children will actually run through the neighborhoods hoping to get a chance to talk to Santa a second time.

"They will be on one street where they will see Santa," Rose said. "And, then we will watch them run through the yards and greet Santa on another street."

While many children will ask for toys — a new doll or a new truck, a video game or a paint set, to name a few — many will also ask for special gifts for their parents. Some will even ask Santa to bring a parent home for Christmas.

"The children are so sweet and innocent," retired Sgt. Maj. David Rivera said. "A lot of them will ask for something for somebody else, like their mom or dad. If they have a parent who is deployed, they will tell Santa how much they miss them. Every single year, Santa hears children ask for their mommy to come home or for their daddy to come home. The children are absolutely wonderful."

See Santa on page 3

An open lane random survey

What's the best Christmas you've ever had?

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Alan McKelvy
Chugach Refrigeration Shop
"They've all been good to me – (especially) 1988 when my first child was born, and then my second child too in 1994. (Kimberly will be 20 on Jan. 22, and Emily will be 14 on Aug. 10.)"

Spc. Brian Kausek
Bicentennial Chapel

"I've spent a lot of my Christmases in Iraq recently. I'd say the best so far was last year. That was when my family was able to get together. But I have to say this year might top that. I have a lot of family fun; we're enjoying setting up the lights and everything."



Francine Stone
Garrison Morale Welfare and Recreation

"The one that stands out the most in my mind is the last Christmas that we spent in Vincennes, Ind., (in 1999). And my

whole family – to include nieces and nephews and brother and sisters and their spouses – were all together. And it was our last chance to take a family portrait before losing my father. There was snow on the ground. We were able to do snow sledding. It was so much fun."

Stephanie Stone
Garrison Morale Welfare and Recreation

"Best Christmas I've ever had was in December of 2002 at my parents' house (in Priceville, Ala.). That was most memorable because it was the last one with my father."



What I want for Christmas

Over the past couple of weeks driving around on the Arsenal, I have been thinking about what I want for Christmas and here is my list.

More handicap parking at the PX and Commissary. It seems to me that I recently read somewhere that we have a retired community of between 50,000 and 60,000. I don't know if the number is right or wrong but what I do know is that on many occasions disabled parking spaces are full. Can we add a few more spots?

More cashiers at the Commissary. In the past several months I have been in the Commissary a half dozen times. What I have seen is between 60 to 70 people standing in line waiting to check out and only four regular registers open. I was in the Commissary last week to pick up bread and milk. When I saw the lines, I did an about face and walked out. If there are peak times, can we open an extra checkout line?

People to hang up their cell phones when driving on the Arsenal. Seems like I am seeing more and more folks in cars with one hand on the wheel and one holding a cell phone to their ear. Is there someone you can call with the license plate number of

the offending driver?

Richard R. Rice

Editor's note: Regarding the cashiers, the Commissary provided the following response. "The shopping pattern of our customers' shopping has changed. The Commissary customer service manager is adjusting schedules to meet these demands.

Best times to shop at your local Commissary are Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m."

The Garrison provided the following response on parking at the PX and Commissary.

"Regarding handicap parking spaces at the PX/Commissary, we currently have approximately double the number of spaces required. The latest figures indicate approximately 70,000 retirees in the surrounding community. Considering this large number, we will certainly re-evaluate the situation and add more handicap parking if truly warranted. Thank you for a Christmas list that is actually an effort to make improvements to benefit our entire Redstone community."

Quote of the week

'Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.'

— Calvin Coolidge

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.

Thieves come out for holidays

Yes, it's time for the thieves to come out of the woodwork and try to dampen our holiday spirits! Those of us who aren't thieves, we just can't think like them; so I'm writing this letter to remind everyone to keep your belongings in hand, and not to leave anything in the car, no matter where you park!

I parked at Huntsville's public library Saturday morning and walked a couple blocks away to watch the Christmas parade. I stuffed my purse under the front seat before I even got to the library, with about one-third showing if you pressed your face against the window to look.

You know the rest of the story... Upon my return I found my window smashed and the purse stolen. A lot of my life was whisked away with that purse! And it's taking a lot more of my life to get it all replaced (not to mention the cost). The thief didn't get much cash for his trouble, but while he/she has probably gone on to bigger "reward," I'm still caught up in trying to get everything put back together.

So just remember, if you find yourself saying, "Just this once will be OK," give yourself a mental slap and remember to think like a thief!

Carolyn Cunningham

Redstone Rocket has holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* will celebrate the holidays by taking a two-week break Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. After the Dec. 19 publication, our first issue next year is Jan. 9. We hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday season.



Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: Christal Howard

Job: Administrative management specialist, Garrison Morale Welfare and Recreation

Where do you call home?
Sunnyland, Ill.

What do you like about your job?
Everything – the people, helping Soldiers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Read. Curl up in bed and read a good book on a Sunday afternoon. My husband, John, would say I play on the computer too much (laugh). (John Howard is manager of the Bowling Center.)

What are your goals?
I want to go back to school and get my accounting degree. That's something I've always wanted to do since I was in high school. And I'd like to spend more time with my two beautiful granddaughters (Kalei Barnes, 7, and Madison Siebert, 1½).

What's your favorite type of music?
Soft rock

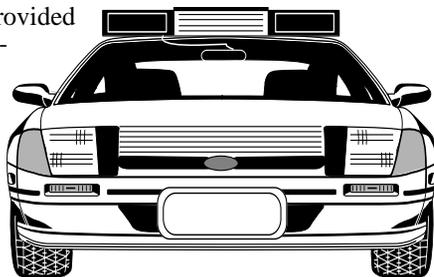


Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

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

Violation notices issued: 14 speeding, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 expired tags, 1 failure to yield, 1 following too close, 12 parking violations.



Sergeants Major share their holiday cheer with Santa visit

Santa

continued from page 1

When Rivera was stationed at Redstone Arsenal in 1993-94, his daughter Angela got to visit Santa on his annual Santa Run.

"She was 9 or 10 at the time," Rivera recalled. "It was very fun for her. It's a wonderful memory that we have."

Even though the Santa Run has been an annual event on Redstone Arsenal for more than 10 years, it still catches children and their parents by surprise.

"We publish the Santa Run in the *Redstone Rocket* and on the marquee on the Arsenal," Rivera said. "But, a lot of families just aren't aware until they hear the fire sirens in their neighborhood. They'll come running out-

side and they'll see Santa. The surprise on their faces is a lot of fun to see."

There are some children, though, who don't want to sit on Santa's lap or even visit with him. But, the elves know how to make sure they have fun, too.

"For those who are scared of Santa, we will go up to their door, give them some candy and wish them a 'Merry Christmas,'" McSwain said.

The elves enjoy sharing Christmas cheer with Arsenal children. The experience makes their holiday merrier, too.

"This is an opportunity for children to share their wishes with Santa. It brings excitement and fun and the joy of Christmas right to their doorstep," McSwain said.

"The Sergeant Major Association enjoys being a part of that. It gives all of us a good feeling."

AMCOM stays life cycle management command

Leaders reaffirm support during offsite meeting

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The life cycle management journey will continue at the Aviation and Missile Command.

AMCOM leaders reaffirmed their support for the life cycle management command concept at an offsite meeting Nov. 18-20 in Muscle Shoals. Several of these leaders had arrived in their current positions within the past year, including Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal.

"So, they didn't have the benefit of having gone through as much of LCMC as everyone else had gone through and how we got there," Dan Fox, a consultant in the Command Initiatives Group, said.

The first life cycle management command offsite was held in September 2004.

"What we decided to do for this offsite was to queue up some of the issues we had agreed on (in 2004) when we did the first LCMC offsite and figure out how these leaders want to do business," said Fox, who facilitated the meeting.

Twenty-seven people attended, including members of the LCMC integrated process team. The meeting represented an extension of the command's board of directors.

"We dealt with issues about how the

LCMC would operate. We dealt with issues like communication at the highest level of LCMC," Fox said. "And all the leaders talked about the direction that the LCMC should go in order to best support the Soldier."

Discussion topics included base realignment and closure, and its impact on the life cycle management command. Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, the program executive officer for missiles and space, talked about what he called "the perfect opportunity" with respect to the declining missile base.

"And after all of that discussion – a full day on Monday (Nov. 19) and part of the day on Tuesday (Nov. 20) – what came out of that was a reaffirmation of the importance of the LCMC as a way of doing business," Fox said.

Symbolically, four senior leaders signed a document titled "We Agree" which was printed in a traditional constitution-style format. They included Myles and Dellarocco; Paul Bogosian, program executive officer for aviation; and Dr. Bill McCorkle, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Steve Cornelius, deputy program executive officer for missiles and space, was among the first-time participants, like Dellarocco and Myles.

"As a new player in the AMCOM LCMC," Cornelius said, "the offsite provided a good opportunity for me to hear firsthand about issues from the leadership perspective concerning the inter-relationships between our weapon systems, platforms, and people across the entire life cycle."



Photo by Dan Fox

IN AGREEMENT— Signing the life cycle management command pact are, from left, Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, the program executive officer for missiles and space; Paul Bogosian, program executive officer for aviation; Dr. Bill McCorkle, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center; and Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.

Command reinvests in leaders for tomorrow

Three classes complete eight-month program

By SKIP VAUGHN

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A ceremony Dec. 5 at Bob Jones Auditorium showed AMCOM's commitment to leadership development.

Three classes graduated from the Leader Investment for Tomorrow, an eight-month training experience at the Aviation and Missile Command. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the classes' guest speakers, and certificates of completion were given to the LIFT participants.

"I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support (of the program)," Dr. Richard Amos, AMCOM deputy to the commanding general, said.

Amos told the graduates they have begun a lifelong learning experience. "When you stop learning about leadership, in my opinion you're done leading," he said.

The graduates were from Level II class 2, Level I class 3 and Level I class 4.

"I thought it was great, it really was," said Chris Swart, executive officer in AMCOM G-3 (Operations). "It gave us an opportunity to hear speakers that we would not have the opportunity to hear because we're all in different offices. The networking was great."

Lisa Welcher, an enterprise architecture analyst in the Lead AMC Integration Support Office, was among her classmates in Level I class 4.

"It was an outstanding opportunity to give us some leadership tools from many different perspectives, and super networking and teamwork opportunities," Welcher said, "a very good investment."

Homer Reynolds, a management analyst in AMCOM Resource Management,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

COMPARING NOTES— Lisa Welcher and Chris Swart were among the graduates from Leader Investment for Tomorrow, Level I class 4.

graduated from Level I class 3 which began in March.

"I think it's a great program. It provides you with an avenue of networking as well as seeing the big picture," Reynolds said. "I'm now looking forward to trying to get into LIFT II to continue my leadership journey."

Here are the graduates for each class:

- Level II class 2 – Suzanne Bird-

song, Pamela Bourque, Bobby Coney, Deborah Cornelius, William Dunson, Cheryl Wise, Thomas Neupert, Mary Ottman, Steve Rainsford, Tom Reynolds and Lisa Stangle;

- Level I class 3 – Tiffany Barnes, Castene Basham, Janet Childers, Paul Gradl, John J. Kelly, Tony L. Mason, Brian Murphy, William Pedersen, Homer Reynolds, Dexter Shelton, Sherman

Spencer, Tracy Swint-Lake, Tiffany Williams and Darryl Wright;

- Level I class 4 – Deon Davis, Peter Degenaar, Gleria Edwards, Jennifer Funderburk, Charles Green, Janie Harris, Bridgett Helem, Kim Henry, LeChara Meardry, Chris Swart, Jacqueline Timme, Lisa Welcher, Pamela Whitehead, Masao Williams, Monica Williams and Vicki Winters.

Ex-television exec gives leadership perspective

Workers encouraged to keep motivation

By DAN O'BOYLE and KIM HENRY
For the Rocket

Winding up the year with its first Leader Investment for Tomorrow alumni event, LIFT graduates gathered last week to hear Dr. Richard Amos, AMCOM deputy, and Linda Spalla, first female president and CEO at WHNT-TV, Chan-

nel 19, who provided a leader development perspective from her experience in working her way up from a secretarial position to the front office.

"I want to leave something on your mental doorstep today that will motivate you to change something about your life so that you can become a better leader," Spalla said. "After nine years as the general manager and 25 years as an employee at Channel 19, I thought that I had all the leadership skills that I needed in one bag. Then I got out into the volunteer

world and the world of non-profit boards. Boy have I learned a lot over the last seven years. A long as you aspire and learn to grow you will learn, that leadership — like parenting — is about leadership, not discipline."

That said, Spalla presented a leadership quiz to engage LIFT alumni, with the goal of holding the alums accountable for where they are in relation to what the question asks.

"Bear in mind: people respond to honesty, most of all," Spalla said. "So embrace some self-awareness even if you feel a little uncomfortable. My intent is to help you on your leadership journey."

"If you were around in 1975, I was 28 years old, divorced, jobless and homeless. I was a heck of a typist so I went to work for WHNT, when they were still up on the mountain. I told myself that I would have to start somewhere; well I moved up to a sales position, then to a sales manager position, then to the vice president of sales and management and asked in 1991 to be the president and general manager.

"I tell you this because if I did this, anybody can do this. What did I do that got me where I was? I worked my butt off and had a lot of luck on my side. Plus, I had great parents who taught me some core values which I have never forgotten. I never had a plan that was driven by ego; I trusted the process."

She said she had never asked anyone about being in management.

"Rather, I asked myself what am I going to do about it," Spalla said. "I came in early and I stayed late. There is no magic to moving up the line, but it was a visionary process for me."

"I'm a dirt scratcher. Sometimes, life hands us a dry, dusty piece of real estate and says you are going to live right here. Kicking and screaming, that's where we have to live; we have no choice."

"But, if you scratch and scratch and scratch that dry dusty piece of real estate and you water it with some tears and some perspiration from hard work, you can turn it into a fertile field. That's what happened to me; and never let go of that sense of motivation that you can make that happen."

Said Amos, "LIFT, which started two years ago, is about getting smart folks focused on journey toward leadership development as future civilian leaders."

For more LIFT information, call Jackie Timme at 876-6061.

"I think that it was an excellent idea," said Lorie Williams, international program manager for SAMD and LIFT I graduate. "The speaker was excellent and she provided key points and elements to help the current and potential leaders of AMCOM know what to do to foster excellence in leadership."



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

LEADER LECTURE— Former local television executive Linda Spalla quizzes LIFT students during an inaugural alumni gathering.

Security heightened at Sparkman Center

The AMCOM command group wants to help its workers stay safe and secure.

That's the impetus for increased security at the Sparkman Center, headquarters for the Aviation and Missile Command.

"As part of our enhanced security within the Sparkman Complex, armed security officers are now a part of our Physical Security Random Antiterrorism Measure Program," a command-wide e-

mail said. "Employees and visitors may be subject to the following additional security procedures: metal detection inspections (wanding); and X-ray inspections of briefcases, purses, packages, etc."

"Any incident from these increased security measures that could result in a security violation or disciplinary action will be handled in accordance with existing policies, procedures or regulations."

Program saves cash, Soldiers' lives



Photo by Skip Vaughn

HONOREE— Julie Smith of THAAD Project Office talks with Tom Reynolds, the Aviation and Missile Command's value engineering and life cycle cost reduction manager, after receiving the Robert Tarquine Value Engineering Achievement Award.

Value engineering more than monetary

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Team Redstone saved more than \$181 million through value engineering in fiscal 2007, but this was just the monetary achievement.

Increased efficiency of weapon systems helped save war fighters' lives, according to Tom Reynolds, the AMCOM value engineering and life cycle cost reduction manager.

The Aviation and Missile Command exceeded its \$107 million goal for value engineering in fiscal 2007 with over \$181 million, including \$88 million in actual savings and \$93 million in cost avoidance. Awards were presented to individuals and organizations Dec. 5 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"We had 14 organizational elements make their goal," Reynolds said. "The command made its goal for the 22nd year in a row. The monetary benefits were \$181 million of savings. The non-monetary (benefits) are probably even more important because they save lives and limbs in theater."

Dr. Richard Amos, AMCOM deputy to the commanding general, presented the plaques during the annual value engineering and life cycle cost reduction awards ceremony.

"To me VE (value engineering) and OSCR (operating and support cost reduction) are about the future," Amos said. "It's about how can we invest now in savings for the future."

Examples of value engineering accomplishments include: The development of ways to reclaim aviation components through the creation of repair procedures or the extension of damage limits in lieu

of buying new parts will save \$64 million. The implementation of a parts reclamation program utilizing Avengers that have been turned in to the supply system to replenish the demand requirements will save the government more than \$18 million over three years.

Operating and support cost reduction accomplishments include the following:

- Team Redstone funded four projects with an initial investment of \$14.7 million.

- The 10-year field savings are estimated to exceed \$91.3 million.

- Since fiscal 1996, some 108 projects have been funded for a total investment of \$66.3 million in redesign funds with a projected 10-year field savings of more than \$1.3 billion.

- The redesign of the OH-58 Kiowa Mast Mounted Sight System Processor will mitigate critical obsolescence issues by replacing numerous circuit cards with a state-of-the-art two card system processor and has estimated field savings of \$30 million over the next decade, for example. The redesign of the AH-64 Servo Actuators will reduce major leakage problems in the servos and improve reliability by 50 percent with estimated field savings of \$41 million over the next 10 years.

The 11th annual Robert Tarquine Award, for achievement in value engineering, was presented to Julie Smith, obsolescence management leader in the THAAD Project Office. The award is named for the late Robert Tarquine of the Patriot Project Office, now known as the Lower Tier Project Office.

Smith worked in the Value Engineering Office from 1989-96. The office is in the industrial operations division within the Engineering Directorate at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

"I can take what I learned in the VE office and apply it to what I do today," Smith said.

Dining facility scaling down for holidays

Most Soldiers going home

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The troop dining facility staffers expect the usual lull in the holiday season when the Soldiers leave for home.

But the facility will be open as always. "We're here for the troops that are left behind," Dan Tyree, contract manager for K&K Food Service, said. "We're here still providing them quality service and quality meals."

The dining facility's 57-member staff will be scaled back during the holidays. On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, about 35 will work. About 45 people are usually working in the two shifts daily.

"For Christmas Day, the dining facility will prep for 250. A big percentage of it will be retirees."

— Hal Weatherman
food program manager

"I'm even taking off this year," said Tyree, who'll be away Dec. 26 until Jan. 2 to visit family members out of town. This is just his second vacation in eight years; his first came October 2004.

Food program manager Hal Weatherman will be at work.

"Thanksgiving was a big success for us,"

Weatherman said. "We did 605 (diners)."

Weatherman knows there won't be nearly that many Christmas Day, with the Soldier trainees on block leave from Dec. 20 until Jan. 2.

"For Christmas Day, the dining facility will prep for 250," he said. "A big percentage of it will be retirees."

All authorized personnel can eat lunch from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 25. Dinner is from 3-5:30 p.m.

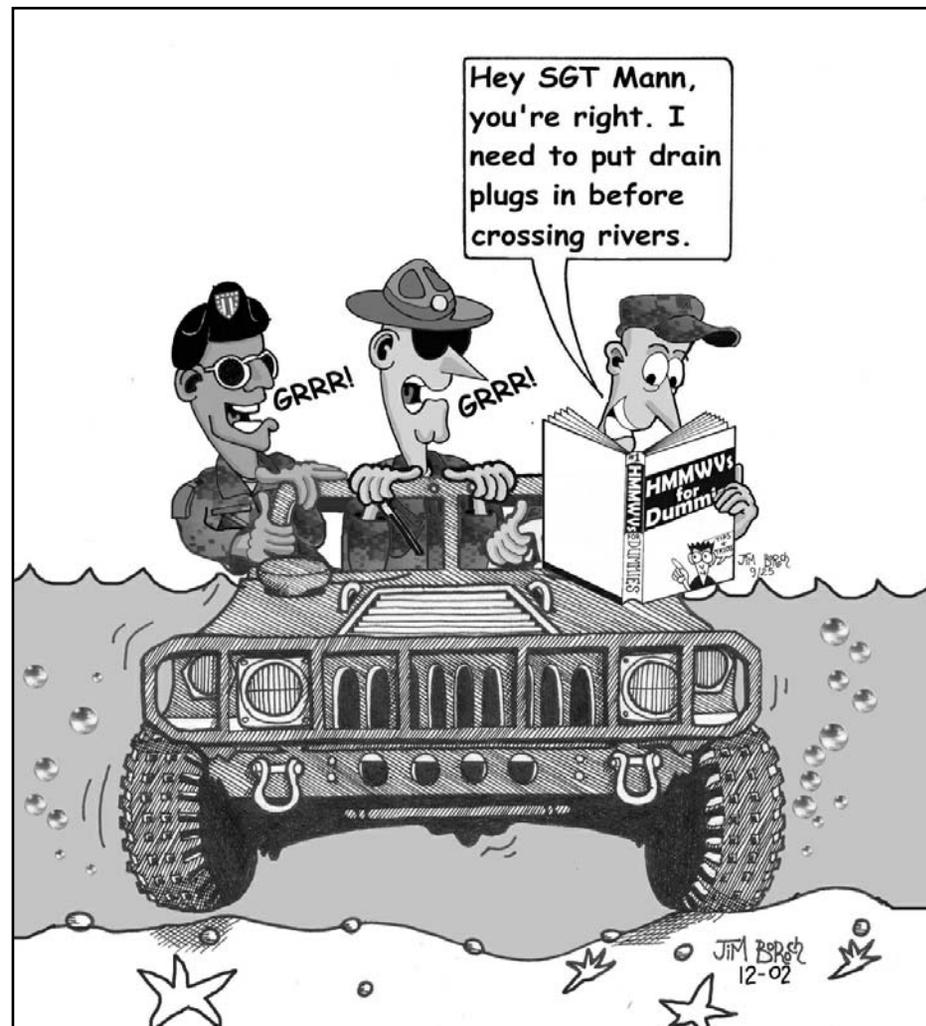
The meal rate is \$6.05 for all active duty military, their spouses, and retirees and their spouses. It's \$5.15 for family members of E-4 and below. Children 6 and younger eat free. Retiree diners are authorized their spouse and one guest. All personnel who are on meal card status, or not receiving separate ration, will eat free.

Normally the dining facility serves 1,800 people daily, the total for all three meals, but that won't be the case during the holidays. "Our head count goes from 1,800 a day down to about 30 a day during block leave," Weatherman said.

"The contractor (K&K) does a lot of cleaning in the facility during that time," he said. "During that time we're getting all geared up for when (the Soldiers) return on Jan. 2nd."

"Our outlook for the new year is hopefully taking care of the Soldier as best we can, and showing our appreciation for the job they do in the military."

The Christmas menu, basically the same as Thanksgiving's, includes roast turkey, baked ham, beef steamship round and chicken cordon bleu, steamed asparagus, seasoned corn and green beans, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes. The facility also offers shrimp cocktail, a full salad bar, assorted pastries and beverages.



Units add 30 Soldiers in month

Soldiers arrived at Redstone units during November. The Garrison provided the following list, which may include some who were already here but were reassigned to other units:

Capt. Marcella Jerraine Barnett, Garrison; Capt. Chad Moniz, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Capt. Stephen Faherty, PEO STRI Orlando; Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Joseph Smith III, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Lt. Col. Michael Weaver, Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas; Maj. James Smallwood, Space and Missile Defense Command; Maj. Kevin Chaney, PEO Aviation; Maj. Andrew Carter, AQTMC Contingent; Master Sgt. Terrence Hamil, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Master Sgt. Stanley Hodges, HHC 59th; Pvt. David Cobb, SCHHC; Pvt. Anthony Woodall, SCHHC; Pvt. Matthew Moreno, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. 1st

Class Felix Green, SMDC; Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey McLean, HHC 59th;

Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Wells, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lamont Taylor, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Terry McKalope, Aviation and Missile Command; Sgt. 1st Class John Brett Green, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Tincknell, HHC 59th; Sgt. Maranda Green, HHC 59th; Spc. Mickey Hensley, Medical Department Activity; Staff Sgt. Tamara Price, Headquarters & Alpha; Staff Sgt. Angelo Alarcon, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School; Staff Sgt. Eduardo Pena, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Ricardo Resto, Charlie Company; Staff Sgt. John Sweeden, Bravo Company; Staff Sgt. Michael Bell, Headquarters & Alpha; Staff Sgt. Troy Davis, OMEMS; and Staff Sgt. Johnnie Akins, Headquarters & Alpha.

Auto Skills Center builds car confidence

Facility open house rolls in Dec. 18

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY
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As cars have gotten more advanced, working on them has become more expensive and intimidating. Some people have lost the confidence to undertake maintenance and repair projects on their own. The Auto Skills Center is there to give the knowledge and encouragement to get that confidence back.

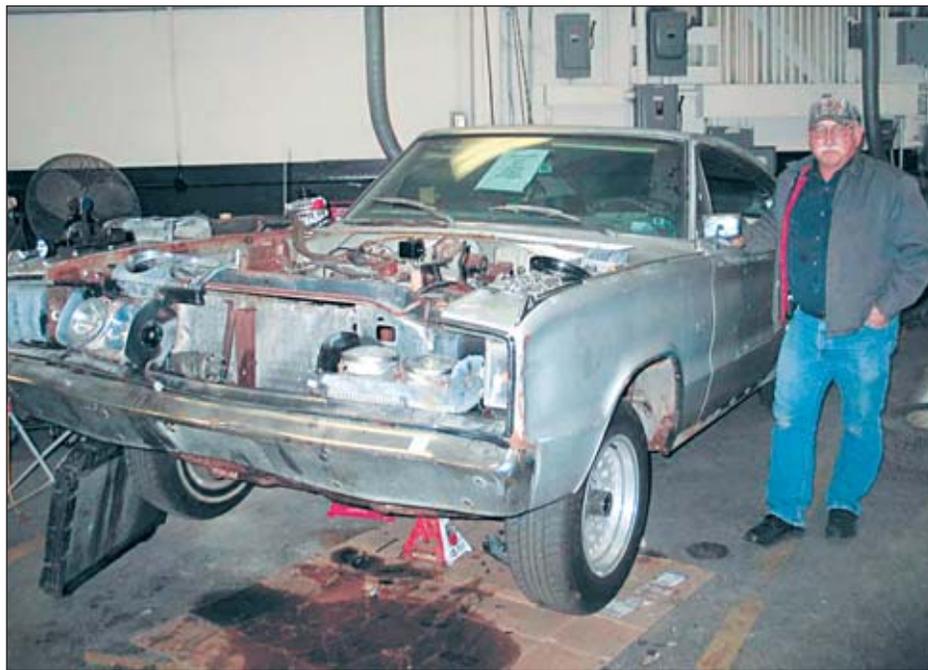
The facility has won a 2007 award for the best auto skills center in the Southeast region.

"Our job is to make people not be intimidated by the tools and the job," Bill Woosley, Auto Skills Center business manager, said. "We do a pretty good job of that."

The center is a fully functional garage and body shop. Inside, there are all the tools you could need to complete almost any automotive project – including a staff that knows what they're doing. There is an experienced instructor on the premises to guide customers through any project.

"We can help them do anything from minor oil changes to major body work and paint," Woosley said. "If people are afraid to tackle it by themselves, we have trained instructors to guide them through it and show them how easy it is to do it themselves."

If more information is needed, Woosley said, they have Mitchell on Demand. It is a computerized database of information, specifications, instructions and pretty much anything else you could possibly want to know about a car or its components. Using Mitchell is free for those working on their vehicle on-site. They will, however, print information for



WORK IN PROGRESS— Bill Woosley is restoring this 1967 Dodge Charger, in part, to show what can be accomplished using the tools and equipment at the Auto Skills Center. He is the facility's business manager.

Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

those working on a car at home to take with them for 25 cents a sheet.

In a time where nearly everything associated with a car is a shock to the wallet, prices to use the equipment at the center are low. There is no charge to use the tools themselves. The larger equipment — such as welders, vehicle lifts and tire changers — is rented for modest fees. Customers can bring their own parts to work on a vehicle, or have the center order them from a local supplier.

"They usually deliver to us in about 30 minutes," Woosley said. "We order our parts at a reduced fee. People are amazed how much they can save on parts and

doing it themselves."

Saving people money is a big part of what they do at the Auto Skills Center. In addition to free tool use and discounted parts, they also offer towing service at a rate well below that of outside providers. The base rate is \$35. For that flat fee, they will travel to the location of a vehicle to be picked up — no matter where that is.

"We've gone past Atlanta, down to Mobile and even out to Memphis," Woosley said. "You name it, we'll go."

Included in that base fee is delivery of up to 10 miles from where they picked it up. Beyond that range, it is 75 cents per mile to the destination. That can mean substantial savings to the customer. Average rate for a simple tow across town in Huntsville is about \$50. It can also be difficult to find a provider that will pick up or drop off on the installation.

"We had a guy whose car had broken down outside of Atlanta. Outside providers quoted him around \$450 to bring it back here," Woosley said. "I believe his total bill from us ended up being round \$250."

Woosley is excited about a new paint booth they will be constructing to replace the older one. They are simply waiting on the permit to be issued to get under way. He is also proud to offer air conditioning services to the center's customers. Besides coolant for newer models, they also carry R12 coolant for older and classic cars.

"We do it cheaper than anybody in town or in the state of Alabama," Woosley said.

Classic cars are a passion of his. Woosley first came to the Auto Skills Center as a customer in 1973. Woosley, then an Army private, was working on the transmission of his 1965 Chevy. He remained a customer whenever he was stationed in the area until he retired here in 1993. He took over facility management in 2000. In July of this year, he found his new baby on eBay — a 1967 Dodge Charger. It is housed at the center, where it is undergoing a total "numbers matching" restoration. Woosley estimates that he is at the halfway point in the job. That puts him right on schedule for his target completion date of July/August 2008.

"There is a cruise-in in my hometown that I'm going to drive it to," he said.

He plans to drive the completed Charger from the center all the way to Hood River, Ore. Woosley said this is to be his everyday driving vehicle. He is carefully documenting every step of the restoration process with pictures. When it is all done, he plans to display the photos at the center.

"I want people to see what you can do here with our tools and your time," he said.

He invites the public to come take a look at all they have to offer at the facility during their open house event Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be door prizes and free finger-foods.

"The hot wings are usually pretty popular," Woosley said laughing.

Instructors will be offering free winter safety inspections for vehicles. Every hour they will hold a safety class covering equipment, tool and personal safety issues and procedure. Each class attendee will be awarded a safety card for attending the class. That card is the only requirement to use the facility, other than having proper installation access. The class takes about 20 to 30 minutes. It is also offered every day the facility is open.

Auto Skill Center hours are Wednesday through Friday from 1:30 to 10 p.m. with a safety class available at 7. The facility is open Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a safety class at 9 a.m. They are closed Mondays, Tuesdays and all federal holidays. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 955-7727 or visit the web site www.redstonemwr.com/html/auto.html.

"The staff and volunteers here are great. We're as professional as we can be," Woosley said. "But at the same time we want you to be as comfortable here as you would be in your own garage at home. Come out to the open house and see what we have to offer."

Honor Flight in rush to honor veterans



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TIME FOR REMEMBRANCES— Two of Honor Flight’s alumni, World War II seaman Jim Tullos, left, and merchant marine Hank Hagler, right, along with Hagler’s wife, Kitty, talk about their experiences on the Sept. 15 Honor Flight to see their memorial in Washington, D.C. Tullos and Hagler were among seven veterans from Latham United Methodist Church who were on the September flight. Tullos was the first veteran to sign up for the Honor Flight program when it was first announced in January.

Organization wants to take 500 to see their memorial in 2008

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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It’s no coincidence that the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Honor Flight holds press conferences at Huntsville’s Veterans Memorial Museum.

At those news events during the past year, sitting among the World War II hardware that helped win the war, have been the Soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen whose longevity in life defies the plans of the Axis powers to forever annihilate American freedom.

Just as they did all those years ago, these World War II veterans stand for the American dream of liberty and freedom over tyranny. But, as the years pass, so do they, taking from today’s U.S. citizens the chance to thank them for their dedication, commitment, courage and sacrifice in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

So, it was only fitting that the Dec. 6 Honor Flight press conference – held on the eve of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that forced the U.S. to enter the fight – launched a fund-raising campaign under the theme “2008 Before It’s Too Late.”

“The World War II memorial was built nearly 60 years after the end of the war. It was dedicated in 2004,” Honor Flight president Joe Fitzgerald said. “Of the 16 million Americans who served in uniform in World War II, only 3 million remain. Of those 3 million, 1,200 to 1,500 die each day. For those reasons, the World War II veterans who want to see their memorial are the first group of veterans being recognized by Honor Flight. World War II veterans are our first priority because they need to see their memorial before they pass away or become too ill to travel.”

To reach that goal, Honor Flight has scheduled four trips to Washington, D.C. for 2008 – April 19, May 31, Sept. 13 and Oct. 18 — to take 500 WWII veterans to see their memorial and to visit Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Korean War memorial and the Marine Corps memorial. That is a drastic jump from the inaugural flight of 14 in April 2007 and the 117 who flew on a chartered Honor Flight airplane in September.

“Each flight is expected to cost between \$90,000 and \$100,000, or about \$800 per veteran,” Fitzgerald said. “Enough money has been raised to pay for the April 19th trip, but we must raise \$300,000 to pay for the remaining trips. We are hoping citizens and corporations will make donations to help make the dreams of these World War II veterans come true before they are all gone.”

By the end of the press conference, Honor Flight was a bit closer to its \$300,000 goal. Representatives of the Space and Missile Defense Command 50th Anniversary Celebration and Woody Anderson Ford each presented checks for \$7,000 to Honor Flight.

WWII merchant marine Hank Hagler, who was on the September flight, hopes

other WWII veterans will be able to experience the Honor Flight trip. Hagler’s experience surpassed all his expectations.

“The whole doggone thing was fantastic,” he said, smiling. “I liked traveling with all them old folks to see our memorial. But, the most surprising thing was the group of people of all ages who met us at the airport in Washington, D.C. They gave us a hero’s welcome.

“This was some trip for a merchant marine like me who helped to haul cargo, troops and supplies across the Pacific and Atlantic oceans during World War II. We didn’t even know we were veterans until about 15 years ago.”

His friend WWII seaman Jim Tullos was amazed at the organization of the September trip and enjoyed seeing the memorials. But, he, too, was most surprised by the reception the group received at Reagan International Airport.

“It was very emotional,” he said. “There were people there who we had never seen. It made your eyes sort of weepy.”

One of the veterans speaking at the press conference was Pearl Harbor survivor Bill Jackson, who fought against the Japanese air attack with a .25-caliber, anti-aircraft machine gun.

“The Japanese planes came over and we fired at them, but I don’t think we hit them,” recalled the 93-year-old veteran. “It was a terrible day. Pearl Harbor was ... they really tore that place up.”

The surprise dawn attack on Pearl Harbor killed more than 2,400 Americans, destroyed the U.S.S. Arizona, capsized the U.S.S. Oklahoma, sank three other ships, damaged many U.S. vessels and destroyed 180 U.S. aircraft.

Jackson still has “mighty memories” of that day. He visits Pearl Harbor every year, but said he doesn’t know if he will get there next year, adding that “I’m getting age-y.”

Though Pearl Harbor launched America’s involvement in the war, one of the war’s defining moments came on Iwo Jima, where 6,825 Marines were killed and another 27,909 were injured. Victory at Iwo Jima led to the establishment of a base on the island for U.S. aircraft operations over Japan.

“I broke down and cried when I walked up to that flag waving memorial,” said WWII Marine veteran Jimmy Tanner, who was on Honor Flight’s inaugural trip in April.

“I was in the 5th Marine Division and I was on the opposite side of the airport when the 4th Marine Division put up that flag. We fought 13 more days after that flag went up. When I walked up to the memorial, I had to break down. It’s one thing I’ll always remember.”

It wasn’t long after the Marines secured the first airport on Iwo Jima that the first B29 bomber – with its landing gear shot out – came in for an emergency landing.

“I really knew then why Iwo Jima was so important to us,” Tanner said. “We needed the island to take care of the crippled planes shot out over Japan.”

Fitzgerald, whose father also fought on Iwo Jima, said Iwo Jima saved the lives of

Honoring the 20,000th Hellfire missile

Team leaders cite milestone, thank production workers

By JULIE FREDERICK
For the Rocket

The Army and Lockheed Martin team have marked the delivery of the 20,000 Hellfire missile to servicemembers by taking the celebration to the work force.

Team leaders spent three days visiting all three Lockheed production facilities for Hellfire at Troy, Ala., Ocala and Orlando, Fla., to say thank you for quick, quality work.

"Flexibility, quality, safety... I don't know what else to ask for from a team," Col. Mike Cantor, project manager for Joint Attack Munitions Systems, said. "Your work is bringing American Soldiers home every day and I am proud to be a part of this team."

The celebration was about program and team solidarity, according to Cantor.

"I have a hard time pointing out government from contractor," he said, "and that speaks volumes about the government contractor team that we have."

Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, program executive officer for missiles and space, agreed that teamwork was critical.

"We are teamed up on a program that has produced extraordinary results," Dellarocco said. "This is a hallmark for Army weapons systems and the relationship between government and industry."

The development contract for Hellfire II modular missile system was signed in 1990, with first delivery five years later. Since then, the Hellfire team has worked to respond to evolving war-fighter needs, addressing changing operational environments in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Part of the goal of the traveling celebration was to also bring the user and his perspective on the system to the production work force.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Doug Sanders, representing the user, thanked the workers for their contribution and shared his experiences with the missile system in theater.

"I will never again look at this system without thinking of all the people who go into making it," Sanders said.

He said there are three things that the system does really well: standoff capability, minimal collateral damage and reliability.

"Standoff capability is important because, there is nothing quite as important as being able to reach out and touch the enemy before they can touch you," he said. "The ability for minimal collateral damage — were it not for Hellfire and its precision guidance capability, there were many engagements that would not have been possible. Reliability, I can tell you that I have never missed with a Hellfire in combat, and it's not because I'm so great."

Sanders also provided the request of the day that got the workers on their feet and energized for the next 20,000 missiles.

"We are really busy over there, so if you could make more, that would be great," he said.



Lockheed Martin photo

MILESTONE— From left, plant manager Rick Hulcher, Col. Mike Cantor, Scottie Lee, Marv Smith and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Doug Sanders tour the Lockheed Martin Pike County production facility during a recent visit to mark the 20,000 delivery of the Hellfire missile to servicemembers. Army leadership and company executives noted the missile's value in current operations and work force achievements in Troy, Ala., Ocala and Orlando, Fla.

■ Donations sought to help veterans visit Washington

Flight

continued from page 10

25,000 U.S. aircrews whose planes were damaged coming out from Japan.

"At the base of the memorial, Jimmy told me 'I've lived a lot of days, but this is the best day of my life.' That's why we are doing Honor Flight," Fitzgerald said.

Steve Elliott, whose father, WWII veteran Ray Elliott, died before he could go on the September flight, said just knowing he'd been selected for Honor Flight made his father's last days happy ones.

"It put sunshine in his life where he had very little because he was combating cancer and other problems," Elliott said, tearfully. "There are no words to express what it meant to him."

One veteran who managed to put off his death long enough to make September's Honor Flight was Navy veteran Leo "Sam" Jones, who died on Oct. 16.

"He died content and grateful," said his widow, June Jones, who spoke to the press conference audience about the sacrifices families made before and during the war.

"There was a oneness in this country then," she said. "There was time for laughter, time for talk, time to listen to stories. We were one family and we cared for each other ... When a family with a Soldier had a flag in their window with a blue star that was changed to gold, we knew what happened. We went to that person and shared tears. That was our family."

Jones was 16 when President Franklin Roosevelt announced to the nation that America was going to war.

"He said 'This will be a long and dangerous war. Every man and child will sacrifice.' And, we did gladly," Jones said. "Every bit of string, every bit of grease, every piece of tinfoil ... we saved every tiny bit of everything. Among all the hardships of war, we learned courage and perseverance and how to take care of each other."

Jones met her future husband a few years after he returned from war. The young men who returned "were like sponges. They wanted to learn. They wanted to go on with their lives. They wanted to have a family and children ...

"We all changed. You were real. You cared. The whole world had become your family, your people."

WWII veteran Jim Daniels said Honor Flight and the group of volunteers who run the organization have given all Tennessee Valley veterans "a gift, a wonderful honor."

"It's not a matter of going to see cement walls and spewing water," he said of the memorial. "It is a material representation of all the spirits and souls of anyone who was a part in any way of World War II."

Editor's note: Donations to Honor Flight can be sent to Honor Flight - Tennessee Valley Chapter, c/o The Huntsville Times, P.O. Box 1487 West Station, Huntsville, AL 35807. Donations to Honor Flight are tax deductible. For more information, check out the Honor Flight web site at www.honor-flight.net.

Trail ends for drill sergeants at school



Advanced individual training role assumed by platoon sergeants

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The sergeants may wear a different hat, but this won't change how they train their Soldiers.

Drill sergeants have become a thing of the past for advanced individual training throughout the Training and Doctrine Command. They are being replaced by platoon sergeants.

"What they want to do is replicate the regular Army," Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Pullom, the 832nd Ordnance Battalion sergeant major, said. "When a Sol-

dier leaves AIT, they'll be going to the operational Army. What they want to do is replicate the operational Army here (at AIT), because when they get to the regular Army they have a squad leader, a platoon sergeant and a platoon leader. And that's what we're replicating here. So when they get to their regular Army unit they'll know what the regular Army should look like, what their leadership structure should be like."

The drill sergeants of the 59th Ordnance Brigade turned in their hats and became platoon sergeants in a ceremony Dec. 3 at Heiser Hall. These included five noncommissioned officers with Bravo Company and five NCOs with Charlie Company.

Each sergeant presented his or her traditional hat to Pullom and replaced it with a beret.

This marked the end of a 21-year tradition at Redstone, beginning with the arrival of the Arsenal's first AIT drill sergeant, Calvin Archie, in May 1986. Retired Sgt. Maj. Archie was among the ceremony's attendees.

Sgt. Maj. Yvette Bonner, the guest speaker, described the contribution by drill sergeants of the past and present.

"They were or are all NCOs — the backbone of our Army," Bonner, a former Redstone drill sergeant who is now assigned to CASCOC as a doctrine developer for the Joint and Multinational Doctrine Branch, said. She emphasized that the noncommissioned officers' training mission will continue.

"America's youth will continue to be trained to defeat any enemy on today's battlefield," she said.

Photo by Skip Vaughn
HAT'S OFF— Sgt. 1st Class Chelsie Stokes, right, of Charlie Company turns in his drill sergeant hat to 832nd Ordnance Battalion's Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Pullom and receives a platoon sergeant beret.



FINAL OATH— Redstone's 10 drill sergeants recite their creed at the beginning of the drill sergeant hat removal ceremony Dec. 3 at Heiser Hall.

Photo by Skip Vaughn



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Avenger display

From left, Ron Helton, Bert James, Keff Edwards, Cruise Missile Defense Project Office support contractors, attend the unveiling of an Avenger static display on the south side of building 5250, headquarters for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space. The Avenger is deployed around the world, including the national capitol region, providing air defense capabilities. Avengers will be in the field until at least 2018.

Kentucky native closes priceless career

Grew up in Appalachia; retiring from LOGSA

By GLEN ADAMS
For the Rocket

As LOGSA's Connie Carlson prepares to retire Jan. 3, she can look back with some wonder at how far she has come from her childhood in Kentucky's Appalachia.

"I grew up in Salt Lick, which was a town of around 450 people with no stop lights, a little main street and one grocery store," Carlson said. "My dad was a mechanic for the local car dealer, but most other people had to go elsewhere for work. There was no employment there except for farming. If you could get any kind of good job in Salt Lick, you were considered a success."

After graduating second of 93 in her high school class, Carlson went to college one year on a scholarship. Her mother suggested she take the Civil Service test, she did, and instead of returning to school, she began her Army career as a GS-2 typist at Lexington Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., in September 1971. She would spend the next 10 years in various secretarial jobs.

Her big career break came in 1981

when she and nine other secretaries were selected for the Materiel Maintenance Management Intern Program. She graduated first in her class at the Army's School of Engineering & Logistics and began work at the Materiel Readiness Support Activity in Lexington as a maintenance management specialist. During her tenure at MRSA, she served as the Army Materiel Command representative to the Army's Maintenance Management Committee and helped revise the Army pamphlet covering the maintenance management system.

Carlson faced a difficult decision in the late 1980s when the Army announced it was moving MRSA from Kentucky to Huntsville, where it would become part of the Logistics Support Activity. A lifelong Kentuckian and ardent University of Kentucky Wildcats supporter, she definitely didn't want to leave Kentucky. But by the time MRSA moved in 1993, Connie had decided she needed to follow her job. And now she's glad she did.

"Now I see the move to Alabama as part of God's plan for me," she said. "I was promoted here, I married here, I



Connie Carlson

found a wonderful church here. Huntsville has become a good home."

She and her husband, Marv, married in 1995. He is the logistics branch chief for the Extended Range Multi-Purpose Unmanned Aircraft System.

During her 14 years at LOGSA, Carlson has worked to improve the quality of maintenance data LOGSA collects from throughout the Army. In 1995, her efforts were rewarded when she was named

LOGSA's Federal Woman of the Year. In 2001 she was shifted to LOGSA's Soldiers and Systems Support Division, where she helped develop data integrity work groups.

Targets office director sees right time for retirement

Steve Milburn is on target with his retirement plans.

Milburn, director of the Redstone Arsenal based Targets Management Office — under the Project Manager Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators, Program Executive Office Simulation, Training and Instrumentation — will bring his 46-year association with the Army to a close Dec. 31.

"The time is right," said Milburn, TMO director since November 2000.

He retired from the military in 1982 and began his civilian career that year. Like his 20 years in the military, civil service also brought multiple trips to a dozen countries and U.S. testing/training sites to provide acquisition project and targets services deliveries for U.S. and allied forces.

"That is the end goal for the mission: customer satisfaction," Milburn said.

"Thinking about my 46 years in this Army business, it is a great feeling to have taken what I learned the first 20 years as a Soldier, then through the acquisition business process mold that learning into products and services that directly benefit Soldiers — either in the testing, training or operational environments."

Although born in Joplin, Mo., and raised in southern California, Milburn likes to say he is a "resident of the world."

Carlson also took the time during her LOGSA years to graduate magna cum laude from Athens State University with a bachelor's in business administration.

"I have always wanted to retire while I was still young enough to enjoy it," she said. "I've volunteered to work one day a week at my church, Lindsey Lane Baptist, and I plan to take drawing classes and just enjoy my house."

Known for her devotion to physical fitness, she also promises to work out regularly in the gym that Marv built for her in their basement.

"I am so thankful to have had a stable job with security," she said. "It has meant a lot to me since I grew up poor. I never imagined when I was young that I would end up in a position to retire so comfortably so young."

He and his wife, Karlene, have four children who are all grown and out on their own elsewhere in the country.

"That calls for extensive post retirement travel to where the grandchildren are living," he said.

Yet, he and his wife will still call north Alabama their home for the foreseeable future.

"Seems like I've been everywhere and seen it all, but the Tennessee Valley and surrounding areas mostly meet or beat them point for point," he said. "The area has so much to offer and big cities are easy to reach if that environment is what is needed."

The Milburns enjoy motorcycle touring and the shooting sports. "We are looking forward to having time to enjoy the benefits of career retirement," Milburn said.

(Editor's note: This article was adapted from a Targets Management Office release.)



Steve Milburn

AER scholarship gives head start on life



Photo by Kari Hawkins

GOING FIRST CLASS— Amanda Loew is attending Columbia College on a scholarship she received through a national scholarship program offered by Army Emergency Relief. Loew enjoys the opportunities she has had to excel both at Columbia and in the workplace. The AER scholarship has made it easier to achieve her dream of a college education.

Local student excited about opportunities

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Amanda Loew has her walking shoes on – and she’s using them to walk straight through Columbia College’s bachelor’s degree program.

And it’s all thanks to the financial help she’s received from the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program administered through Army Emergency Relief.

This aspiring business owner – a shoe store or a “crazy whatever store” or a restaurant on the beach would be great – is pursuing a bachelor’s in business administration with a concentration in management and human resources at Columbia College’s branch on Redstone Arsenal. The 21-year-old attends Columbia College two nights a week while working full-time as a customer service representative for Geico Insurance and living at home with her parents, Lisa Loew and retired Master Sgt. Bill Loew, who is now a government contractor.

“This is the second year in a row that I’ve gotten a scholarship from AER,” Loew said. “Even though my parents established an account for me to help pay

for college, the AER scholarship has made it so much easier financially, and I don’t have to pay off student loans for the next 10 or 20 years.”

The AER scholarship has paid for nearly all of Loew’s tuition for two years. During her first year of college, when she attended Calhoun Community College, Loew and her parents had done enough advanced financial planning to cover the costs, even though both Loew and her father, who was pursuing a master’s degree from the Florida Institute of Technology, were attending college at the same time.

“The AER scholarship has provided peace of mind for me as well as my parents,” she said.

Loew is an independent, self-motivated, focused student. She has been attending college every semester since a week after graduating from Sparkman High. She received her associate degree in October, plans to graduate with a bachelor’s in the fall of 2009, and possibly pursue a master’s after that. Although most of her fellow students at Columbia are older professionals with established careers, Loew said the atmosphere allows her to excel in all aspects of her life.

“I wanted to be able to work during the day. That was important to me,” she said. “Columbia provided me with a steady night-time schedule. The staff in the administrative office is so goal oriented and they provide the guidance I need in planning the courses I need to take. They are awesome.”

“About 90 percent of the students are already into their careers. But, we’re all there for the same reason and that’s to get a degree.”

Loew doesn’t miss the social life of larger colleges because she stays in close contact with friends who attend the University of North Alabama, the University of Alabama-Huntsville and Calhoun Community College. When they are looking for fun things to do, they may attend a Huntsville Havoc hockey game or drive to Nashville to visit Music Row or Opry Mills Mall.

“The AER scholarship has allowed me to go to college without worrying how it’s going to be paid for,” Loew said. “All I have to do is pay for my books. I can focus on studying and getting my degree.”

Columbia College is based on an eight-week accelerated education program, where students attend college two nights a week and complete two courses every eight weeks. In the fall semester, Loew has already taken Business Ethics and Algebra, and is now completing course work for Statistics and Astronomy. In the spring semester, she will begin with Business Finance and Macroeconomics, and decide on her other two courses as the first eight-week session comes to an end.

“AER wants to be able to help military children further their education,” said Kristi Foster, AER coordinator on Redstone Arsenal. “Pursuing a college educa-

tion beyond high school is important, but it also comes with a high cost.”

AER provides financial assistance to military dependents like Loew and to spouses who want to further their education. Scholarships for dependents are granted based on financial need, academics, and leadership and achievement while scholarships for spouses are based only on financial need. Applications must be submitted for the next year by March 1.

“The applications are submitted nationally to AER headquarters,” Foster said. “If you have the supporting documentation they need, then the process is very easy. Ninety-nine percent of those who submit an application receive some amount of AER funds.”

In the 2007-08 school year, 2,773 children of Soldiers received \$8.73 million in AER funds through the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program. In addition, 502 military spouses for the 2007-08 school year received \$1.2 million in AER scholarships through the Stateside Spouse Assistance Program, which is funded from general AER funds and investments made by the AER Board of Managers.

AER grants a certain amount of scholarships under each criteria – financial need, academics, or leadership and achievement.

“I’ve always had that leadership aspect in my own personality,” Loew said. “I’ve always felt independent in what I do. I like to depend on myself instead of expecting other people to do things for me. I’m very organized and goal oriented.”

Loew plans on applying for the AER scholarship again next year. She also plans to spend some of her holiday break applying for other scholarships she has found online.

“I’ve found 102 possible scholarships. There are scholarships for all kinds of things, including people who are left handed or people who have curly hair,” Loew said. “There’s no excuse for people not to go to college because they can’t afford it. All it takes is a little bit of work, and the drive to apply for scholarships and grants and even loans if you have to. There’s a way to pay for college if you look for it.”

Loew is excited about the plans she has made for her life and about the progress she has made toward getting her degree.

“I’m one of those people whose ready to get life started,” she said. “I’ve worked hard to get where I am. But, I haven’t had to work as hard as the mother of four who works during the day and goes to school at night. I haven’t had to work as hard as all those other students in my classes who have families. Managing my job and my college classes has been easy compared to what they are juggling.”

Editor’s note: For more information on the AER scholarship programs, visit the web site at aerhq.org or call Kristi Foster at 876-5397.

Web site tells fallen Soldier stories

Originator details their life history

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
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You hear it periodically on the news – a Soldier, sailor, airman or Marine was killed in combat. Sometimes there is more information about them, often there is not. 1st Sgt. CJ Grisham, of Bravo Company 308th MI Battalion, wants the world to know that these servicemembers are more than statistics on the evening news. He has started a web site to tell the stories of their lives.

It all started in May 2006. Grisham said he was watching a news report about two CBS crew members being killed in Iraq and a news correspondent who was critically injured in the attack. At the end of the report, almost as an afterthought, Grisham said, they mentioned that a Soldier had been killed also.

“They had all these specials and news reports about who these journalists were. They went into their lives, talked about their kids and what they did in school. They talked about what heroes they were for going into combat,” Grisham said. “At the end, usually the last paragraph, they would say ‘and a U.S. Soldier was also killed.’ That irked me. It was probably that U.S. Soldier who kept those journalists alive as long as they were.”

Grisham decided he needed to know more about the Soldier. He was able to get contact information for the family.

“I was in Washington, D.C. at the time, so I started calling round to find out who was this Soldier that died,” he said. “I came to find out it was Capt. James Alex Funkhouser.”

What started as a desire to know more about Funkhouser, and to honor the Soldiers he had known himself who had been killed, became a desire to know more about every American servicemember who has given their life in the War on Terror. Thus, a web site was born last November. It is called They Have Names, to honor their lives and their memories as fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. It is also dedicated to the memory of Funkhouser.

Grisham is careful to respect the grieving process of the fami-



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

CREATIVE FORCE— 1st Sgt. CJ Grisham, of Bravo Company 308th MI Battalion, interviews the families of fallen servicemembers and presents them with a commemorative coin.

lies. Because of that he does not attempt to contact a family until at least six months have passed since the death of their servicemember. Now, some families are e-mailing him asking that their loved one be included. For the first few profiles, however, he contacted the families and asked them to participate. He does not press them though. If they decide they want their family member's story added to the web site, Grisham sets up an interview. Most of them are conducted over the phone, for geographical reasons. When it has been possible to do it in person, Grisham has. Often, the interviews must be conducted in segments over several days because of the emotional nature of the topic.

“It can be very difficult for them to talk about certain aspects,” he said.

Once he has all the information, he tries to construct an accurate, albeit abridged, account of their life. He includes anecdotes from their childhood, descriptions of their hobbies and whatever else the family wants the world to know about their loved one. Grisham then goes over the initial draft with the family, adding, subtracting and rewriting until the finished product.

“Right now the process takes about a month,” he said. “There is nothing on there that they don't want on there. Once it's complete I send it to them and tell them to change anything they want. This is their story, not mine. I want everything to be accurate, no matter how small the detail is.”

He includes photos of the deceased, supplied by friends and family. The number and content of those pictures he leaves to them. Occasionally he gets a few questions about why he used certain pictures from visitors to the site.

“There is one guy I got a lot of e-mails about. In every one of his pictures, he has his middle finger up,” Grisham said laughing. “I asked the family if they realized it and they responded ‘That was Josh. He loved his middle finger. It meant hello. It meant goodbye.’ That's what the family wanted. That's who he was. So that's what we put up.”

The project is funded by Grisham himself and donations made through the web site. Since he is not considered a charity or nonprofit organization — even though he makes no money whatsoever from it — that means these donations are not tax

deductible. Grisham said people have been generous.

“People have made donations though the site,” he said. “I got a huge \$500 donation recently. I used that money to go ahead and pay for the registration and web hosting. So the site is good now until 2012. It was from a reader of the web site. She doesn't want to be named. She just wanted to help.”

As a combination thanks and memorial, Grisham presents each family with a commemorative gold coin, portraying their branch of service and engraved with their name. Buying these coins and having the engraving done was getting expensive, he said.

“I had been buying them,” he said. “I contacted Vin Zike, president of the Challenge Coin Company, and said that I wanted to buy these coins directly. I told him what I wanted to do with them. He told me to just tell him how many I wanted and that he would just send them to me.”

Another organization has stepped up to help get the coins to their destinations. A veterans charity, which has nonprofit status, has offered to pay for the shipping whenever needed.

“The fact that they made the shipping possible, and a write-up about who they are, will be included with the coin,” Grisham said.

With the time and care that he puts into each story, and the demands of his job, it has been

slow going so far. Grisham said he has 14 profiles up on the site. He has enlisted the help of a few close friends and associates to conduct interviews and write the profiles, but his concerns about sensitivity have kept that pool small. One volunteer in particular, Sue Tottle, does the background research for the writers and keeps the whole operation organized, Grisham said. He isn't daunted by the amount of time it may take to complete this project. In fact, he doesn't believe there will ever be an end.

“After all the Soldiers of this war, I want to go backwards and include the Soldiers of Desert Storm. Then I want to add the Soldiers from Vietnam, Grenada and all the other conflicts we have been in,” he said. “I want to go back as far as there are people with stories. I don't expect to complete it in my lifetime. Hopefully, there will be someone to take over and carry on someday.”

For more information, to make a donation, or to ask that a servicemember be profiled, visit www.theyhavenames.com or e-mail cj@theyhavenames.com.

“This is not a political site. We leave that alone,” Grisham said. “I just want to tell the stories of these Soldiers. This is a tribute to them. They are people. They're not robots. They're not mindless beings. They're not numbers. They have names. This is who they are.”



Photo by Phillip Dark

Career day

Sandy Olinger, left, AMCOM G-4 Acquisition and Compliance team leader, joins Billie Wilhelm, pre-algebra teacher at Liberty Middle School, for the school's annual Career Day. Olinger described for the students her career as an environmental engineer and the great things about working for AMCOM.

Win or lose

'Mad Bomber' stays in fighting shape

Kniest looks forward
to next bout in cage

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Kniest was undeterred by his experience in the fighting cage Dec. 1 in Jasper.

Kniest, a mixed martial arts fighter, lost to Huntsville's Matt Smart.

"It was a good fight," said Kniest, an instructor at the Hazardous Devices School. "It was real close, and the guy caught me in a triangle choke."

The submission came late in the first round of the scheduled three five-minute round, welterweight (170 pound) bout.

Kniest's won-loss record fell to 6-5 while Smart improved to 6-4.

Kniest, 30, from St. Louis, planned to return to action Dec. 8 in a tournament in Oneonta, where each participant could fight up to four times.

"I'm happy," the New Market resident said. "No injuries and I'm still in shape from my fight (Dec. 1) so it makes sense to go ahead and continue."

Also known as "The Mad Bomber," Kniest trains at Knuckle Hedz Mixed Martial Arts, a gym on Johnson Road owned by Dustin Rhodes.

Daniel Watts, 26, of Blountsville, who trains with him at Knuckle Hedz, was also on the fight card Dec. 1 in Jasper. Watts' fight against Jasper's Wayne Gray at lightweight (155 pounds) was ruled a no-contest.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BATTLE— Sgt. 1st Class Mike Kniest, an instructor at the Hazardous Devices School, is a mixed martial arts fighter.

"They called it a no-contest. It was kind of weird," Kniest said. "He (Watts) kicked him from his back and knocked the guy out. They said it was an illegal kick and they called it a no-contest."

LSU favored to win national championship

Louisiana State
over Buckeyes

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Skip's Picks finished the college football season at 386-170 for 70 percent. Here are my predictions for the bowl games:

Utah vs. Navy — **Navy**
 Florida Atlantic vs. Memphis — **Memphis**
 Cincinnati vs. Southern Mississippi — **Cincinnati**
 New Mexico vs. Nevada — **New Mexico**
 UCLA vs. Brigham Young — **BYU**
 Boise State vs. East Carolina — **Boise**
 Central Michigan vs. Purdue — **Purdue**
 Arizona State vs. Texas — **Texas**
 Boston College vs. Michigan State — **BC**
 TCU vs. Houston — **TCU**
 Maryland vs. Oregon State — **Md**
 Wake Forest vs. Connecticut — **Wake**
 UCF vs. Mississippi State — **Miss. State**
 Penn State vs. Texas A&M — **Penn State**
 Colorado vs. Alabama — **Colo.**
 California vs. Air Force — **AFA**
 Fresno State vs. Georgia Tech — **Tech**
 Oregon vs. South Florida — **SF**
 Kentucky vs. Florida State — **FSU**
 Oklahoma State vs. Indiana — **OSU**
 Auburn vs. Clemson — **Auburn**
 Wisconsin vs. Tennessee — **Tenn.**
 Arkansas vs. Missouri — **Ark.**
 Michigan vs. Florida — **Fla.**
 Virginia vs. Texas Tech — **Va.**
 Southern California vs. Illinois — **USC**
 Georgia vs. Hawaii — **UGA**
 Oklahoma vs. West Virginia — **Okla.**
 Virginia Tech vs. Kansas — **Va. Tech**
 Rutgers vs. Ball State — **Rutgers**
 Bowling Green vs. Tulsa — **Tulsa**
 LSU vs. Ohio State — **LSU**





Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Toy deposit

Gwen Phillips, of Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office, adds another donation to the collection box in the building 5250 south lobby. Spearheaded by Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space members Terry Bradford and Frank De Luca, \$925 has been raised for gift purchases, in addition to three donation boxes in the PEO headquarters.



Courtesy photo

Technology display

The Redstone community is invited to tour the Future Combat System Demonstrator trailer this Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Space and Missile Defense Command, located in the Von Braun Complex near the intersection of Martin and Mills roads. Visitors can get a close look of the FCS program's 21st century technology and "drive" the system through a simulated battlefield situation, engage targets, control an unmanned aerial vehicle and see the benefits of improved situational awareness.

President names acting under secretary of Army

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Army Pete Geren on Dec. 4 expressed his appreciation for President Bush's intent to designate Nelson Ford to be the acting under secretary of the Army.

Ford concurrently will continue serving as the assistant secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, the position he held since October 2006. Previously he was principal deputy assistant secretary of the Office of ASA (FM&C) from 2005 to 2006.

From 2002 through 2004, he was deputy assistant secretary for Health Budgets & Financial Policy in the Department of Defense, where he was responsible for financial management, policy development and program evaluation for the Defense Health Program.

Prior to returning to federal service, Ford held senior management positions in academic medicine, medical manufacturing and health insurance. From 1997 to 2000, he was president and CEO of Clini-



Nelson Ford

pad, a manufacturer of disposable medical products. During the 1990s, he was chief operating officer of Georgetown University Medical Center, with responsibility for Georgetown Hospital and financial oversight of faculty practice plans, research activities and the medical and nursing schools.

Earlier in his career, Ford was a partner with Coopers & Lybrand, providing strategic and financial

consulting services to a wide range of healthcare clients. During the 1970s, he was the executive secretary of the Health Care Financing Administration and worked on health policy matters in the Office of Management and Budget. He has served on many not-for-profit boards and advisory committees.

Ford holds a bachelor's degree in history from Duke University, a master's in education from the University of Delaware and has completed additional professional training at the University of Pennsylvania. (*Army News Service*)

Soldiers gain realistic urban training

Huntsville engineering center teams with Fort Irwin, Calif., to design and build facility

By DEBRA VALINE
Engineering and Support Center

Soldiers dressed in full battle gear with weapons at the ready slowly and carefully make their way through the training "city" looking for anyone and anything that might pose a threat.

Learning to systematically clear buildings of threats while at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., will help ensure their safety in the near future.

Training Soldiers for urban combat is a vital and never-ending need in the Global War on Terrorism. To help meet this training demand, Fort Irwin teamed with the Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District and Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, to design and build what will one day be the largest Military Operations Urban Training site in the Army inventory.

In October, just eight months from the start of construction, phase one was completed and turned over to the installation.

Accommodates brigade

The \$12 million site includes 41 main buildings, including a government complex and a consulate and another 24 smaller structures such as guard towers –

more buildings than a Combined Arms Collective Training Facility typically has. The Fort Irwin project is non-standard, but is specific to what the training center is trying to achieve through training objectives.

"The site is very nice," said Tim Reischl, deputy operations officer at Fort Irwin. "When finished, there will be some 232 buildings. Partnerships with reserve components and local initiatives will add another couple hundred buildings. When all four phases are complete, we will have nearly 500 buildings. We wanted a very large site to train an Army brigade."

Ten brigades a year go through the National Training Center.

Maj. Marnie Smeenck, currently with Huntsville Center's Range and Training Land Program, worked at the Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers in 2005 when she was challenged with building phase one of the MOUT site at Fort Irwin.

Schedule accelerated

The project, on the books long before Sept. 11, 2001, and the start of GWOT, had originally been scheduled in the out-years, but was moved up considerably to meet an increased training demand.

On advice from the Sacramento District, Smeenck called Mark Fleming at the Huntsville Center. Fleming pulled his team together and sent a letter to the garrison commander outlining what needed to be done and who needed to be involved. Huntsville Center is the Corps' Range Center of Standardization and Mandatory Center of Expertise for Ranges.

"Originally, the project was going to take over 12 months to construct," Smeenck said. "When the proposals came in, they were way over the project budget. So we had to look at what we could take out to be able to award. It was just going to degrade the project too severely.

"In the situation I was in out there, I could not have done this without HNC," Smeenck said. To bring the costs within budget, the team had to look for alternative construction methods. One method that looked promising was the studcast panels versus traditional concrete and steel construction. Studcast panels are thin-shell precast concrete panels made of two inches of lightweight concrete combined with light-gauge, cold-formed steel framing.

"We went back to the folks who had bid the project and asked for revised proposals allowing the use of alternative construction methods, we were willing to take a look at anything as long as it was structurally sound," Smeenck said. "Doing that, we were able to award within the programmed amount and with the full scope for the buildings. We got all 41 of our main buildings."

The design contract was awarded to SEI Group of Huntsville in 2005. The construction award went to RQ Construction, Bonsall, Calif., in 2006, which happened to bid the project using studcast panels.

"I think the facility is great," said Capt. Seth Henson, the project engineer with the Los Angeles District. "This is the first urban training facility at the NTC. All they had prior to this was 10 villages made up of CONEXEs and sheds. This is a milestone. They finally have a traditional MOUT site and it fills a very important training need."

Help prevent thefts from personal vehicles

Property owner's negligence may negate claims for loss

By ERIKA McPHERSON
Claims Division chief

Theft is an intentional, wrongful taking of someone else's property. Theft incurred incident to service is compensable with the Military Claims Office, although failure to report the theft immediately or as soon as practicable is normally deemed a failure to substantiate it. Furthermore, a claimant's own negligence will bar payment of a claim.

Many car thieves use the holiday season to take items left in vehicles. Although an experienced car thief can often enter a locked vehicle without leaving signs, claimants are expected to lock doors and windows.

Neither the passenger compartment nor the trunk of a vehicle is a proper place for the long-term storage of property unconnected with the use of the vehicle.

Except for maps, child car seats, a reasonable number of audio tapes or compact discs and similar items kept in the passenger compartment for immediate use, claimants are expected to remove their property when exiting the vehicle.

Normally, expensive items, gifts or personal property stored overnight and for longer periods, even in the trunk, are not considered reasonable or useful under the circumstances.

The passenger compartment of a vehicle does not provide adequate security except for very short periods. The length of such periods depends on the circumstances, such as the claimant's reason for keeping the property in the vehicle and measures the claimant could have taken to better secure the property and its value.

A claimant is expected to lock gifts, personal property, and expensive items in the trunk or, for longer periods, remove the property from the vehicle altogether. This is especially true of valuable, easily pilferable items such as cameras and cellular phones. For exam-

ple, a claimant returns to on-post quarters and leaves a 35 mm camera in the passenger compartment of his or her car overnight intending to take pictures the next day. Someone breaks into the car and steals the camera. Because the claimant should have removed it, the camera's loss is not compensable. If however, instead of leaving a camera in the passenger compartment overnight, the claimant left a bag of groceries unattended for a few minutes while shopping at the Post Exchange, the loss of the value of the groceries is payable.

A claimant is expected to bolt to the vehicle items that are not factory-installed, such as tape and compact disc players, speakers, citizens' band radios and similar accessories. Such items are not secured merely by mounting them on a slide. Similarly, loss of car covers and car bras are payable only if these items are bolted or secured to the vehicle with a wire locking device. An item may be considered permanently affixed if one needs tools or a key to detach it.

Manufacturers continue to develop "theft-proof" products. One such product is a car radio with a removable faceplate. Drivers should remove the faceplate when exiting the vehicle. Barring unusual circumstances, failure to take the faceplate would prohibit payment if the radio is stolen. For example, a thief slips an unsecured car bra off a vehicle, and then breaks into the vehicle through a window and steals a stereo mounted on a slide. Since the claimant failed to take adequate measures to secure the car bra, this loss is not compensable. Nor is the loss of the stereo compensable, since it was not bolted to the vehicle. In addition, the damage to the window is compensable only if it appears that the thief could not see that the stereo was not properly secured until after breaking into the vehicle.

For more information, you can call the Claims Division at 876-9006. The Redstone Arsenal Claims Division is located in building 111 on Goss Road. Claims are accepted on a walk-in basis from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Twilight golf

Twilight golf is going on now at the Links at Redstone. Starting at 2 p.m. daily, pay \$20 and get all you can play before dark. For more information, call 883-7977.



Conferences & Meetings

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invites you to study God's word each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Free child

Redstone Arsenal Environmental Program Availability of Records of Decision for Installation Restoration Program Sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management have approved the following five Final or Interim Records of Decision prepared by the U.S. Army Garrison-Redstone for remedy selection at the Redstone Arsenal National Priorities List site:

- Record of Decision for Surface Media at RSA-011, Former Sewage Treatment Plant No. 1 – No action remedy
- Record of Decision at RSA-047, Former Chemical Training Facility – No action remedy
- Record of Decision for Surface Media at RSA-049, Capped Arsenic Waste Ponds, West – Existing cap, land use controls (LUC), and groundwater monitoring remedy
- Record of Decision for Surface Media at RSA-057, Inactive Arsenic Waste Lagoons, East – Soil removal, groundwater monitoring, and LUC remedy
- Interim Remedial Action for Installation-Wide Groundwater – LUC remedy

Each Record of Decision was finalized in September 2007 following a public comment period for each statement of basis/proposed plan which presented the respective, preferred remedial alternative. All documents are available for electronic viewing at the local libraries:

- Triana Public Library (Triana Youth Center), 280 Zierdt Road, Triana
Contact: Wendy Qualls, 256-772-3677
Hours: Monday - Friday, 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.; First and Third Saturday, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, Heritage Room, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville
Contact: Anne Fuller, 256-532-5969
Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Alternatively, a hard or electronic copy may be requested by emailing: EnvironmentalOffice@redstone.army.mil

For more information, contact:

U.S. Army Garrison - Redstone
Attention: AMSAM-PA (Ms. Lira Frye)
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5020
Telephone: (256) 955-9173 ; Fax : 955-0133
E-mail : lira.frye@us.army.mil



watch is available. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 325-3152 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

Toastmasters

Anyone interested in improving their speaking ability is invited to attend the Lunar Nooners Toastmasters Club, which meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the building 4610 cafeteria. For more information, call Ellen Jones 544-6616.

Admin professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals monthly meeting is Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe on South Parkway. RSVP to Dorothy May 842-8391 by Friday. "Please bring an ornament if you would like to participate in the ornament exchange," a prepared release said. For more information, call president Amanda Medley 313-4970 or membership chair Elise McWilliams 876-4515.

Parent advisory council

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. in Redstone Room, Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 (phone 876-7952). All parents are encouraged to attend the PAC meetings. Parent Participation Points are awarded for attendance – five points equals a 10 percent discount on child care fees. "Please join us to learn what is happening at the Redstone Child and Youth Services facilities and to voice your ideas, opinions or concerns," a prepared release said.

National preparedness

Florida Tech will host several of America's top leaders in disaster preparedness and response at a conference Friday. The daylong event is to feature two members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Maj. Gen. Michael Sumrall and Brig. Gen. Peter Aylward. For more information call Nikki Hoier (321) 674-8388, associate director for professional development programs, Florida Tech. The conference web site is <http://uc.fit.edu/npconf07/>.

Security professionals

The next NCMS Mid-South Chapter Security Luncheon will be held Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Airport Sheraton. Guest speaker Bill Uttenweiller will present the values of NCMS and the ISP Certification. Admission is free to members and their bosses, and \$15 for non-members. Space is limited. To register, e-mail Jeff.Bennett@westwindcorp.com.

Security training

The local NCMS Mid-South Chapter is hosting JPAS Training on Dec. 17 from 8 a.m. until noon at Dynetics Inc., 1002 Explorer Blvd (new Corporate Building). Rhonda Peyton, of Schafer Corporation, Albuquerque, will conduct this training. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. A continental breakfast will be available beginning at 7:15 a.m. Coffee, water and snacks will be available during breaks. For reservations, e-mail Jeff.Bennett@westwindcorp.com.

Reserve unit openings

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, Personal Growth Center. This will be a Christmas program with a visit from Santa. For ticket information, call Marlene Clemons 313-2378 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Test/evaluation papers

Test Week 2008 — "Test & Evaluation for the Future: What Lies 10-15 Years Ahead?," scheduled June 2-5 at the Von Braun Center — announces its call for technical papers from the acquisition, S&T and T&E communities (industry, government and academia). Deadline for submission is March 1. Guidance and instructions may be found on www.test-week.org or by e-mailing Sherry Hilley at sherry.hilley@us.army.mil.

Executive women

The Huntsville Chapter of Executive Women International invites young women in grades 8-12 to attend the Executive Women of Tomorrow Conference on Feb. 23 at the University Center, University of Alabama-Huntsville. The theme is "Executive Women of Today – Mentoring the Executive Women of Tomorrow." Proceeds will benefit the EWI Huntsville Chapter Scholarship fund. Early bird registration is \$40 until Dec. 31. For more information, call 533-4661.

Small business forum

The Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville will hold the eighth annual Small Business Forum on Friday in Huntsville. The Huntsville Center's acquisition strategy will be presented and project/program managers will be available to discuss Huntsville Center opportunities that include electronic security, ordnance and explosives, installation support and utility monitoring and control. The session at UAH's University Center Exhibit Hall will go from 8 a.m. to noon. To register online, visit www.hnd.usace.army.mil.

Emergency technology

The Tennessee Valley Emerging Technology Conference will be held March 26-28 at the Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence Auditorium. For more information, visit the conference web site <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/ETC08/>.



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

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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.

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 9-12:30. Volunteers are needed for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays. The shop will be closed Dec. 25 through Jan. 3. It will reopen for business Jan. 8, and is also open Saturday, Jan. 12 from 10-2. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

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.

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

See **Announcements** on page 26



Courtesy photo

Down in holler

Staff Sgt. Nikolaos Anastasopoulos of Greece visits Cascade Hollow, home of the George Dickel Distillery near Tullahoma, Tenn., on Nov. 29. The International Military Student Office took him on a field studies program trip to see two famous Tennessee distilleries, including the Jack Daniels Distillery in Lynchburg.

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.

Motorcycle safety

To permanently register a motorcycle on any DoD installation, the Defense Department requires all motorcyclists to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course. The one-day course is offered free to anyone authorized access to Redstone. For information call Keith Coates of Garrison Safety Office 876-3383. The instructor is Ralph Harris at 93hdstc@bellsouth.net.

Green to gold

The Alabama A&M Army ROTC program, which includes University of Alabama-Huntsville and Athens State University, is seeking proficient enlisted Soldiers interested in completing an undergraduate or graduate degree and commissioning as Army officers upon receiving the appropriate degree. If you are an enlisted Soldier who has served at least two years on active duty, this is an opportunity for you to advance. Enroll in Army ROTC on campus by using opportunities provided through the Green to Gold Program. For more information or

to schedule an interview, call Maj. Annette Woods 372-4023 or e-mail annette.woods@aamu.edu. You may also visit online at <http://www.aamu.edu/rotc>.

Lateral entry

Opportunities to excel under a competitive learning environment are available to qualified prior service individuals who wish to train and commission as second lieutenants in the Army. These opportunities are also available to you if you are an enlisted member of the National Guard or Reserve and wish to become an officer. The Lateral Entry Program will allow you to enroll — as a junior, senior or graduate student with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation — as a cadet in the ROTC Program at Alabama A&M University. For more information or to schedule an interview, call Maj. Annette Woods 372-4023.

Officer candidates

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking proficient individuals interested in commissioning as Army officers upon completion of Officer Candidate School. If you are a college graduate with a four-year college degree or higher from an accredited institution of postsecondary education (college seniors may apply), this is an opportunity for you to become an officer. Graduates of OCS are commissioned as second lieutenants. Commis-

sions are available in the Active Army and the Army Reserve. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Capt. Cyrus Russ 539-6511.

Pilots wanted

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking qualified applicants to apply for Warrant Officer Flight Training School. Applicants must have a high school diploma and be from age 18-33. Age waivers will be considered. Experience in flight training or related disciplines are encouraged, but not a requirement. Applicants will be required to take the Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test and score 90 or higher. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Capt. Cyrus Russ 539-6511.

Reserve cadets

Join the Army Reserve and enroll in your college ROTC program simultaneously through the Simultaneous Membership Program. Earn anywhere from \$470 to \$1,400 a month as a SMP cadet. As a member of the Army Reserve SMP Cadet Program, you are non-deployable, you have an opportunity to pursue the degree of your choice and you can assure yourself of a future as a commissioned officer in the Active Army or the Army Reserve. For more information, call your local Army Reserve recruiter 922-1422.

Garden plots

Garden plot owners on Redstone Arsenal should ensure their plots are cleared and clean by Saturday to prepare for winterization procedures. Requests will be sent to Directorate of Public Works to bush hog and plow plots for winter no earlier than Saturday. For more information, call Stephanie Stone 830-9175.

Tax center volunteers

The Redstone Tax Assistance Center needs volunteers interested in learning tax law at an IRS certification class and then helping servicemembers, retirees and their family members complete their 2007 tax returns. The training and certification will be held Jan. 7-23. The training is required, but flexible for those who can volunteer. The Tax Center will be open for business from Jan. 24 through April 15. Volunteers are asked to work at least one four-hour shift each week "This is a highly rewarding volunteer opportunity that not only provides a tremendous service to Redstone community, but will give you an in-depth understanding of the tax system and the ability to prepare your own tax return free of charge," a prepared release said. To volunteer or for more information, call Rachael Yeoman 876-9007.

Flu shots

Flu shots will be available for active duty Soldiers and their family members over age 13, military retirees and family members over 13, and current DoD civilians from 8 a.m. to noon today and Dec. 19 at Heiser Hall. "Active duty Soldiers are especially encouraged to get their flu shots on these days," Fox Army Health Center said in a prepared release.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief offers "free" money for education. The 2008-09 Army Emergency Relief Scholarship Program instructions and timelines for applying for the scholarships are now available on the AER web site, www.aerhq.org. Assistance is available for spouses and children of active duty and retired Soldiers. All applications

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Courtesy photo

Back from space

On Aug. 8, 1957, the Army successfully launched the Jupiter-C Missile RS-40, a modified Redstone. Its nose cone was the first to be recovered from outer space. It also carried the first mail ever delivered over Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile range. In a Nov. 7, 1957 televised address on science and security, President Eisenhower announced that U.S. scientists had successfully solved the problem of ballistic missile reentry. The recovered Jupiter-C nose cone was shown as part of the broadcast.

and supporting documents must be sent to AER headquarters and postmarked by March 1, 2008. For more information, call AER officer Kristi Foster 876-5397.

Dance classes

The Diane Campbell Recreation Center is taking signups for Fox Trot and Rumba classes to be held Thursday evenings beginning Jan. 10. Cost is \$66 per couple. The class is taught by professional instructors Mary Jo Blount and Vince Guarin. For more information, call 876-4531.

Science/engineering apprentices

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are U.S. citizens and age 15 by the beginning of the program June 2, 2008. The apprentice program is divided into periods of eight, 10 and 12 weeks. Both programs are fast-paced and require disciplined professional work habits. Junior and senior scientists and engineers gain additional experience by serving as mentors for first time students, and providing guidance through interactive research processes. The contacts for applications are senior counselors at all public, private and parochial high school and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at the Garrison-Redstone Arsenal include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for postmarking applications is Jan. 31. If the student is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the high school senior counselor or college placement service, contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Julie Lumpkins in building 5308, at 313-4834.

Community assistance

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club distributes money to nonprofit groups each year, and is now accepting applications for grants. To receive a copy of the application, write to RSAOCWC, Attention: Demy Robley, Community Assistance Chair, P.O. Box 8113, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808. Forms are also available in the OCWC Southern Exposure Newsletter and at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. All requests must conform to the OCWC Community Assistance Request Form. Deadline for the request is Feb. 28. Requests postmarked or received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information, call Demy Robley 882-6064.

Police memorial

The Huntsville Police Fallen Officers' Memorial is scheduled to be placed at the entrance to the Justice and Public Safety Complex, located at 815 Wheeler

Ave. This monument will consist of a larger than life-sized bronze statue of two uniformed police officers reflecting on those officers who have died in the line of duty. The bronze statue will be placed on a granite base. Fund-raising for the memorial will be conducted by the Huntsville Police Citizens Foundation. Send contributions to the Huntsville Police Citizens Foundation at 815 Wheeler Ave; Huntsville, AL 35801. For more information, visit www.hsvcity.com/police.

Health center holidays

Fox Army Health Center will be closed for the holidays Dec. 24, 25 and 31 and Jan. 1.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comptrollers offers a scholarship program for ASMC members and their families. Applicants must be current ASMC members or high school seniors, undergraduates, or those working on graduate programs (immediately related to an ASMC member). They must have maintained a 3.0 gpa. Applications are due by Feb. 28. For more information all Judy Smith, chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, 313-2379.

Warrant officer scholarship

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Warrant Officer Association will present its annual \$1,000 scholarship award for 2008. Applications will be accepted from the children (natural and adopted), dependent stepchildren under age 21 (seniors in high school or currently enrolled college freshmen), and spouses of members of the active, National Guard, Reserve, and retired military and DoD civilians/contractors in the Tennessee Valley area. Deadline to submit packet is March 1. To download a packet and application form, go to www.redstonewarrants.com.

Youth orchestra

The Huntsville Youth Orchestra will hold its second annual Silent Auction on Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at the Cheeburger Cheeburger Restaurant in Providence Town Center. "Come and bid on some of the many wonderful items generously donated by our community's finest merchants," a prepared release said. "Members of the Huntsville Youth Orchestra will be performing live music throughout the evening." For more information, call Olga Burney 837-2522 or Tracey Miller 837-1988.

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is again offering its Merit Award Program to the Redstone community. "The club has traditionally offered a scholarship program to its members and their families that assist them in pursuing their educational goals and aspirations," a prepared release said. "This year, Government Service ID card holders and their families may also apply for a scholarship. The focus is to provide financial assistance to spouses and high school students who are not eligible for OCWC membership."

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Photo by Ken Cole

Ongoing campaign

From left, Janine Nesin of Nesin Therapy, Rick Greif of Spring City Triathletes, and Eric Doehrman of Fleet Feet present a \$3,200 check to the ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Association. This represents proceeds from the third annual Heel and Crank Duathlon on Oct. 6, sponsored by the Spring City Triathletes. The race – which includes a three-mile run, eight-mile bike and then a two-mile run – was started three years ago by Greif as a means of helping Lou Gehrig's disease patients like fellow triathlete Darin Kruse, a Redstone engineer who died this September. The event has raised \$8,500.

Rocket Announcements

Merit Awards are based on the applicant's scholastic achievements, activities and an essay. Applications are available at the monthly luncheons and by contacting the Merit Program co-chairs. The deadline for applications is Feb. 4. For more information, contact Kathleen Riester riesterc@knology.net or Audrey Osterndorf osterndorf1@aol.com.

Social Security move

Chances are many have been to the Social Security Office in Huntsville; whether you just got married, needed a replacement card, filed for disability or filed for retirement. "In order to better serve our public, it is with great pleasure to announce our upcoming move to a new office," a prepared release said. Effective Dec. 24, the local Social Security Office will be located at 4970 Research Drive, Huntsville, AL 35805. The office hours will remain the same: Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For information about Social Security and its services, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit the web site www.socialsecurity.gov.

Christmas trees

All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees, are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area northeast of the Ammunition Supply Point area

which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees shall not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use. This area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. Travel will be limited to the single pasture trail along the east side of the open pastureland. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside of the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees should be cut by Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For more information and a location map, call the Outdoor Recreation Office, building 5132, 876-4868.

Dental clinic hours

The Dental Clinic will be closed Dec. 17-21 for renovations and Dec. 24-25 for the holiday. The clinic will reopen Dec. 26 for normal hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Commissary holidays

Here are the Commissary hours for the holiday season: Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Dec. 25 closed; Dec. 26-30 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Jan. 1 closed.

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Photo by Kari Hawkins

Tree lighting

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski, center back, lights the Redstone Arsenal Christmas tree at Bicentennial Chapel with help from members of military families, including Darcy Sliger, wife of Staff Sgt. Jake Sliger who is deployed to the Horn of Africa; and two-time Iraqi war veteran Staff Sgt. Robert Petrie and his children, 11-year-old Michael, 7-year-old Faith (red jacket), 5-year-old Hope and 2-year-old Grace (being held by her father). The MWR Christmas Extravaganza is an annual tree lighting event made possible this year by sponsors Bill Heard Chevrolet, Home Depot, Defense Commissary Agency, Officers and Civilians Club, Design World and Purity Dairy. The extravaganza included children's building projects, a visit from Santa and his reindeer, a snow blowing machine, Christmas music song by the Columbia High choir and refreshments.

