

Redstone Rocket

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Child development at its best

Center earns reaccreditation under tough new standards

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com

The staff of the Child Development Center prepared about 18 months for a two-day inspection by an outside agency. That's when the waiting began.

After the inspection Nov. 29-30, the staffers had no idea how they'd done.

Word finally came Jan. 31 in an e-mail with an attached letter from Kim Means, the associate executive director of the National Association for the Education of the Young Child, based in Washington, D.C.

It was good news.

The Child Development Center earned its reaccreditation under NAEYC's new, more stringent standards which began about two years ago.

"Not many child development centers have been accredited under the new standards," said Andre Terry, chief of Child and Youth Services within the Garrison's Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation.

It's the only military CDC in Alabama that has been accredited under the new standard, he said. Fort Rucker is undergoing the process.

Redstone previously earned three-year accreditations from the agency. The facility had been through that process at least four times, covering 12 years. Under the new rules, a center earns a five-year accreditation but is subject to unannounced inspections.

The facility was rated on 16 criteria on a 100-point scale. It didn't get anything fewer than 83 in each category and averaged about 90. Criteria included the teachers and their training, the curriculum, child progress, physical environments, management of the programs, health, relationships with the families, and partnerships with the community. The center was accredited for Jan. 31, 2008 through Jan. 31, 2013.

"It's the staff that makes it happen," Terry said. "I have the utmost respect for the staff that actually did the work."

The staffers started preparing about a year and a half ago for reaccreditation under the new standards. "I think the reason it's a major accomplishment for us was there weren't any benchmarks out there where we could see what right looks like," Terry said.

Morale Welfare and Recreation had put a priority on seeing its child development center earn reaccreditation, according to MWR



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ARTS AND CRAFTS— Janie Loadholt, program assistant for ages 3-5 at the Child Development Center, watches coloring by 5-year-old Tatyanna Gaines, left, and Laura Counts, 3.

director Derrick Gould.

"That was No. 1 on MWR's list for this year. That was it," Gould said, "doing what needed to be done to support this. Others (elsewhere) have struggled with this new process. We got it first time through."

Mary Washington was director of the Child Development Center during the accreditation process. She is now the director for school age services. Her successor as center director is Deborah Nickles, who arrived about a month ago from Fort Rucker. The assistant directors are Gena Scofield and Kris Wiessner.

The center's more than 40-member staff serves from 120-150 youngsters, ranging from ages 5 weeks to 4 years. Like Redstone's population, most are children of civilian workers. The center provides hourly care, short-term alternative child care, full-day programs for working parents, and special openings (such as a monthly Parents Night Out).

"We knew our job," Mary Cowan, an education technician for preschool 3, said of the

center's reaccreditation. "And it was just trying to do what's right."

Sgt. Karima Walker, of 902nd Military Intelligence Group, takes her 2-year-old daughter, Amari, there and also serves as a room parent for toddlers age 3.

"I like it," Walker said of the center, "because I like the providers - everybody that's here. They're friendly. And my daughter likes them. It's a great place to bring your child."

The influx of children expected from base realignment and closure has brought plans for construction of an additional child development center. A 124-child facility, for infants up to age 4, is expected to be built on Mills Road with construction beginning in fiscal 2008. Construction is already under way for a school age services building, for ages 6-12, on Goss Road with completion by July.

"When we get the new facilities open, we can come down to the old facility to see what right looks like," Terry said. "That wasn't an option 18 months ago."

An open lane random survey

What are your plans for Valentine's Day?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com



Pam Henderson
General Services Administration
"To have a romantic dinner with my husband (Dwight) and that would be a romantic candlelight dinner."

Pvt. Michael Nyary
Bravo Company

"My girl (Tanya Bratten) lives in Cleveland, Ohio. She's in senior high school. I called all her teachers. And before every one of her classes, they're going to put a rose and a note on her desk for me – because I know all of her teachers. And on her note, it's going to tell her where to find a diamond necklace. I call it Code Red."



2nd Lt. James Lemley

135th Expeditionary (Army National Guard)



"I don't really know. I don't really have that special someone yet. I'm just concentrating on getting in shape (at the gym)."

1st Sgt. Jacob Endres
HHC 59th Ordnance

"Just have a fun, quiet evening with the family (wife and two daughters) together as a whole."



Quote of the week

'Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger. Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.'

— H.G. Wells

Letter to the Editor

Every day should be like Valentine's Day

What is love? Is it flowers, candies, cards, gifts, or dinner in a romantic setting with wine? Is it intense affection in an intimate sexual relationship? Does love come once a year on Valentine's Day? (If it comes once a year, I don't want it.)

Here is a story of a young girl who dreamed of a prince and a princess and their love. A princess would have long dark hair down to her waist and wear a beautiful white gown that touches the floor. She is kind-hearted, and walks gracefully as a princess would.

A prince wears a crown and rides on a white horse through green pastures with a royal scepter in his hand. He has a very charming and graceful face with eyes that would almost make you faint. And there in the green pastures, the two meet. They kissed and lived happily ever after.

While some may find her prince in a palace, I found mine in the U.S. Army. My heart was electrified the moment I saw him. He rode in a classic Army jeep (this was before Humvees), wore an Army green uniform and carried an M-16 in his hand. After many kisses we were married and the rest is history.

Well, it was not easy being married to an infantryman who puts the Army before anything else in life. As I demanded to be moved up to first place, frictions worsened. "Just what does Army teach you to do?" I asked. "The Army teaches me to be all that I can be!" was his reply. After scores of tears and broken rice cookers, I realized there was no room in first place. The Army was first place long before I came. I've learned to accept second place and celebrated every day as Valentine's Day. Do you know anyone like me? Remember there's hope in her.

Today, if you would ask me what love is, I would say: In spite of deployments, separations and mission demands, with courage, purpose and devotion from the depth of your heart, accepting the current circumstances and persevering during the hardships with determination and thanksgiving, I know love will survive. Love is patient, kind, believes, hopes and endures all things. May God's unfailing love help readers of the Rocket celebrate every day as Valentine's Day!

K.C. Bertling

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com

Name: Cassandra Moore

Job: Deputy chief of operations for Missile Defense Agency, employed by contractor SAIC

Where do you call home?
Moulton, Ala.

What do you like about your job?

Being able to help people do their jobs more efficiently.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Be a mom to my daughter (Alyssa Harris, 16). I also enjoy spending time with my husband, Chris Moore. Do things with my friends. We go to the beach, dinner.

What are your goals?

To support the company and the organization to the best of my ability.

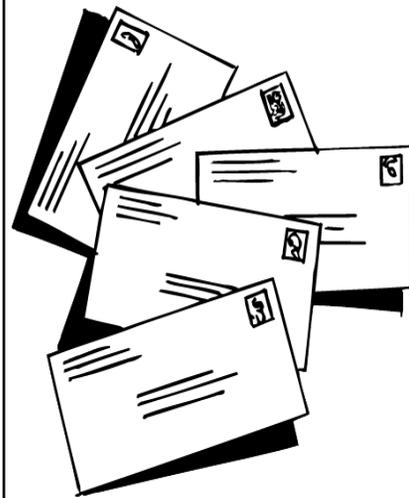
What's your favorite type of music?

New age and classical



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@htimes.com or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.



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Rocket Staff

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Kari Hawkins

Kelley Lane-Sivley

Copy Editor/Layout: Scott Seeley

Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith

Lacy Pruitt

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Extra help available through Social Security

On Valentine's Day, many people buy flowers, candy and cards for the ones they love — not just for sweethearts and spouses, but for children, parents and grandparents as well.

This Valentine's Day, Thursday, why not take an extra step to show someone you love how much you care? Tell them about the Medicare prescription drug plan — and about the extra help they may be able to get through Social Security.

The high cost of prescription drug costs can be a burden on older Americans with limited income, according to a Social Security release. What better way to show you care than by showing them how to get extra help with their Medicare prescription drug costs?

Extra help — available through Social Security — can pay part of their monthly premiums, annual deductibles and

prescription co-payments. The extra help could be worth more than \$3,600 per year.

To figure out whether they're eligible, Social Security needs to know their income and the value of their savings, investments and real estate (other than the home they live in).

To qualify for the extra help, your loved ones must be receiving Medicare and have income limited to \$15,840 for an individual or \$21,240 for a married couple living together. (These amounts will increase soon.) Even if their annual income is higher, your loved ones still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. For example, their income may be higher if they or their spouse: support other family members who live with them; have earnings from work; or live in Alaska or Hawaii; and resources limited to \$11,990 for an individual or \$23,970 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. Social

Security does not count their house and car as resources.

Social Security has an easy-to-use online application for the extra help that anyone — family members, friends and caregivers — can complete. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov. To apply by phone or get an application, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the "Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs" (SSA-1020). Or go to the nearest Social Security office.

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

So this year as you prepare your valentines, give someone you love something special: the peace of mind that comes with knowing extra help is available with Medicare prescription drug costs. Then go one step further — help them apply. There is no better way to show how much you care. (Social Security release)

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Feb. 3: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license while at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Feb. 4: An individual approached Gate 9 where it was determined that he was operating his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. It was further determined that his driver's license is suspended. He was detained until his blood alcohol content reached an appropriate level, and was issued violation notices and released.

Feb. 5: An individual at the Post Exchange selected items and departed the store without rendering proper payment. The individual was processed and released.

Feb. 5: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license while at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

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



DeCA's got recycling in the bag

Reusable cloth bags are fast replacing "paper or plastic" as the choice for commissary customers, according to the Defense Commissary Agency.

The reusable bags, which cost 70 cents each, were introduced into commissaries in October and since then customers have purchased more than 300,000 at stores worldwide. DeCA's reusable bag is made of sturdy mesh and holds 30 pounds of groceries — about

three-quarters of the amount of a paper bag. The reusable bags are machine washable and can be recycled when no longer usable.

Customers can find these bags on racks near the check-out. Customers can always use their own reusable cloth bags, but all bags must be clean and in good repair or the bagger cannot accept them. For more information about your commissary benefit, visit DeCA's web site at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Improve workplace skills with free online classes

Army Skill Port provides access

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Workplace training is just a keystroke away for Soldiers and DoD civilians interested in furthering their education and bettering their job opportunities – all on a limited budget.

The Army Skill Port, available since 2003, offers more than 2,600 courses online in the areas of business skills, management, information technology, security and network technologies, software development, computer languages, project management and foreign languages.

And the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is ready to help organizations and employees access the benefits of this e-learning tool.

“This is an awesome opportunity to get training. We want to market this resource, and help organizations and individual employees use the Army Skill Port for career training and development,” said John Bentley, a Human Resources specialist with CPAC.

“These courses can help improve business acumen in the workplace as well as provide learning opportunities in areas like information technology, desktop computer skills, leadership skills, customer service, personal development, ethics, marketing, computer software and a whole lot more. And this is all available

at no cost.”

The Army Skill Port offers three learning opportunities – online courses, Knowledge Centers that provide topic-oriented information and Referenceware that provides access to more than 1,000 online professional books.

“This system is well thought out. The online classes engage learners. It’s not just about sitting down and turning the pages and taking a test,” Bentley said. “The classes teach through student interaction.

“But the best thing about the system is that it’s available even when budgets are tight. This is no-cost training that can be used for leadership development and technology instruction. It supports organizations that want to develop career programs for employees and it supports employees who want to further their education and improve their skills. You can even get college credit for some of the classes through the American Council of Education.”

Access to the Army Skill Port is free to Army civilians and military. There is a small fee for military retirees and family members.

CPAC will work with DoD organizations at Redstone Arsenal to develop specific training programs for their employees using the Army Skill Port.

“We can set up a computer folder for the organization that the employees can access to see what classes they need to take,” Bentley said. “The system will provide information on which classes have been completed and which ones are still

needed.”

Since 2003, Bentley has worked with individual employees who have wanted access to the Army Skill Port and with the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space to set up the Tools for Leadership Program, a series of courses designed to develop employee leadership.

“You can use the courses to do something on conflict management, ethics, managing difficult people or mentoring skills, for examples,” Bentley said. “Or you can use the online classes to enhance a classroom course by having employees learn basic knowledge online and then applying that knowledge in a classroom environment.”

While classes run the gamut from building better work relationships and dealing with organization change to the fundamentals of globalization and getting started with Microsoft Office, another feature of Army Skill Port — the Knowledge Centers — provide specific information in four areas: Microsoft MCSE/MCSA; information technology security, leadership and project management.

In addition, the Army Skill Port’s Referenceware provides 24/7 access to the full text of leading professional books. The system also offers simulation and expert



Photo by Kari Hawkins

TEACHING TOOL— John Bentley, a Human Resources specialist with the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, wants to help Soldiers and civilians gain access to educational opportunities via the Army Skill Port. The system provides more than 2,600 courses online, and access to online technical books and topic-oriented information. Bentley will help DoD organizations at Redstone Arsenal with developing free training programs using the assets of the Army Skill Port.

mentoring services, and provides access to the Rosetta Stone Foreign Language Library.

“In the simulations, an employee may be confronted with a moral issue and they have to choose one of four options,” Bentley said. “The simulation will allow them to visit with business leaders who will

See Training on page 5

Unmanned aircraft systems patrol skies over Iraq



Courtesy photo

LANDING — Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dean Lester recovers a 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry RQ-7 Shadow 200 UAV. The Army and Navy work closely together on UAV takeoffs and landings.

By Spc. MICHAEL HOWARD
Combat Aviation Brigade PAO

IRAQ — It's hard to believe that such a small aircraft can make such a big difference in the future of Iraq. But despite their size, unmanned aerial vehicles are paying huge dividends in the battle against the insurgency and sectarian violence that has been plaguing Iraq.

The unmanned aerial vehicles of the Unmanned Aerial Systems Platoon, 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Hood, Texas, are continually flying over the skies of northern Iraq — acting as the eyes of the 4-6 Cavalry Regiment. They play an essential role in the sensor-to-shooter link, a revolutionary new battlefield concept that streamlines both target identification and the clearance to fire process.

Before the advent of UAS, getting positive identification and clearance to fire required helicopters to get close enough to insurgents to warn the insurgents of their presence. Today, PID and clearance to fire can be obtained long before the insurgents have any inkling they are being watched. The clearance process can go two ways: sensor-to-shooter or shooter-to-sensor.

In the traditional sensor-to-shooter link, a UAS operator sees activity that seems suspicious. He gets in contact with the 4-6 CAV battle captain. The battle captain hands the footage off to an intelligence analyst, who gets positive identification and makes the determination of hostile intent. Once the determination is made, the analyst hands the feedback to the battle captain. The battle captain hands the feedback to the UAS Platoon. The UAV Platoon contacts Troop A, widely known as Thug Troop, a troop of Kiowa Warrior recon helicopters. The UAV Platoon walks 4-6's Thug in on the target, and then lasers the target.

"Our laser is like a spotlight coming out of the sky that points to the target, but the target can't see it," said Sgt. Marcus Centron, the UAS Platoon mission commander

and unit trainer.

The Kiowa pilots see the laser pointing to the target, designate the target with their own laser designators, and fire. The insurgents never realize anything out of the ordinary was happening.

The shooter to sensor link works in a similar manner, only it begins with the Kiowa seeing something suspicious first, Centron said. "Basically what happens is, thug will fly by, they'll see something that looks funny. They'll call up our element and say, 'UAS, we see something suspicious.' Then we take a look at it, get PID and get back to thug, 'Roger. You have clearance to fire.'"

Today, UAS plays a central role in aviation operations. However, Centron said that the current role of UAS is only the beginning.

"Our role in the command post of the future is limitless," he said. "We have so many other aircraft coming out. Shadow right now is just the start. We've got Warrior coming out. Soon, we're not going to need Kiowas. We're not going to need anyone. When we get positive identification, we're going to fire on the target. Unmanned, I believe is the future."

■ Army has online gateway to improved skills

Training

continued from page 4

share with them what they think the right answer is and why. It's very interactive, very thought provoking. It allows employees to see issues from different perspectives."

Bentley said the convenience of the Army Skill Port makes it a valuable tool for both organizations and employees.

"As busy as we are today, this system provides easily accessible opportunities so that when an employee has a few minutes here or there they can log on and work through their online class to become a better leader, a better worker and a better provider of customer service."

To access the Army Skill Port, Soldiers and DoD employees must first register by going to Army Knowledge Online,

Non line of sight launcher passes logistics test

Container launch unit demonstrated at Bliss

By DEBBIE COBB
For the Rocket

The Non Line of Sight-Launch System Logistics Directorate has conducted a successful logistics demonstration of the Container Launch Unit with Soldiers from the Army Evaluation Task Force Fires Battalion at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The task force serves as the test unit for the Future Combat System. NLOS-LS is one of 16 core systems that make up Future Combat System, the Army's leading modernization program to develop manned and unmanned systems linked by a common network and equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

NLOS-LS consists of a highly deployable, platform-independent container launch unit with self-contained tactical fire control electronics and software for remote and unmanned operations. Each container launch unit will consist of a computer and communications system and 15 precision attack missiles.

NLOS-LS will provide brigade combat teams with a networked, extended-range, precision attack capability against stationary and moving targets during all-weather conditions.

Of particular note, NLOS-LS has the ability to target and hit moving targets in conjunction with forward observer systems. This brings a new level of capability to the Army. Additionally, NLOS-LS has capability with current radio waveforms, as well as developing Future Combat System waveforms. This capability ensures the system's responsiveness to current and future force indirect fire needs.

In preparation for the logistics demonstration, Military Occupational Specialty 13 B New Equipment Train-



Courtesy photo

TESTING IN FIELD— The Non Line of Sight-Launch System should provide the war fighter with a reliable, sustainable and dependable system.

ing was conducted to outline the tasks and procedures used to configure, operate, reload, transport and maintain the container launch unit. Instruction used Class III Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals along with a paper supplement of the operator's manual.

During the demonstration, all tasks were evaluated in terms of manpower personnel integration, along with determining the adequacy of training and technical publications. Several maintenance and transportation tasks were conducted using Category IV Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear.

The logistics demonstration was a major project success as a result of the combined effort of all team members.

NLOS-LS is being developed by the Net Fires LLC, a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Raytheon for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space by way of the NLOS-LS Project Office.

<https://www.us.army.mil>. Once registered, they can login at www.usarmy.skillport.com.

Each registered user has their own Army Skill Port home page, where they can develop and view their own educational plan, and have access to reports on classes they have taken or need to take. Once courses are completed, the user receives a certificate of completion and, where applicable, college credit.

Bentley is available to assist organizations and employees with getting started with Army Skill Port.

"I will develop a training program for an organization using the Army Skill Port," he said. "I will give presentations at organizations to show employees how they can benefit themselves and their organization with Army Skill Port. I can also do a skills assessment of an organization that shows what the employee competencies and skills are today, what they need to be five years from now and what training is available through the Army Skill Port to get their employees where they need to be."

For more information, call Bentley at 313-0286 or e-mail him at john.bentley@us.army.mil.

Team upgrades processing center in Puerto Rico

Corps of Engineers works with homeland security

By JO ANITA MILEY

Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

While it's not unusual for the Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate's Facilities Repair and Renewal Division to upgrade facilities, this is the first time the team has worked with the Department of Homeland Security.

In the past, FRR has worked traditionally with customers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and the National Guard. According to Michael Murphy, FRR program manager, working with a new customer such as DHS can be very advantageous for Huntsville Center because FRR has been able to support customers that other programs like Utility Monitoring and Control Systems and Electronic Security Systems have brought in.

"By bringing in new customers, it not only provides opportunity for your program, but opportunities for other programs. DHS is a somewhat new agency that was established at the end of 2002; they do not have a construction support branch like USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) is for the U.S. Army. We have

been able to step in to help fill this role for DHS," Murphy said.

Under the terms of the new \$2 million contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, FRR is completing several task orders to improve safety and other standards for DHS detainees at San Juan, Puerto Rico's Aguadilla Service Processing Center.

Raul Alonso, the FRR project manager for the site, has been working closely with Marc Reynolds, the DHS project manager at Aguadilla, to make sure the necessary upgrades to the facility will help them stay in compliance with current environmental health and safety standards.

Alonso said he wears two hats, performing PM functions for Huntsville Center Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts and as the PM forward for the Engineering and Construction Support Office. There are various Corps of Engineers PM forwards across the nation assigned to customs border patrol sectors that perform this function. Alonso is acting as the USACE PM forward for the Ramey, Puerto Rico, and Miami customs border patrol sector regions.

Alonso is fluent in Spanish, and said this can be an asset in an area where a majority of the island is Spanish speaking only.

Reynolds said DHS wants to make sure that men and women detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement are being afforded the required levels of

healthcare, safety and humane treatment.

The team will upgrade current operational standards to ensure the safety and security of detainees at the Aguadilla facility. These upgrades include installing a fire suppression system and replacing a security perimeter fence. Installing the fence was among the first tasks to be completed.

In Puerto Rico, suspects are found on nearby bordering islands and then brought to Aguadilla for processing.

"In the past, an abandoned and dilapidated fence was all that separated detainees from the rest of the population," Alonso said. "The new security perimeter fence consists of razor and concertina wire, and its purpose is to deter detainees from trying to escape."

The team also has taken an active role in remodeling the facility with both interior and exterior upgrades. These upgrades include adding perimeter lighting, upgrading detainee restrooms, reconfiguring the electrical system and replacing an old roof

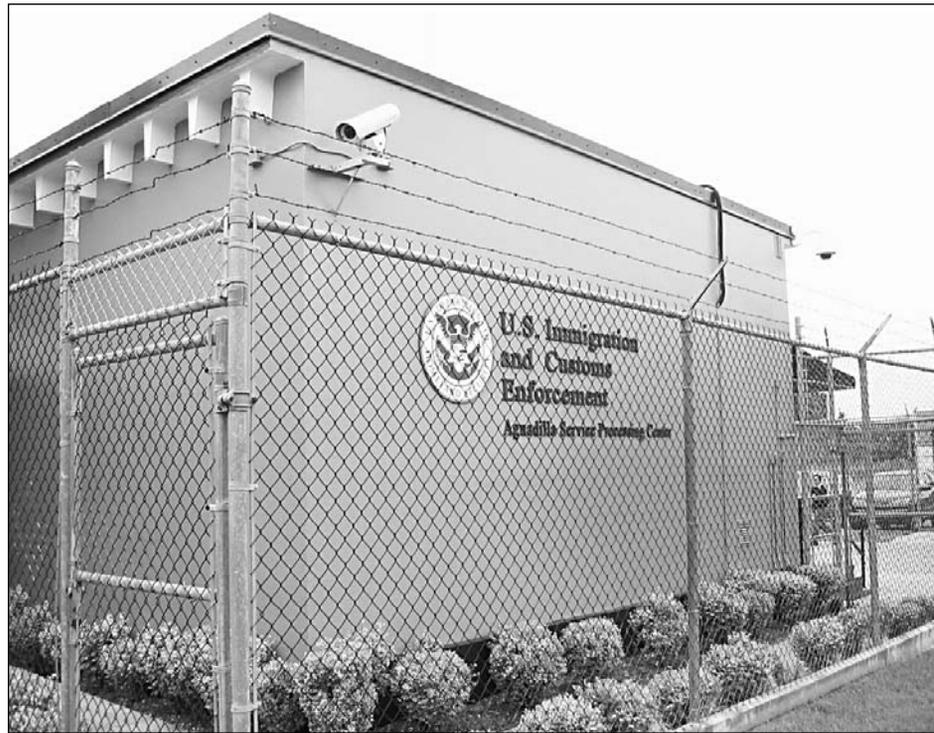
according to current industry standard.

Alonso said his PM forward duties entail facilitating and coordinating the various projects at his assigned CBP sectors with other Corps offices in Jacksonville, Fla.; Fort Worth, Texas; Savannah, Ga.; and Mobile.

According to Reynolds, the Corps has played an important role in the mission of homeland security, especially in light of recent terrorism threats around the globe.

"The Army Corps of Engineers has been very helpful in assisting Customs and Border Protection with our numerous projects in Puerto Rico," Reynolds said. "The knowledge and contract oversight has helped us stay on schedule with the ultimate goal to provide the facilities necessary for CBP to perform our mission in protecting our homeland."

Murphy and Alonso agree this new contract illustrates the FRR team's ability to provide a wide range of support to non-traditional customers.



Courtesy photo

ADMIN BUILDING— The Aguadilla administration building houses men and women who may be illegal immigrants and/or potential felons and criminals detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Northrop, UAH join forces on engineering center

Northrop Grumman Corp. and the University of Alabama-Huntsville have joined forces to create the Huntsville System & Mechanical Engineering Center of Excellence.

The center will expedite development and delivery of high-technology, platform-based systems to the military, according to company executives.

Experts in platform engineering, integration, production and testing, linked by a collaborative computer network at the center, will work to reduce design time and cost, facilitate rapid prototyping and ensure a smooth production transition. The alliance of nationwide members will use common software and hardware engineering tools and have access to a "knowledge database" of technical data packages.

Charter members of the consortium include the University of Alabama-Huntsville; Alabama A&M University; University of Texas at Austin; L-3 Communications, New York, N.Y.;

Azbell Electronics, Waco, Texas; Harris Corporation, Melbourne, Fla.; ALICO Systems, Torrance, Calif.; Gichner Shelter Systems, Dallastown, Pa.; Armor Holdings, Jacksonville, Fla.; DRS Technologies Inc., Parsippany, N.J.; Spraycool ISR, Liberty Lake, Wash.; and Northrop Grumman Mission Systems, Reston, Va.

Army members include Tobyhanna Army Depot, Tobyhanna, Pa.; Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications Tactical, Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Program Manager, Tactical Operations Center, Huntsville; and Program Manager, Mounted Battle Command on the Move, Fort Monmouth.

Northrop expects, in the near term, to apply the collective capabilities of the consortium on its Command Post Platform and Joint Services Light Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance programs and its improvised explosive device efforts. (UAH release)



Courtesy photo

Home chapter

Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers President Robert Nichols, left, president of the Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, presents the chapter coin to Halstead Green of the G-8 (Resource Management) who spoke to members at the January luncheon about his experience as a deployed civilian in Iraq. Green was detailed to the State Department as a member of the 21 Provincial Reconstruction Teams now operating in Iraq. He engaged the fledging Iraqi municipal governments to instruct and assist on Municipal Financial Planning, Budgeting and Execution of available funds.

‘Deployments are hard, but that’s what we do’

Soldier returns to States after 9 months in Kuwait

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Six-year-old Charlie Matlock isn’t sure how long his mom, Maj. Lisa Leazenby, was deployed to Kuwait.

When asked, he thinks it might have been four years. But, then again, he’s not sure.

But what he does know is that his mom is now home. And she came home just in time to celebrate Christmas with her family – and to hear Charlie sing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” in a microphone on a stage at church.

“I couldn’t find him after church,” Leazenby recalled. “Everyone was getting in the car to go home. I went back in the church and found him singing on stage.

“Charlie’s the one who grabbed me at the airport at Fort Benning (Ga.) when I came home and said ‘Mommy, you’re the best Christmas present ever!’ He’s my child who is just all out there with how he feels.”

Charlie and his two young siblings – Hannah, 4, and Joe, 8 – along with half-sisters Grace, 11, and Sally, 14, were cared for by their dad, former Army captain, infantry officer and airborne ranger Scott Matlock, and Leazenby’s mom, Louise, during Leazenby’s nine-month deployment to Kuwait. During her deployment, Leazenby was in charge of reviewing the post deployment health of Soldiers leaving theater to return to the States.

“I was responsible for ensuring Soldiers leaving Iraq had completed their post deployment health assessments,” said Leazenby, a nurse practitioner with the Army.

“We checked for post traumatic stress injuries and illnesses that occurred in theater. We made sure they had enough of the medication they needed to make it home. And we were looking for more long lasting things, such as head traumas and shoulder injuries caused by IED (improvised explosive device)

blasts. We gave them referrals for their successful treatment once they got back to the States.”

Leazenby was deployed out of Fort Benning and was co-located with the Navy at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait. She was a member of two different Theater Sustainment Groups – first the 377th Reserves and then the 1st Theater Sustainment Corp active duty brigade. She often traveled to Camp Virginia to complete Soldier assessments.

“I knew this was a job I could do,” Leazenby said. “I’ve done mobilizations before when I set up the Camp Shelby (Miss.) mobilization site in 2004. I love working with mobilizations and taking care of Soldiers. And one of the best parts of the job was working as a liaison with the Navy, and teaching them how to do proficiencies and medical standard practices.”

Reviewing post-deployment Soldier health in Kuwait during Soldier layovers prior to their return to the U.S. often resulted in more thorough and extensive health assessments.

“I have found that Soldiers when in theater don’t have family members standing at the gate waiting for them to be released,” Leazenby said. “Because of that we get better assessments while Soldiers are still in theater or in Kuwait on their way home. The Army has mandated that these assessments be completed before the Soldier returns home.”

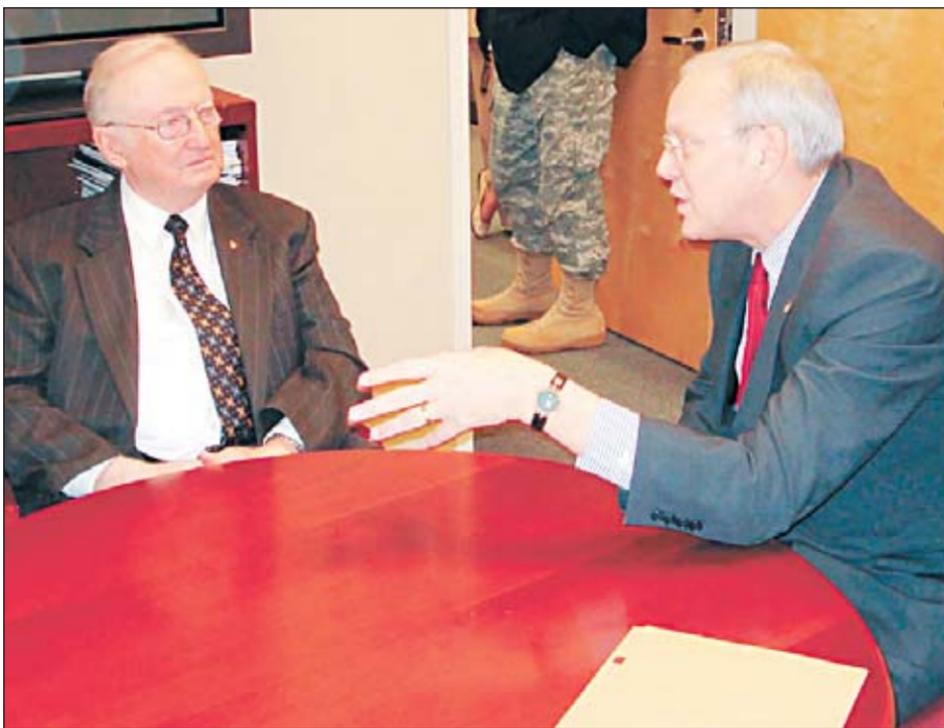
The Army requires that all Soldiers returning from deployments undergo a face-to-face health assessment with a trained health care provider – a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse, independent duty corpsman, independent duty medical technician or Special Forces medical sergeant – during in-theater medical out-processing or within 30 days prior to returning home or to their processing station. During the assessment, there is a review of the Soldier’s current health, mental health or



Photo by Kari Hawkins

RESUMING WORK AT FOX— Maj. Lisa Leazenby is now serving as the chief of the Welcome to Wellness Program at Fox Army Health Center. She recently returned from a nine-month deployment to Kuwait where she was in charge of completing health assessments on Soldiers returning from theater to the U.S.

See **Deployment** on page 18



Courtesy photo

Engineering pact

Dr. Bill McCorkle, left, executive director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, discusses a memorandum of agreement for engineering services with Kim Huntley, deputy commander of the Defense Supply Center in Richmond, Va. The supply center's pact with the Prototype Integration Facility will enable the Defense Logistics Agency to procure some badly needed parts more quickly. Under the agreement, the facility will provide engineering services and technical data packages. The facility is part of AMRDEC.

Rocket readers share their views

Newspaper survey available on web

More than 160 people had responded by Feb. 4 to the Redstone Rocket readership survey which opened Jan. 16.

The responses were generally favorable. We appreciate everyone who has taken the time to complete the survey and will consider all the comments.

If you haven't responded, please do so.

The Internet is the preferred method of completing the survey. That makes it easier to compile and track the results. The survey can be found at AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs web site at <http://pao.redstone.army.mil/>.

Those without web access can just complete the survey on paper and return it to the AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs Office, on the first floor of Sparkman Center building 5300, at AMSAM-PC, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

For more information on the survey or newspaper distribution questions, call Redstone Rocket editor Skip Vaughn at 876-1500 or e-mail skip.vaughn@htimes.com.

Here are the results received by the afternoon of Feb. 4:

Media usage

1. Which channels/vehicles do you regularly use during the business week?

Redstone Rocket — 138
Channel 42 — 13
MWR web site — 25
PAO web site — 5
The Huntsville Times — 102
Supervisors — 42
Word of mouth — 60
Historical Office — 5
Redstone Rocket web site — 11
Video streaming news channels — 21
None of the above — 2

Specific media (Redstone Rocket)

2. When was the last time you read or looked into the Redstone Rocket?

Never read or looked into the paper — 0
Within last month — 157
Within last three months — 3
Within last six months — 1

3. How much of the Redstone Rocket do you read or look into on an average weekday?

None/almost none — 8
One-fourth — 22
One-half — 29
Three-fourths — 15
Almost all/all — 87

Overall opinion

4. Overall, how would you rate the Redstone Rocket?

Excellent — 44
Very good — 62
Good — 43
Fair — 7
Poor — 5

5. To what extent has the Redstone Rocket met your expectations?

Greatly exceeded — 40
Somewhat exceeded — 38
Met/would meet my expectations — 67
Fallen somewhat short — 11
Fallen greatly short — 5

Specific perception

6. Please rate Redstone Rocket on each of the following characteristics. To answer use a 5-point rating scale for

which a 1 means that it describes the paper very poorly and a 5 means it describes the paper very well. Then please indicate how important each is to you personally by checking one box in the importance section for each characteristic.

Reflects my personal beliefs:

Satisfaction — 5 (15), 4 (36), 3 (100), 2 (5), 1 (5). Importance — 5 (17), 4 (25), 3 (49), 2 (38), 1 (31).

Makes me think: Satisfaction — 5 (10), 4 (34), 3 (97), 2 (11), 1 (9). Importance — 5 (13), 4 (39), 3 (71), 2 (26), 1 (11).

Is accurate/free of errors: Satisfaction — 5 (20), 4 (51), 3 (81), 2 (8), 1 (1). Importance — 5 (48), 4 (43), 3 (49), 2 (12), 1 (9).

Can be used anywhere, anytime I want: Satisfaction — 5 (24), 4 (41), 3 (84), 2 (7), 1 (5). Importance — 5 (16), 4 (25), 3 (57), 2 (41), 1 (20).

Cares about people like me: Satisfaction — 5 (24), 4 (35), 3 (77), 2 (19), 1 (6). Importance — 5 (25), 4 (39), 3 (60), 2 (22), 1 (14).

Stirs my imagination/surprises me: Satisfaction — 5 (8), 4 (27), 3 (92), 2 (23), 1 (11). Importance — 5 (8), 4 (20), 3 (74), 2 (39), 1 (19).

Is relaxing to read: Satisfaction — 5 (20), 4 (42), 3 (83), 2 (11), 1 (5). Importance — 5 (15), 4 (30), 3 (57), 2 (39), 1 (19).

Has personality: Satisfaction — 5 (15), 4 (37), 3 (86), 2 (17), 1 (6). Importance — 5 (12), 4 (30), 3 (62), 2 (43), 1 (13).

Is a leader in the community: Satisfaction — 5 (20), 4 (34), 3 (81), 2 (20), 1 (6). Importance — 5 (24), 4 (34), 3 (55), 2 (33), 1 (14).

Provides valuable content: Satisfaction — 5 (26), 4 (46), 3 (74), 2 (12), 1 (3). Importance — 5 (51), 4 (52), 3 (48), 2 (6), 1 (3).

Makes it easy to find what I'm looking for: Satisfaction — 5 (22), 4 (35), 3 (84), 2 (13), 1 (7). Importance — 5 (40), 4 (43), 3 (57), 2 (16), 1 (4).

Content

7. Please rate Redstone Rocket on each of the following kinds of content. To answer use a 5-point rating scale for which a 1 means that it is poor and a 5 means it is excellent. Pick a single number between 1 and 5 to rate how good a job the newspaper does with each type of content. Then please indicate how important each is to you personally by checking one box in the importance section for each type of content.

Army/DoD related stories: Satisfaction — 5 (22), 4 (43), 3 (83), 2 (11), 1 (2). Importance — 5 (31), 4 (62), 3 (50), 2 (13), 1 (4).

Retiree stories: Satisfaction — 5 (14), 4 (29), 3 (106), 2 (10), 1 (5). Importance — 5 (16), 4 (27), 3 (55), 2 (38), 1 (24).

Civilian news: Satisfaction — 5 (17), 4 (32), 3 (93), 2 (14), 1 (5). Importance — 5 (26), 4 (54), 3 (53), 2 (19), 1 (8).

Redstone sports and recreation: Satisfaction — 5 (7), 4 (29), 3 (118), 2 (4), 1 (3). Importance — 5 (8), 4 (20), 3 (53), 2 (47), 1 (32).

Command policy: Satisfaction — 5 (17), 4 (37), 3 (94), 2 (11), 1 (2). Importance — 5 (34), 4 (60), 3 (51), 2 (10), 1 (4).

Work force opinions: Satisfaction — 5 (11), 4 (37), 3 (87), 2 (18), 1 (7). Importance — 5 (20), 4 (37), 3 (62), 2 (34), 1 (7).

Advertising for job opportunities: Satisfaction — 5 (20), 4 (28), 3 (90), 2 (14), 1 (8). Importance — 5 (34), 4 (39), 3 (60), 2 (13), 1 (14).

Redstone: Satisfaction — 5 (25), 4 (37), 3 (88), 2 (8), 1 (3). Importance — 5 (32), 4 (56), 3 (56), 2 (13), 1 (3).

Photos: Satisfaction — 5 (19), 4 (40), 3 (91), 2 (9), 1 (2). Importance — 5 (22), 4 (46), 3 (49), 2 (34), 1 (9).

Outcome

8. Please rate Redstone Rocket on each of the following kinds of outcomes. To answer use a 5-point rating scale for which a 1 means that it is poor and a 5 means it is excellent. Pick a single number between 1 and 5 to rate how good a job the newspaper does with each type of outcome. Then please indicate how important each is to you personally by checking one box in the importance section for each type of outcome.

I like to talk about things I've read in the Rocket: Satisfaction — 5 (16), 4 (31), 3 (102), 2 (8), 1 (4). Importance — 5 (17), 4 (26), 3 (63), 2 (40), 1 (14).

Reading the Rocket has changed the way I do my job/helps me do my job better: Satisfaction — 5 (11), 4 (14), 3 (89), 2 (32), 1 (13). Importance — 5 (19), 4 (19), 3 (51), 2 (44), 1 (27).

My impression of my organization improved due to something I read in the Rocket: Satisfaction — 5 (11), 4 (19), 3 (88), 2 (28), 1 (13). Importance — 5 (26), 4 (22), 3 (53), 2 (36), 1 (23).

Demographic

10. Which best describes your education?

Grade school (eighth-grade or less) — 0
Some high school (did not graduate) — 0
High school graduate (12th-grade) — 1
Special or technical training (not college) — 6
Some college (1-3 years) — 29
College graduate — 65
Postgraduate — 61

11. Which best describes your current employment status?

Employed full time — 149
Employed part time — 5
Looking for work — 0
Student — 0
Disabled — 1
Retired and working part time — 2
Retired — 3
Not employed — 1

12. Please indicate your age and gender.

Gender: Male — 82; Female — 78
Age: under 20 (1); 20-30 (11); 30-40 (19); 40-50 (37); 50-60 (64); 60-70 (24); 70-80 (3); 80-90 (1); over 90 (1)

13. What race do you consider yourself to be?

White, not of Hispanic origin — 124
Hispanic — 4
Asian or Pacific islander, not of Hispanic origin — 1
African-American/black/not of Hispanic origin — 18
American Indian or Alaskan native — 3
Other — 11

Retiree enlightened on windfall provision

The following question and answer originally appeared in the NARFE Magazine and is reprinted with permission from the National Active and Retired Federal Employee Association.

Question: Over the past few years, I have been reading different articles regarding the Windfall Elimination Provision and am still confused. In last month's magazine, you responded to a question, saying that if a person who retired under the Civil Service Retirement System and has 30 years or more of paying into Social Security, he or she is not affected by the WEP. Did I read that correctly? I retired under the old system with 33 years of service. I also have 32 years of paying into Social Security from local, state and military reserve time. Am I exempt from WEP? If not, does Social Security subtract the difference from my check or is my federal retirement check reduced? Do you know of a publication that explains the WEP process and where I can get it?

Answer: If you have at least 30 years of substantial earnings covered by Social Security taxes, you are exempt from the WEP. The WEP affects the way your Social Security benefit is computed. It does not reduce your CSRS benefit.

The publication is Social Security Pub. No. 05-10045 Windfall Elimination Provision, available on the Social Security Administration web site. Go to www.ssa.gov/pubs/10045.pdf. Be sure to read this publication since it includes the amounts needed for meeting the substantial earnings requirements for each year since 1937. You also can call Social Security to obtain this publication.



Courtesy photo

Graduation day

The Integrated Materiel Management Center presented certificates to its graduating Army interns Feb. 7. From left, they include: front row, Sara Johnston, Michele Crook, Sudha Alapati and Cassandra Shephard; middle row, Tami Rose, Rakeshia Ransaw, Kim Corbo and Nicki Arnold; and back row, David Newton, Russell Fortenberry, Dru Jackson, Jeffrey Smith, Liz Preston, Jacob Cody and Kevin Valentin. Not pictured are Pat Miller and Jeremy Hawkins.

Witnessing the Army in action for families

Gena Scofield participates in Armywide conference

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Gena Scofield recently saw the Army in action – though, not necessarily the side of the Army that defends freedom all over the world.

Rather, Scofield got to witness how the Army works in protecting its Soldiers, families, retirees, wounded warriors and veterans.

As an Army Community Service delegate from Redstone Arsenal, Scofield was chosen by the Army Materiel Command to attend the Department of the Army's Army Family Action Plan Conference in December 2007 in Washington, D.C. During the conference, 120 delegates representing all demographics from all U.S. Army installations were assigned to work groups to study, consider and vote on family issues recommended to the DA as a result of AFAP conferences held, first, at installations and, second, at the command level. Of the 80 issues studied, 15 were adopted and briefed to the Director of the Army Staff at the conference's closing session.

"It was amazing to see what a difference this actually makes," Scofield said. "You can talk about an issue that can go all the way to the Department of the Army and make a change that affects the entire Army and even become law."

Scofield's military background as the wife of a retired Soldier and now as a civilian employee with Child and Youth Services made her a perfect choice to represent Redstone Arsenal at the AFAP conference at the Army Materiel Command level in spring 2007. She was then chosen to go on to represent the Army Materiel Command at the DA's AFAP conference.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

REVIEWING ISSUES— Cathy Hays, left, of Army Community Service talks with Gena Scofield about issues reported in the Department of the Army's Army Family Action Plan Conference Report. Scofield represented Redstone Arsenal in 2007 at the AFAP conference at the Army Materiel Command level and then was chosen to be a representative for the Army Materiel Command at the Department of the Army AFAP in December. Scofield, wife of a retired Soldier, works with Child and Youth Services, where she is the Family Child Care director, Child and Youth Service nutritionist and the assistant director of the Child Development Center.

"This is the first year we've had a delegate go both to the AFAP conference at the Army Materiel Command level and the Department of the Army level," said Cathy Hays, quality of life program manager at Army Community Service who also coordinates the local AFAP conference.

"Every year, different delegates are chosen because we want fresh ideas and to allow more people to be exposed to the process. The delegates represent active duty, spouses, military families, retirees and veterans, wounded warriors, civil servants, and National Guard and Reserves. The entire Army family is represented."

At the DA level, eight work groups consisting of about 12 delegates reviewed various AFAP recommendations that have come up through Army commands. They relied on facilitators and subject matter experts

to provide information on the issues they were considering.

"All the AFAP recommendations started with one person at one installation somewhere," said Scofield, who first got involved with the AFAP process when she volunteered to participate in the conference at Redstone Arsenal last spring. "The AFAP process is proof positive that people have a voice in Army policy."

Scofield worked in the Family Support One work group, which reviewed 11 issues. Of those issues, two were recommended to the DA for inclusion in the Army Family Action Plan, and were among the 15 briefed at the conference closing session. They were: develop and implement a recurring Operations Security Awareness Training Program targeted for family members; and extend Transitional Compensation benefits for pre-existing pregnancies of abused family members.

"Once each working group chose its top issues, the delegates came together and reviewed all 15 issues coming out of the work group. We then voted to come up with the top issues that should

get top priority," Scofield said.

The top conference issues (which included a four-way tie) were earmarked for immediate action, including one issue – Health and Wellness Centers — that resulted from the AFAP conference at Redstone Arsenal in February 2007. Those top issues were:

- Minimum Disability Retirement Pay for Medically Retired Wounded Warriors;
- Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and Uniplegia (the complete and irreversible paralysis of one limb by other than amputation);
- Federal Hiring Process for Wounded Warriors; and
- Four-way tie between Health and Wellness Centers; Medical Care Access for Non-Dependent Caregivers of Severely Wounded Soldiers; Staffing to Support the Physical Disability Evaluation System; and Comprehensive Behavioral Health Program for Children.

See **Family** on page 13

Top 15 issues at 2007 conference

The following 15 issues were identified and adopted by delegates at the Department of the Army's Army Family Action Plan Conference. Delegates briefed the issues to the Director of the Army Staff at the conference's closing session.

- 1) Minimum Disability Retirement Pay for Medically Retired Wounded Warriors;
- 2) Traumatic Service Members' Group Life Insurance for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and Uniplegia;
- 3) Federal Hiring Process for Wounded Warriors;
- 4) Health and Wellness Centers;
- 5) Medical Care Access for Non-Dependent Caregivers of Severely Wounded Soldiers;
- 6) Staffing to Support the Physical Disability Evaluation System;
- 7) Comprehensive Behavioral Health Program for Children;
- 8) Standardized Army Wounded Warrior Information Packet;
- 9) Medical Entitlements for College Age Family Members;
- 10) Academic Tutoring for Active Duty School Age Children;
- 11) Operations Security Training for Family Members;
- 12) Tricare Network Provider Access to Military Medical Records;
- 13) Enhanced Survivor Family Dental Benefits;
- 14) Transitional Compensation Benefits for Pre-existing Pregnancies of Abused Family Members;
- 15) Donation of Leave for Department of Defense Civilian Employees.

Family

continued from page 12

“Most of the top issues have some relation to war, either they were wounded warrior issues or activated Guard and Reserve issues,” Scofield said. “The majority of the issues we looked at had to do with the Army’s current situation at war.”

The Health and Wellness Center issue that resulted from the Redstone Arsenal AFAP calls for the establishment of standardized, integrated wellness centers at installations Armywide that would be modeled after the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Europe.

“These centers would benefit Soldiers and families by providing more of a preventive health program that includes workouts, nutrition training, counseling, occupational therapy, behavioral medicine and much more,” Hays said. “It would be geared toward wellness and would be operated much like a wellness center at a hospital or a private care facility. This would be a real win for Redstone Arsenal and all Army installations.”

Scofield represented her work group at the AFAP General Officers Steering Committee Meeting.

“I got to observe all these generals and the Secretary of the Army talk about AFAP issues that had come up and were being worked,” she said. “It was amazing at what all went on at that meeting as they decided what issues were viable, what issues had

been completed and what issues were unattainable.”

While Scofield can only serve once as an AMC and DA delegate in the AFAP process, she hopes to serve as a facilitator at future AFAP conferences.

“I would like to be able to take what I’ve learned and help other delegates work through the process,” she said. “I would like to help keep delegates focused and moving forward on the issues.”

Scofield also hopes to encourage other Redstone Arsenal representatives to get involved in the AFAP process. That involvement starts at the local level.

“This is a great program to be involved in because you can actually see how people can make a difference,” she said. “It was really interesting to see how people work together to decide on issues that affect the Army’s Soldiers and their families.”

Active issues at the steering committee level included Montgomery GI Bill for Veterans Education Assistance Program Era Soldiers; Newly Acquired Dependent Travel Entitlement; Retirement Services Officer Positions at Regional Readiness Commands; Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) Funding; Shortage of Marriage and Family Counselors in CONUS; Tricare Coverage for School Required Enrollment Physicals; Paternity Permissive TDY; Family Readiness Group Training; Army Integrated Family Support Network; and Army Sponsored Community Based Child Care to Support AIFSN and Transformation.

Completed issues included: Untimely Finance Transactions; Marriage and Family

Counseling Services in Remote Areas; Tricare Information for Reserve Components; Non-Chargeable Leave for Deployed Soldiers; Terminal Leave Restrictions for Soldiers in Physical Disability Evaluation System; Equal Compensatory Time for Full-Time NAF Employees; DoDDS Tuition for DoD Contractors and Non-Appropriated Fund Employees; Family Member Access to e-Learning Programs; Audio/Video Surveillance for Child Development Centers; and Family Readiness Support Assistants.

The delegates also reviewed working AFAP issues from previous conferences. They included:

- Allowing Soldiers with at least 10 years of service to transfer Montgomery GI Bill benefits to dependents;
- Establishing a comprehensive, integrated rehabilitative program for Traumatic Brain Injury patients at military medical centers of excellence;
- Providing retroactive Traumatic Service Members Group Life Insurance compensation to Soldiers with qualifying injuries;
- Directing all states, District of Columbia and U.S. territories to grant unemployment compensation to military spouses who leave a job because of their Soldier’s new assignment;
- Reducing member cost share for dental services and increasing maximum annual benefit in the Tricare Dental Program and the Tricare Retiree Dental Program; and
- Allowing Reserve Component Soldiers and family members up to one year post-mobilization to identify the need for counseling related to service-connected problems.

The delegates also reviewed strengths and challenges of Mobilization, Deployment and Family Readiness within the Army.

Strengths to Mobilization, Deployment and Family Readiness include:

- The Army Wounded Warrior Program,
- The Army Family Covenant,
- Support to Family Readiness Groups,
- Communication with families and
- Post deployment programs for Soldiers and families.

Challenges to Mobilization, Deployment and Family Readiness include:

- Providing mental health care for Soldiers and families,
- The frequency of deployments,
- The stigma of seeking mental health services,
- Inconsistent wounded warrior treatment and tracking, and
- Family readiness group training.

Editor’s note: This year’s Army Family Action Plan Conference at Redstone Arsenal has been moved from its regular meeting time in February to Oct. 28-29 to bring the local conference date more in line with other AFAP conferences in the Army. As a result no AFAP issues from Redstone Arsenal will be submitted for consideration at the 2008 national AFAP conference, but will resume again in the 2009 AFAP process. Redstone Arsenal, however, will still have delegates to the Army Materiel Command AFAP this spring, and AFAP issues at the local level will still be worked by Cathy Hays. To submit AFAP issues or to volunteer for the local AFAP conference in October, call Hays at 842-8375 or e-mail her at cathy.hays@conus.army.mil.

Night for exotic tastes, family fun on club's menu



Courtesy photo

COOKIN' OUT— Tom Pyburn of Outdoor Recreation and Robert Schumann, manager of the Officers and Civilians Club, wear their country finest at last year's Wild Game Cookout.

Wild Game Cookout should attract crowd

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer

kelleyna@bellsouth.net

If your tastes run to the exotic, Outdoor Recreation and the Officers and Civilians Club have an evening planned for you – the Wild Game Cookout, Feb. 22.

The event, beginning at 5 p.m., promises attendees a taste of something different. Chef Ben Howard will prepare a variety of delicacies for the daring. Some of the offerings will be local, such as venison and turkey. Others are being specially brought in. What meats will be served will depend on freshness and availability.

“We’re still deciding based on what’s available,” Howard said. “We’re trying to get moose. I am getting rattlesnake. We’re working with dealers who provide exotic meats. I’m trying to get as much of a variety as I can. I may even be getting some porcupine.”

Howard intends to prepare most of the meats in their traditional manner. There will also be some tamer temptations available. Vegetables and side dishes will be served in addition to the wild game.

“It’s not only going to be game,” Howard said. “We’re going to have roast vegetables, corn on the cob and basic stuff. So if people aren’t interested in trying weird stuff there will be things for them to eat.”

The event will not be a traditional sit-down dinner. Instead, attendees can mingle and visit among individual stations showcasing particular dishes, giving them greater control over what and how much they eat. Draft beer is also included with the price of admission, while quantities last.

Corporate sponsor Gander Mountain plans to turn the club and surrounding grounds into an outdoor paradise. Just like last year they will decorate the facility, inside and out, with animal decoys, hunting and fishing equipment, tents and other sporting items.

“They will have all kinds of displays,” Bill Moreland, Outdoor Recreation manager, said. “Four wheelers, decoys – last year they brought a boat in.”

One of the highlights of the Wild Game Cookout is always the chili cookoff. Entry is open to anyone with installation access. All entries will be available for sampling during the event. Judging is that night, with awards in several categories up for grabs. Attendees will get a chance to vote on their favorite and Howard will present the Chef’s Choice award. For those who have the will but lack the wild game, Outdoor Recreation is supplying ground venison – although any wild game can be used.

“Everyone can participate in this,” recreation specialist Tom Pyburn said. “We will give you the rules and supply ground venison if they don’t have their own.”

See **Cookout** on page 18

Army partners with KU for Wounded Warrior Education



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

JAYHAWK TALK— During a ceremony Feb. 6 at the Army's Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., chancellor Robert Hemenway of the University of Kansas discusses the school's partnership with the Army to carry out the Wounded Warrior Education Initiative.

By C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – The Army and the University of Kansas struck up a partnership that will allow wounded Soldiers to earn a master's degree at the school and to apply what they have learned inside the Army's own academic community.

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and chancellor Robert Hemenway of the University of Kansas announced the "Wounded Warrior Education Initiative" Feb. 6 on the campus of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

"There's so much pent-up generosity out there in the American public," Geren said. "Americans want to step up and do something for our Soldiers.

"And chancellor Robert Hemenway had a good idea – let's develop this partnership, to help Soldiers that want to continue their education. Let's figure out a way to make this work to help these Soldiers continue professionally, to pursue their professional and educational dreams."

Soldiers and those medically retired who are part of the Wounded Warrior Program are eligible to participate in the new education initiative. They must already have a baccalaureate degree and must also be physically and mentally prepared to attend school.

Under the pilot program, participants will complete their master's degree at the University of Kansas, while the Army picks up the tab for that education.

"The welcome mat is out at KU," Hemenway said. "I look forward to having a great group of Soldiers among us and we will do everything in our power to help them succeed. This is an exceptional program; it is good for the Army because the Army will retain talent and the spirit of courage. It is good for KU, (because) we are determined to do what we can as a public university, known for supporting Soldiers, to contribute to the larger purposes to which the Army and these men and women have given so much."

At the completion of their degree program, graduates would take jobs as faculty or staff at the Army's Command and General Staff College or Combined Arms Center here. Those Soldiers who are still on active duty would remain on active duty, while those retired due to injury would serve as civilian instructors.

The program is one way the Army can stem the loss of military knowledge, education and experience that comes when wounded Soldiers leave the service, officials said. By helping wounded Soldiers complete their master's degree, the Army can keep some of that corporate knowledge in house.

Participation in the pilot program now has been offered to eight initial candi-

dates: retired Spc. Michael Hogg, Capt. Tim Hornik, Capt. Kristin Facer, Capt. Gates Brown, retired Capt. Michael Reynolds, retired Capt. Wesley E. Fine, Staff Sgt. Thomas Davis and retired 1st Lt. Jason Gladney. All eight Soldiers were injured in combat while serving in Iraq and all received Purple Hearts.

If these wounded warriors choose to complete their education at the University of Kansas, they will take jobs at CGCS, filling positions already identified by the school and applying their own education and personal experience to benefit students enrolled there.

Those wishing to participate in the Wounded Warrior Education Initiative must have been wounded in the war on terror and have a campaign medal. They may be either active duty, or medically retired active-component or reserve-component Soldiers.

Depending on the success of the Wounded Warrior Education Initiative, officials said the program may be expanded to include other civilian universities, other Army institutions of learning or even other branches of service.

"I want to thank KU for stepping up and setting up an opportunity for these fine Soldiers," Geren said. "The people of Kansas have always been great to the U.S. Army, whether at Fort Riley or at Fort Leavenworth – they are neighbors helping neighbors."

HHC 59th players showcase team concept

Wisdom and unity negate age factor

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com

HHC 59th player/coach Bobby McSwain liked what he saw from his basketball team Feb. 4 at Pagano Gym.

And it wasn't just his players' man-to-man defense and their ability to shoot 3-pointers.

"This is the first time we've played good team ball overall - good team concept," McSwain said. "We have a lot of maturity (seasoned players) on our team, but whatever we lack for in the youth we make up for in wisdom and just overall team concept."

LaQuaine Bess scored 19 points as the 59th beat 375th Engineer Company 60-41. The 59th improved to 2-1.

Marcus Beasley countered



Photo by Skip Vaughn

DOUBLE TEAMED— Marcus Beasley of 375th Engineer Company shoots between the 59th's Amos Jackson, left, and James Early. Beasley scored 19 points.

with 19 for the 375th Engineers, which fell to 0-3. The 59th led 34-18 at halftime.

"Tonight we got a little wind-

ed in the second half," 375th coach Daryl Owens said. "First half was a good showing. We can score but our scoring opportunities we're not capitalizing on. We can become more competitive on the offensive side if we capitalize on the opportunities we're given on the loose balls and rebounds."

Earlier that night, Craig Johnson scored a game-high 20 points to lead the Marines past the NCO Academy 51-40. Brian Walker added 10. The Marines led 31-13 at halftime.

Kurtrell Jackson had 16 for the NCO Academy.

Standings after last week's games had Headquarters & Alpha (5-0), Charlie (3-1), Marines (2-1), NCO Academy (2-1), HHC 59th (2-2), Bravo (2-2), 326th Chemical (0-4) and 375th Engineers (0-5).

Here are results from week three of the season:

- **Feb. 4** - Bravo won by forfeit over 326th Chemical; Marines def. NCO Academy 51-40; and HHC 59th def. 375th Engineers 60-41.

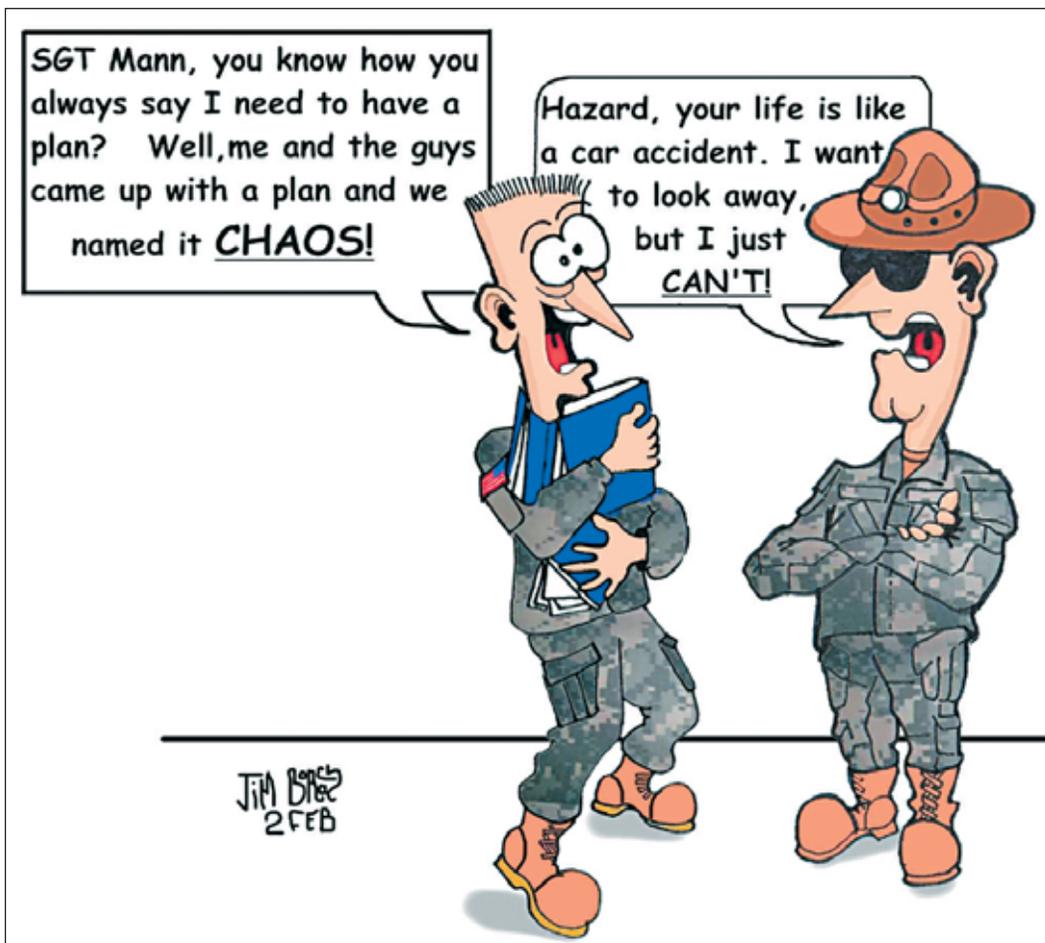


Photo by Skip Vaughn

RAISE UP— Marcus Lockett lives up to the HHC 59th motto - "Raise up" - with his jumper in the second half against Marco Pompey of the 375th Engineer Company. The 59th won 60-41.

- **Feb. 5** - Charlie def. HHC 59th 32-28; and Headquarters & Alpha def. 375th Engineers 55-28.

- **Feb. 7** - Headquarters & Alpha def. Charlie 53-31; and Bravo def. 375th Engineers 62-54.



Courtesy photo

Perfect ending

The New England Patriots' quest for perfection did not end that way in the Super Bowl. But it did for a group of local 9- and 10-year-old boys from Hazel Green. The Shooters culminated their perfect season with a win over the Blue Water Vipers in the finals of the county championship to finish 19-0. Team members include, from left, Trey Staples, Will Gentle, Alex Gomex, Brady Beshears, Chris Gothard, Matt Temple, Ryan Campbell and Garrett Citrano. Not pictured is coach Billy Gentle.



Courtesy photo

As the bowl turns

What's happening at the Military and Civilian Arts and Crafts Center? Just ask Tom Prohaska, who is perfecting his bowl turning skills learned in a previous class. To arrange a tour of the center, at the intersection of Vincent and Gray roads, call 876-7951 or e-mail redstone-mwr.art@conus.army.mil.

Wild Game Cookout features varied dishes, chili contest

Cookout

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The event is billed as a family affair. Kids 10 and under are admitted free. If being able to tell their friends they ate bear isn't enough, the kids should enjoy the exhibits from Gander Mountain.

"It's great for the whole family," Robert Schumann, manager of the Officers and Civilians Club, said. "Last year the kids crawled all over everything. They loved it."

The Arts and Crafts Center will be onsite during the event. They will demonstrate how to make pens from antlers right before your eyes. These will be available for sale. They will also take orders for commemorative mugs and other items. Door prizes are given away throughout the evening from Gander Mountain and Outdoor Recreation.

"Outdoor Recreation will be donating rentals of campers and pontoon boats," Pyburn said.

This is the 20th annual event, the second at the club, and a high turnout is expected. Last year's crowd of more than 300 was a sell-out. Moreland encourages those planning to attend to get their tickets quickly. Chili contest participants should also register soon.

"We had an overflowing crowd last year," Moreland said. "It's best to come early and buy your tickets now. There are a limited number of tickets available. We expect to sell out again."

Tickets cost \$15 per person and are available at the club during normal office hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit the club or call 830-2582. To enter the chili competition, call Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868.

"This is our second year to be here (at the club)," Moreland said. "We're happy to be here and happy to have the professional guidance of chef Ben Howard."

Nurse practitioner did checkups for Soldiers in Kuwait

Deployment

continued from page 8

psychosocial issues commonly associated with deployments, special medications taken during the deployment, possible deployment-related occupational/environmental exposures, and deployment-related health concerns.

"During these assessments, I would also make sure the Soldier was educated about and understood what their benefits were to them," Leazenby said. "I wanted to make it easier for them to get the care they needed once they returned home. I wanted to educate them on the care they were going to need."

"For the National Guard and Reserves, I made sure they understood that their Tricare medical care is good for 180 days after they return from their deployment. They can also get VA benefits for medical conditions for up to two years after a deployment, and that time extends indefinitely if a medical condition is discovered during those two years that needs treatment beyond the two-year mark."

Soldiers must also complete a post-deployment health reassessment between 90 to 180 days after returning home.

"The reassessment is one of the better things the Army has mandated because many Soldiers think once they get home the sleepless nights and the shoulder pains will get better," Leazenby said. "But then after awhile, it's obvious they are not going away. The reassessment gives them the opportunity to bring those issues up and get the care they need. This is very important, especially for the numbers of National Guard and Reservists we are deploying."

During her deployment, husband Scott Matlock had the challenge of raising young children while their mom was away. In addition, the family also endured the deployment of adopted 21-year-old daughter Spc. Morgan Matlock, who is a military intelligence Soldier now serving in Tashi, Iraq. She is scheduled to return to Fort Hood, Texas, this month.

"This was the first time Scott actually had the kids all by himself," said Leazenby, who also deployed to Bosnia in 1995 and to Camp Shelby in 2004. "The experience made him and the kids stronger and closer. There was a lot of instant messaging and e-mails this time, and lots of pictures sent back and forth."

Matlock also got a lot of help from Leazenby's mom, who has lived with the family since 1999.

"She is integral to the family," Leazenby said. "She worked with Scott to keep things going at home."

But despite the support from Leazenby's mother and their church – Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Madison – Matlock said the deployment was a lot harder than he expected.

"I'd been deployed before, but I've never been the one to stay home," said Matlock, who was injured in an airborne jump while in the Army.

"I've been deployed to Bosnia and Rwanda, and I spent a year in Iraq as a contractor. In a lot of

ways, it seems our roles are kind of reversed than the way they were when we first got married."

Matlock said the technology – weekly phone calls, and daily e-mails and text messaging – made the deployment bittersweet.

"On the one hand, I liked being able to talk to her about what was going on here and letting the kids talk with her. It was great to hear from her. The communication was so instantaneous that it was like she wasn't really halfway around the world. The technology we have today allows for a lot more give and take than we had 10 or 15 years ago," he said.

"But on the other hand, the communication with her was a constant reminder that she wasn't here. And it made it harder to focus on what had to be done here."

Grandma Leazenby helped the kids put together packages of their artwork, cards and letters to send to their mom. And she helped with their day-to-day care. But mom couldn't really be replaced.

"Hannah was a little too young to understand," Matlock said. "Charlie didn't worry about it too much. But, Joe has a tendency to worry. I think he needs his mom more than the other kids do."

"This deployment would have been a lot harder 10 years ago. Now, I'm a little older, more mature and more patient. And I knew how to ask for help. Lisa's chain of command was very supportive, and Joe and I both used the counseling services at Fox to help us through the deployment."

Prior to her deployment, Leazenby was chief of Fox Army Health Center's Troop Medical Clinic, which she established in 2005. She also served as the brigade surgeon for the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School. She is now reassigned at Fox as chief of the Welcome to Wellness Program.

"Beneficiaries enrolling into Fox go through a program called Welcome to Wellness that teaches them about being a patient at Fox, how to book online appointments, how to take medications properly and other aspects of wellness care," Leazenby said. "We make sure they have the health screenings they need. This program is a gateway to wellness for those enrolling at Fox."

This summer, the family will move to Germany, where Leazenby will be assigned to work in the Baumholder Army Health Clinic. The family is looking forward to the move.

"We've lived in Germany before and we've seen all the museums and things like that," Leazenby said. "This time we want to really experience the culture and everyday life of Germany."

With 15 years in the Army, Leazenby is proud of the service she has given her country.

"My dad served in World War II, and my brother was in the Navy and served in Vietnam," Leazenby said. "I grew up in a farm in Indiana. The Army was a way for me to go to college. And then in 2001, the Army sent me to school to be a nurse practitioner. The opportunities have been great."

"Deployments are hard. But that's what we do. That's the choice we made when we decided to serve our country. I joke that I love the Army, but I never had an exit plan."

Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Bicycle benefit

Break out the bicycle and helmet and start training now for the American Diabetes Association's first Tour de Cure event in Huntsville. Bikers of all skill levels and from all over the country are invited to sign up now for the May 17 ride that will tour southeast Huntsville. Individual riders and independent and corporate teams are invited to join the fight against diabetes by logging onto www.tour.diabetes.org and signing up for the Tour de Cure event. The registration fee is \$20. For more information about Huntsville's inaugural Tour de Cure ride for the American Diabetes Association, call Doris Lewis 539-4404 or log onto www.tour.diabetes.org.

Hockey night

The Huntsville Havoc will face off against the Columbus Cottonmouths at 7:30 p.m. March 8 at the Von Braun Center on "Military Appreciation Night." Free tickets are available to military, retired military and their family members. All others can get tickets for \$9 (youth/seniors), \$11 (adults) at the box office at the VBC. For military tickets come to building 3206 or call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969. For group information, call the Huntsville Havoc 518-6160.

Golf tournament

A.W. Watkins Scholarship Foundation will sponsor a Golf Tournament in April at Lagoon Park in Montgomery. For more information, e-mail dremy944@aol.com.

Couples tournament

Join the Links at Redstone for its Valentine's Day Couples Golf Tournament on Sunday at noon. The cost is \$20 per person. There will be refreshments and door prizes. For more information, call 883-7977.

Fitness instruction

A fitness class "Aerobithon" is Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at Pagano Gym. "Join MWR Sports & Fitness for three hours of non-stop fun while exercising," a prepared release said. "Instruction will be in step, toning, butts and guts, stretching and more." For more information, call 313-1201 or 842-2574.

Golf league

The OMMCS Golf League will have its 2008 season meeting Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Redstone Golf Course Clubhouse. "It appears that at least two or three of the 20 league teams will not field a team for the 2008 season," a prepared release said. "We are looking for teams to fill the void left in our league, as well as individual golfers to participate with some of our teams that have lost a player or two." The league will play April 1 through the first week in September. A team entry fee of \$110, charged to all teams, is used to pay to winning teams for the first and second parts of the season, as well as

individual and team wins each week. For more information call Dean Anderson home 852-3531, cell 797-3531, or Dave Parker 313-4196.

Youth baseball

Youth Sports is registering youth ages 5-12 for little league baseball, now through March 3. The registration fee is \$50, which includes the uniform, plus the \$18 central registration fee if not already paid. A late registration fee of \$10 will apply after March 3. To register, stop by Child and Youth Services' Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road, with a copy of the child's birth certificate and a current sports physical if not already on file. For more information, call 313-3699 or 876-3704. Registration paperwork can be found at www.redstonemwr.com.

Redstone flotilla

Redstone Flotilla 2406 of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a boating safety class on Thursday nights from Feb. 14 through March 27 at Stilwell Hall, building 3305, room 215 on Zeus Drive. Classes are 6:30-8:30 p.m. A \$25 fee covers the cost of materials. Successful completion exempts students from taking the state boat operator's examination and may save you up to 15 percent on boat insurance. For more information, call Tom Kunhart 830-6621.



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 building 3466 on Snooper Road. This is the temporary location because of Bicentennial Chapel's major renovation. Free childwatch is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 325-3152 or Sharon Olsheski 489-0404. "Bible studies this semester are: Covenant by Kay Arthur and Parables of Jesus, both taught in the morning session; A Heart Like His by Beth Moore, taught at the noon session for the working sisters; Revelation by John MacArthur, taught at the 6:30 p.m. session," a prepared release said.

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.

Engineer society

SOLE Tennessee Valley Chapter will have its February luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, program executive officer for missiles and space. Cost is



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Winner's bond

Post Exchange general manager Carl Carpenter congratulates Christopher Farner, 12, a sixth-grader at Columbia Elementary, on winning a \$5,000 savings bond in the "You Made the Grade" contest. Attending Thursday's ceremony were Christopher's parents, retired Lt. Col. David and Genevieve Farner of Madison, and his sister, Jennifer, 9.

\$14 for non-members (\$13 for members). For reservations call Jane Reeves 544-7991 or Dave Welch 837-5282, ext.1706.

Chapter luncheon

The Rocket City Chapter of ITEA will hold a luncheon meeting Feb. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Scientific Research Corporation, 103 Quality Circle, Suite 220. A complimentary lunch will be offered to the membership and non-members. Dr. John Foulkes, director of Test Resource Management Center, OSD, is the speaker. RSVP to James Knoch 876-2550.

Electromagnetic course

The 12th DoD Electromagnetic Windows Short Course and Symposium is April 28 to May 1 at the Sparkman Center. Regis-

tration is under way. Events qualify for TIPS credit. For more information, contact Angie.Cornelius@us.army.mil or visit <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/EMWS08/>.

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.

See Announcements on page 21

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, Personal Growth Center. This month's luncheon will be a fashion show from Steinmart featuring ASMC members as models. For ticket information, call Marlene Clemons 313-2378 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Engineer banquet

University of Alabama-Huntsville's College of Engineering will present the annual National Engineer's Week Award Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at UAH Bevell Center. The speaker is Dr. David Williams, new president of UAH. Tickets are \$25. Make checks payable to UAH

Foundation and mail to Barbara Moore, Civil Engineering Department, UAH, Huntsville, AL 35899. Tickets must be purchased by close of business Feb. 15.

Management institute

The Project Management Institute, North Alabama Chapter will hold its monthly luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. Dr. Bill Carswell, president of PMI-NAC, will discuss "The State of the Chapter." Board members will also describe plans for providing benefits to chapter members, sponsors and the local Project Management community. The cost is \$20 for PMI members, \$25 for non-members. RSVP by 5 p.m. Feb. 18 at www.northalabamapmi.org/Chapter-Meetings.htm.

University women

American Association of University Women will present the Legislative Committee's "A Thick Book," a 45-minute movie about Alabama's Constitution and need for constitutional reform, on March 4 at the Bevell Center, UAH, 550 Sparkman Drive. This is open to the public. Meet and greet begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner (\$19) at 6 and the program at 6:30. Seats are available for non-diners. Reservations should be made by Feb. 28 for both diners and non-diners with Lois Gruenel 880-8643.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Feb. 20 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Peter Baldaia, director of curatorial affairs, Huntsville Museum of Art. The chapter will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday, Feb. 23 at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

Engineer post

Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The cost of the buffet lunch is \$10.

Rocket Announcements

Make reservations with Amber.D.Martin@usace.army.mil, phone 895-1834. February's topic is "Collaborating Across Disciplines."

Genealogy society

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Auditorium, Main Branch. Bob Pace is to speak on "DNA Family Project." For information call 883-5650.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association has a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Members are offered breakfast for \$6 plus tip. This month's meeting is Feb. 21. The association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks from all services. Membership is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain 842-6778.

Support group

Making Connections ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Support Group meets Feb. 23 from 3-4:30 p.m. at Faith

See Announcements on page 22



Courtesy photo

Student-to-student

Capt. Ahmed Abou El-Hag, right, an international student from Egypt, talks with Austin High's Abi Merrill, cadet battalion commander for her school's Junior ROTC. El-Hag spoke to the JROTC students about Egypt and serving in the Egyptian military.

Rocket Announcements

Presbyterian Church, corner of Whitesburg and Airport roads. Laura Parks, assistive technology specialist for Technology Assistance for Special Consumers, is to speak on "the tools of technology and how they can help your child communicate." The group will start taking child-care reservations on a first come, first serve basis Feb. 16. For child-care reservations, call Julie 998-6129. For Exceptional Family Member Program information, call EFMP manager Natalie Taylor 876-5397.

Parent council

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet Feb. 26 at 11 a.m. in the Redstone Room, Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 (phone 876-7952). All parents are encouraged to attend the PAC meetings. Parent Participation Points are awarded for attendance - 5 points equals a 10 percent discount on 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.

Emerging 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 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.gsauctions.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.

Computer classes

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

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



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Car trouble

Two Redstone police cars are towed Feb. 5 from the Commissary after one wouldn't start and the other was overheating.

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. Commissions 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.

Tax center

The 2007-08 Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is open through April 15, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The center is in building 3489 at the corner of Ajax Road and Zeus Road. All active duty servicemembers, retirees, their dependents, as well as Reserve and National Guard servicemembers on military orders for 30 or more days and their dependents, are eligible for e-filing of federal and state tax returns. There is no charge for this service. For an appointment, call 842-1040.

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

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.

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.

Job shadowing

Junior Achievement of Northern Alabama is looking for businesses to host job positions for Groundhog Job Shadow Day. This one-day event allows 10th, 11th and 12th grade students to explore careers by "shadowing" someone who works in a career field of their interest. Job Shadow is sponsored locally by Wachovia and coordinated by JANA and the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Nationally, Groundhog Job Shadow Day takes place in February throughout the country. Locally, students will be able to select one day from Feb. 14, 21 or 28. For more information, call 533-4661.

Financial seminar

American Society of Military Comptrollers is holding a Mini-PDI (financial training seminar) on March 5-6 at the Trinity United Methodist Church Auditorium on Airport Road. Pick a day; the same session will be presented each day with lunch included. Speakers include Dr. Gary

Huckabee, Kathryn Sommerkamp and Mike Ryan. Cost is \$100 for ASMC members and \$125 for non-members. Registration is 7:30-8:25 a.m., and the seminar is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. TIP number is F82MPDI. Call in reservation with IMPAC credit card information to Cody Swinford 876-3363, Dana Wilbanks 876-4283, Debbie O'Neal 876-2671, Sandy Balog 842-8012, Frieda Waits 450-2169 and Theresa McBride 842-9272.

Singing valentine

"Say 'I love you' with a singing valentine's and leave your sweetheart speechless," a prepared release said. "Your thoughtfulness will be remembered long after the song ends." A barbershop quartet will deliver a song, a rose and a card to that special someone. Call the Rocket City Chorus 604-0972 or visit the web site www.rocketcitychorus.org.

Fondue for two

Treat your valentine to a night out at the Officers and Civilians Club. The club is having a formal four-course fondue dinner and dance Thursday at 6 p.m. There will be entertainment provided by the Usual Suspects. The cost is \$35 per person for this event, open to the entire community. For more information or tickets, call 830-2582.

ID card section

Military Personnel Office ID Card Section will be closed Feb. 27-29 for upgrade of 7.2 DEERS/RAPIDS computers. Effective March 1, the requirements for issuing ID cards will change. Individuals must present two forms of identification before being issued an ID card. For more information, call 842-2413.

Rocket Announcements

Woodpecker benefit

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker Foundation is holding its second annual fund-raising gala, "Save the Ivory-bill!" on Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. at the Jaycees Facility. The keynote speaker is professor Dr. Jerome Jackson, ornithologist and author of "In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker." Tickets are \$35 and include dinner and the program. For tickets call Bobby Harrison 337-3368 day or 776-2003 evening.

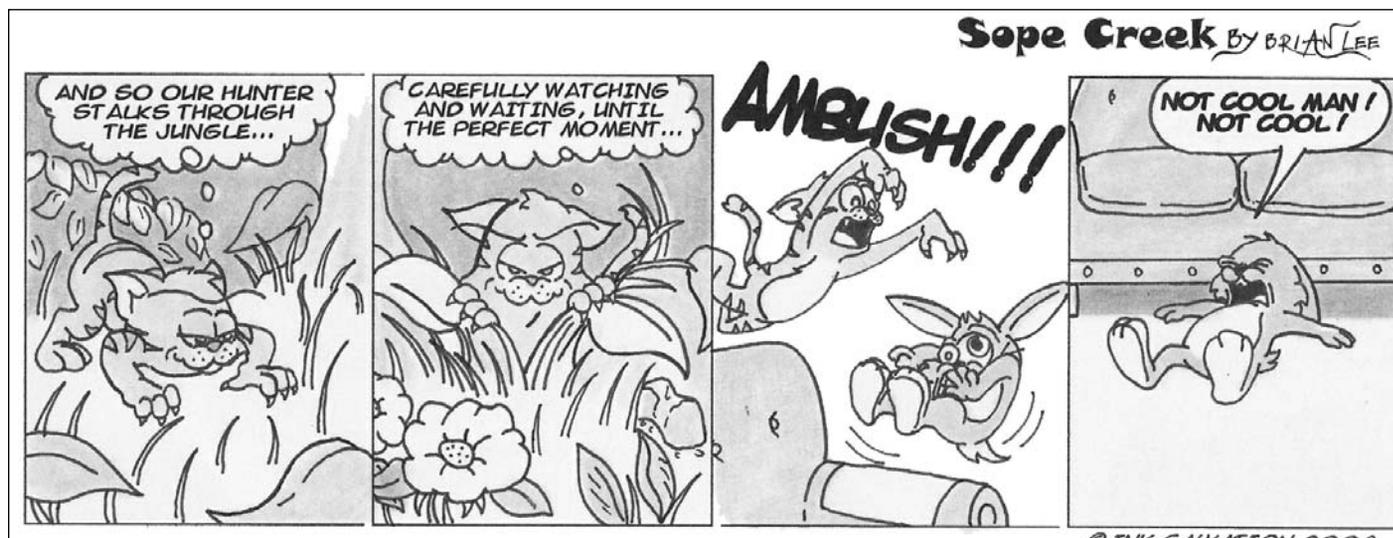
Health center holiday

Fox Army Health Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 18 in observance of President's Day. On Tuesday, Feb. 19 the Primary Care Clinic will be open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. All other clinics and services will be closed the entire day for a training holiday. The health center is closed on Saturday, Sunday, Thursday afternoons and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox does not have an emergency room or emergency medical services. In an emergency, dial 911.

Business opportunity

On behalf of the Redstone Arsenal, Alabama SKIES Unlimited Program, the Army NAF Contracting Office, Southeast Region is soliciting for a concessionaire contractor to provide vocal instruction. If you are interested in an opportunity to provide these services on a concessionaire contract basis, call Anthea L. Medley (270) 798-6623 by Feb. 13.

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Announcements

Orchestra benefit

The Huntsville Youth Orchestra invites everyone to join it at Cheeburger Cheeburger restaurants on Feb. 28. "While you enjoy your meal, you can also enjoy beautiful live music performed by some of our area's most talented young musicians," a prepared release said. "At various times throughout the day and evening, small groups and soloists from the Youth Orchestra will be playing some of their favorite pieces. On Feb. 28, Cheeburger Cheeburger is generously donating a portion of all profits from both of their restaurants to support the Youth Orchestra. So come on out, have some great food, listen to some great music, and support a great cause!" Cheeburger Cheeburger has two locations: 5000 Whitesburg Drive in south Huntsville (at the corner of Airport and Whitesburg), and 7 Town Center Drive in northwest Huntsville (just north of 72, in Providence Town Center).

Garden plots

All personnel desiring garden plots for the 2008 planting season must contact the MWR Membership Sales Office in building 1500, on Weeden Mountain Road, during the scheduled request periods. Priorities have been established to better

serve all interested personnel. The procedures for requesting and assigning garden plots are as follows: First priority – Active duty military must request their plots during Feb.15 through March 1; second priority – retired military must request their plots March 2-16; and third priority – DoD civilians must make their request March 17-31. If there are plots left over, assignments will be on a first come, first serve basis. The 2008 planting season will be utilized at Vincent Drive. There are 54 garden plots available at Vincent. Due to the limited number of plots available, only one plot will be assigned per family until March 31. For more information, call Stephanie Stone or Chris Carter 830-9175.

Symphony concert

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra will present a family concert "Carnival of the Animals" at 1:30 p.m. March 1 at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Carlos Miguel Prieto is the conductor; and Susanna Phillips is the soprano.

Quarterly retirements

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is March 20 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Commissary display

Store director Amber Bray and customer John McGowen stand next to the Black History Month display that McGowen coordinated at the Commissary. He voluntarily put up the local artwork in addition to biographies throughout the store Feb. 4 with help from assistant grocery manager Frank James and secretary Evelyn Hayden. "Throughout the store you'll find (a biography of) someone who's done something to impact everyday life," McGowen said.

personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are required to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. Please call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969 or Sgt. Kenneth Speegle 842-2625 to make arrangements for participation. Deadline for signing up to participate is Feb. 29. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled June 19.

Black History luncheon

The South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center will have its eighth annual Black History Month luncheon Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call Jane Wright 876-1665, Denita Walters 842-9289 and Sandra McQueen 313-1748.

Parenting seminar

A free Parenting Seminar, "Cooperation, Consequences and Keeping Your Sanity," will be held Feb. 17, 24 and March 3 at Whitesburg Baptist Church, 6806 Whitesburg Drive in the Lion's Den (room 290). Hosts will be Academy parent Tim Denman and Rev. Guy Morton. For more information call 704-5678, ext. 245 or e-mail patti.hatmaker@wbccares.org.

PX holiday hours

The Post Exchange will operate with the following hours on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 18: Main Store 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Concessions closed. ... Barber Shop 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... GNC 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Enterprise 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Cellular Service 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Furniture Store closed. ... One-Stop Goss Road 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Tire Store closed. ... Burger King 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Military Clothing closed. ... Barber Shop, building 3479, closed. ... Food court - Anthony's closed; Cinnabon closed; Baskin Robbins 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Robin Hood 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Churchs closed; and American Eatery closed.

Aeronautical university

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is now registering for the spring term, March 17 to May 18. Classes offered include Aviation/Aerospace System Safety; Concepts of Integrated Logistics; Technical Report Writing; Basic Algebra; and Organizational Behavior. Deadline to register is March 14. Call 876-9763 or visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222.

Management curriculum

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is adding a graduate certificate of completion in Project Management to its offerings at Redstone Arsenal. The courses required for the certificate of completion in Project Management may be taken as a stand alone program or in conjunction with the master's of science in management under the general management option. For more information, call the Embry-Riddle Huntsville campus 876-9763.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9-5. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-noon. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. Volunteers are needed for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call 881-6992.

Association scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 annual scholarship awards to a local high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information and a scholarship application, call Hillary Clay 313-1349. The application can be found at <http://www.geocities.com/iaaprsa/home.htm>.

Cookies for troops

Girls Scouts of North Alabama will be taking orders for Girl Scout cookies to be sent to deployed Soldiers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at several locations this Saturday and again the two following Saturdays, Feb. 23 and March 1. The Cookies for Troops project, started last year, hopes to raise more than 6,500 boxes of donated cookies to be sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Locations for this Saturday are Madison Square Mall and Decatur Mall. On Feb. 23, the locations will be Sam's Club on University Drive and Walmart in Decatur, and March 1 at Kroger in Madison and Lowe's in Athens. In addition, cookie donations can be made anytime at Re/Max locations at 2420 L&N Drive in Huntsville and 8103-C U.S. 72 in Madison. Donations toward shipping or cookies can also be made by calling Girl Scout coordinator Rhonda Lambert 883-1020.

Job seekers seminar

Tennessee Valley Advertising Federation will hold a job preparation seminar, "Land Your Dream Job in a Competitive Market," March 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Redstone Federal Credit Union's Education Center, 220 Wynn Drive. Michael Lebeau, director of career services at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, will share tips on earning and maintaining one's job of choice. The event is open to college students for \$10 and to the community at-large for \$25. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Call 714-5454 or register online at www.tvaf.org/upcomingevents.php.

