

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 57 No. 7

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

February 20, 2008

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Marine Reservists launch milestone

Participate in first firing of HIMARS in war zone

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
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Seven Marine Reservists from Kilo Battery in Huntsville have returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, where they were on the front lines in the first launching of the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System in a war zone.

And although they missed the comforts of home, and their family and friends, some expressed a desire to return to Southwest Asia and continue their mission as part of the U.S. efforts to restore and maintain peace in Iraq.

"We all decided to serve because we wanted to do something for our country," said Lance Cpl. Clifton Allred, 21, of Lincoln, Tenn. "We wanted to fight for our country. We've been given so much here in the U.S. We wanted to do something to return the favor. I'm ready to go back to Iraq. There's unfinished business there."

Allred and his fellow Marines from Kilo Battery – Cpl. Dustin Payne, Cpl. Craig Hathcock, Cpl. James Bush, Lance Cpl. Casey Coleman, Lance Cpl. James McPeters and Lance Cpl. Patrick Dray – activated in February 2007 to train with the HIMARS system as members of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, known as Fox 2/14, out of Oklahoma City. They deployed in June and spent seven months serving at Al-Asad Air Base in the Al-Anbar province, or in major cities in the province.

"We were the first rocket artillery unit in the Marine Corps to be in a war zone," said Payne, who provided communications for the HIMARS.

"We always had to be ready for a mission. HIMARS was fired in six missions, and in Al-Taqaddum and Fallujah. If the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SERVING U.S.— Seven Marine Reservists from Huntsville's Kilo Battery returned Feb. 9 from a seven-month tour of duty in Iraq. They are, from left, Lance Cpl. Clifton Allred, Cpl. Dustin Payne, Lance Cpl. Patrick Dray, Cpl. Craig Hathcock, Cpl. James Bush, Lance Cpl. James McPeters and Lance Cpl. Casey Coleman. The Reservists were attached to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, out of Oklahoma City. They were the first unit to deploy with the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, which they fired in the Al-Anbar province from Al-Asad Air Base and from areas of operation in Fallujah and Taqaddum.

infantry units were in need of artillery out of the range of the regular howitzer, then we were needed and that didn't happen much. So, it was a pretty safe tour."

HIMARS, a member of the Multiple Launch Rocket System family, is a highly-mobile artillery rocket system offering the firepower of an MLRS on a wheeled chassis. Its purpose is to engage and defeat artillery,

air defense concentrations, trucks, light armor and personnel carriers, as well as support troop and supply concentrations. HIMARS is able to launch its weapons and move away from the area at a high speed before enemy forces are able to locate the launch site.

In addition to the standard six-pack of MLRS rockets, HIMARS is capable of launching the entire MLRS family of

munitions, including the Extended Range Rocket and the Reduced Range Practice Rocket. In a typical mission, a command and control post transmits the selected target data via a secure data link to the HIMARS on-board launch computer. The computer then aims the launcher and provides prompt signals to the three-man crew – a driver, gunner and section chief – to arm and fire a pre-selected number of rounds. The launcher can aim at a target in just 16 seconds.

During the Marines' tour, the HIMARS was shot in the Al-Anbar province from Al-Asad Air Base a dozen times, firing six M31s and six M28 Alpha 2s. There were 12 M31s shot from HIMARS in an area of operation in Fallujah and six M31s fired from HIMARS in an area of operation in Taqaddum.

"It's sporadic warfare over there," said Dray, 20, of Brenton, Tenn.

Hathcock, 21, of Madison County spent his tour, first, at Al-Asad and then, two months later, was reassigned to Fallujah and then to Taqaddum. Hathcock operated the machinery needed to supply HIMARS with ammunition.

"We shot a missile out of Fallujah and Taqaddum," the Buckhorn High graduate said. "So, I supported that.

"Other than that, I was surprised at just how much the country has calmed down and become a peaceful place. We all prepared for the worst and hoped for the best. The tour was not bad at all."

Bush, 26, of Huntsville, who was in charge of communications for HIMARS, mirrored Hathcock's sentiments.

"We fired once in Fallujah and twice in Taqaddum at terrorists. During those times, I was busy talking to launchers and forward observers to make sure we were targeting the area they wanted shot," he said.

See Milestone on page 16

An open lane random survey

What are your thoughts on Black History Month?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com



Teri Williams
Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space
"Of course with Obama running (for president) right now, it has brought to the forefront more awareness of black people in government and in politics. I think it really brings more attention to black people in government."

Amy Barnett
Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space

"I think there's not enough about black history. I had a colonel a couple of years ago, when I was in one of the project offices, he had a social at his house. And they asked (trivia) questions about black history. I don't think we do enough to promote some of the things that don't always make it into the history book, things that are of everyday interest to us maybe that we don't know or don't see because we don't have that insight."



Nancy Myrick
Department of Army headquarters,
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition,
Logistics and Technology
"It is really a time of great reflection of how much progress our society, our people, have made. And I think it behooves all people to acknowledge contributions of all its citizens."



Robbie Evans
AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

"It's a time that we set aside to show our appreciation for the accomplishments of black Americans. And it also lets us know we've still got a lot of work to do. And I think it also should be used to bridge the gap of people working together again instead of individuals. I think we need the organization to come together as one voice instead of many voices."



Quote of the week

There is still no cure for the common birthday.
— John Glenn, U.S. senator, former Marine and astronaut, announcing his retirement at age 75 in 1996

Valentine's dance brings festive atmosphere

If you missed the Civilian Welfare Fund Council (CWFC) Valentine Dance on Feb. 9, you missed too much. For that one night, the Sparkman Center Cafeteria was converted into a spectacular Valentine Party atmosphere.

A special thanks is in order for Bob Olson, the CWFC members, Bill Bullen, the Post Restaurant staff and Coolbone Jazz of New Orleans for providing an evening of good food, good music, good friends, and good times.

Charles Urban
AMCOM Acquisition Center

Getting to know you

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

Name: Master Sgt. Terrence Blackwell

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

Where do you call home?
Wintersville, Ohio

What do you like about your job?
Mostly what I like about my job is the ability to help Soldiers, especially downrange, get all the supply and logistics support we can give them.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

I spend lots of time with my family; I love my family (wife, Aundrea, and six children ranging from age 16 down to 18 months). And I'm an AAU basketball coach (for boys age 16 and under).

What are your goals?

My goal is to retire in two more years. And hopefully start a counseling business in the area.

What's your favorite type of music?

Gospel and R&B — old school. I like the old school.

Guards at gate deserve salute

So often in our busy daily activities, we overlook and take many things for granted. Most of the time it is our wives, family and friends that remind us of the important things in life. The most important are not things but the people who are supporting, leading and protecting us — especially the ones who are setting the standard every day here for the U.S. government and military at Redstone Arsenal. I especially owe the security guards at Gate 10. They have served and exceeded the requirements by representing Redstone and making the first impression when visitors pass through the gate. Plus, they are professional and are subject to the same rules as our military and still have the courtesy to help, inform and direct people and all activities at our gates.

You men and women guards remind me of the team efforts here at Redstone and during my 33 years of military and civil service. These fine employees also reflect on you and Walden Security Service. I am sure that the job requirements require military and police experience just to qualify. This letter is not enough for the deserving professional level of service and expertise I have witnessed every day at your gates.

The local military and city police would have a hard time meeting the standards, daily requirements and sometimes harsh elements that these people endure every day. But they are still able to give us a smile as we drive by!

Dallas Crowell Jr.
AMCOM IMMC
Readiness Directorate

Redstone Rocket wins regional honor

The Redstone Rocket has received a 2007 Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware newspaper award from the Installation Management Command, Southeast Region.

The Rocket placed third in the tabloid publication category.

First place went to the Sentinel at Fort McPherson, Ga.; and second was awarded to The Fort Jackson Leader at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Redstone Rocket

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

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

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

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

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

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Army leader in Iraq says surge works

The deputy commander of Multi-National Corps-Iraq gave an operations update Friday in a filled Bob Jones Auditorium.

"The surge worked and it continues to work," Maj. Gen. James Simmons, deputy commander of III Corps and Fort

Hood and deputy commander of Multi-National Corps-Iraq since July 2003, said. "Violence in Iraq is down."

The reason the surge has worked is "because of the inherent goodness of the American Soldier and Marine," he said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

IRAQ UPDATE— Maj. Gen. James Simmons, deputy commander of III Corps and Fort Hood and deputy commander of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, addresses capacity crowd in Bob Jones Auditorium. At left is Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal.

Chapel women plan spring retreat

Members of the Redstone Arsenal chapter of the Protestant Women of the Chapel invites the women of RSA to join them at their annual Spring Retreat on March 28-30 at Lake Guntersville.

Their guest speaker is international Bible teacher, speaker and author Diane Vereen of Precept Ministries International. The theme for this year's retreat is "Living Victoriously Until He Comes."

"It's not often that we get a speaker and teacher of this caliber to come to Huntsville, and we want every woman associated with Redstone Arsenal to come hear Diane's inspiring testimony and sit under her fabulous instruction in the word of God," conference coordinator Lynn McCallister said.

Vereen and her husband, Robert, the international ambassadors at large for Precept, enjoy ministering to the military — and especially PWOC — all over the globe.

Protestant Women of the Chapel is a DoD-sanctioned organization that is an official part of the chapel program. PWOC was started in 1955 in

Germany and is now on more than 170 military installations worldwide.

"Redstone Arsenal is very fortunate to have such an active chapter as well as tremendous support from their adviser, Chaplain Larry Lawrence, and from the entire chapel family," a

prepared release said.

The retreat will begin at 3 p.m. March 28 at the Hampton Inn on Lake Guntersville and will end at noon March 30. Registration will be during February only. For more information, call McCallister at 551-5106. (PWOC release)

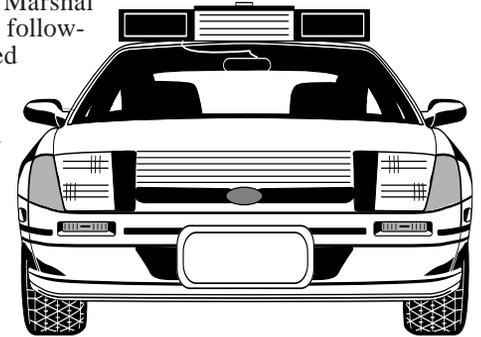
Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Feb. 13: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a revoked driver's license after being stopped for speeding. He was issued two violation notices and released.

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

Violation notices issued: 28 speeding, 1 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 driving with a suspended/canceled/revoked driver's license, 2 following too close, 2 failure to yield right of way, 3 expired tags.



Kiowa Warriors get satellite communication

Prototype Integration Facility upgrades 19 aircraft from Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Prototype Integration Facility, a division of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center Engineering Directorate, has teamed with the Program Manager for Armed Scout Helicopters to design, fabricate and integrate the AN/ARC-231 satellite communication system into the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter.

In fewer than six months, the facility completed integration and qualification of the new communication system on 19 fleet aircraft.

The AN/ARC-231 satellite communication system allows the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, a scout aircraft used heavily in areas of current operations, to communicate to other similarly equipped aircraft and ground stations that would otherwise be out of range. Most aircraft radio systems require line-of-sight with a base station or another aircraft which can be hindered around large obstructions or in mountainous regions. The satellite communications capabilities of the AN/ARC-231 system reme-

dy this situation and allow clear communication between aircraft regardless of terrain, greatly enhancing safe operations and capabilities of the aircraft.

Immediately upon approval of the modification from the Aviation Engineering Directorate, the Prototype Integration Facility modified 19 fleet aircraft which then returned to their home station at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Armed Scout Helicopters office approached the Prototype Integration Facility to facilitate the program because of the facility's rapid acquisition capabilities, flexibility and teaming arrangements with other government agencies.

The completion of the upgrade marks a major accomplishment for the Prototype Integration Facility because of the compressed schedule and technical complexity of the modification. In addition, this program embodies the Prototype Integration Facility's dedication to providing a rapid response solution to enhance the war fighter's capabilities and support of the war fighter's needs.

Editor's note: This article was prepared by Brad Welch, Ed Oldani and Laura Stone.



Courtesy photo
READY TO FLY— The Prototype Integration Facility modified 19 fleet aircraft which then returned to their home station at Fort Campbell.

Lakota helicopter carries tradition of service

Light utility aircraft represents Sioux tribe

By **BARBARA CUMMINGS**
For the Rocket

This was a celebration of a proud name for a new Army helicopter.

The Utility Helicopter Project Office welcomed dignitaries from the Rosebud Sioux tribe Feb. 5 to mark the successful inception of the Lakota UH-72A helicopter fleet. They included Rosebud Sioux tribal council president Rodney Bordeaux, his chief of staff and the tribe's chief.

"It is a great honor to have our name out there now where people can see it," Bordeaux said. "It is an honor to have the tradition of our warriors and veterans going on. We exist today because of our treaty with the federal government."

Twenty Lakota aircraft have been delivered ahead of schedule and are flying out of three bases in the United States. They are meeting the mission within budget requirements; and plans are to expand operations to both Europe and Japan.

There was a reason behind the

naming of the Lakota helicopter. A Department of Defense regulation, DoD 4120-15, stipulated that the name must be Native American in origin. The process began when the project office announced a search for candidates to the Program Executive Office for Aviation community. Supporting documentation was required to explain why the name submitted was a good candidate for this particular helicopter and how it fit the mission. Out of the names received, the search narrowed to three candidates: Crow, Lakota and Cherokee.

The Lakotas, a part of the seven confederations making up the Sioux nation, were known as a peaceful, non-aggressive people that lived by hunting buffalo on horseback. The Lakota helicopter is a non-arms-bearing helicopter that performs medical and casualty evacuations, provides disaster relief, aids in homeland defense and also works to counter drugs and narcotics. This name was selected, but the process wasn't over.

"It (the Lakota) fulfills a plethora of missions, if you will, all of them being non-combat," Stephen Hart, LUH maintenance manager, said. "Sometimes it is



Photo by Kim Henry

LEGACY CONTINUES— Rosebud Sioux tribal council president Rodney Bordeaux receives a Lakota UH-72A commemorative photo from Lt. Col. James Brashear, Light Utility Helicopter product manager.

hard to find a good match. When we settled on Lakota, we went to the Lakota tribe to ask their permission because that is part of the process."

Once the name was settled, the UH project office contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The bureau provided guidance

explaining that because the Lakotas were a part of the Sioux nation, the Army had to contact and obtain approval from a majority of the council members making up the Sioux Nation.

"We sent out e-mails, faxes, called them — those chairpersons are as busy as we are," Hart

said. The approval process normally takes 12 to 18 months. The UH project office accomplished this in six. The driving force behind this was to receive the necessary permissions in time to field the first aircraft in December 2006. The concurrences were then sent to the Army Materiel Command to prepare a packet. This in turn was sent to the Air Force program manager and then to the Pentagon.

"The Air Force is the approving authority for all mission/design/series as well as popular names of aircraft. These packets must include descriptions of the aircraft, cage code, manufacturer information and other supporting documentation," Hart said. The popular name and MDS approvals were worked simultaneously. Once it was approved, it became known as the UH-72A Lakota.

"Being consistent with the fact that we as a nation staff the war fighters," Hart said, explaining why aircraft are named after Indian tribes. "That is our job to protect the nation and we do that with war fighters and war fighting equipment. The Indians were basically known as protectors of their land and war fighters. I think there is a resemblance there."

Sponsors point way for post newcomers

Volunteers wanted from work force

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

Moving to a new state is hard. You don't know where anything is, how to get anywhere or even who to ask when you have questions. Redstone officials are doing all they can to ease the stress of moving for the people headed South this summer – but they need your help.

Base Realignment and Closure is expected to bring approximately 150 people from Army Materiel Command and Army Security Assistance Command between May and September. The Total Army Sponsorship program is being offered to them as a way to ease their transition.

"In all likelihood quite a number of the folks coming this summer have had little exposure to the area," Tim Grey, AMCOM director of human resources, said. "To us, sponsorship is a critical aspect of really introducing these people to our community, what is available here and trying to make their transition here as smooth as possible."

Because these people really represent the first wave of the relocation, the sponsorship program for them is being handled a little differently than usual. Normally, the organization people are coming to provides them with a sponsor from within. However, since the organizations themselves are being relocated, the advance teams they have already sent are too small to handle the work force coming in behind them. Existing members of Team Redstone are instead



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

READY TO HELP— Jackie Timme, human resource specialist, and Tim Grey, director of human resources, go over brochures for the Total Army Sponsorship program.

being asked to step up and volunteer to be sponsors.

"They are coming in as a new organization here. They are not coming in as an established organization. In order to support them we have set up a special program where we are recruiting sponsors from within our organization," Grey said. "The AMCOM piece, as a transition piece, is to get the program off

the ground, moving and support those individuals coming in asking for sponsors."

The process is fairly simple. Those moving have the choice of having a sponsor or not. Those who choose sponsorship will be matched to a volunteer of similar job and grade. Most of the initial influx will be of GS-12 level and above.

"We are trying to match up

folks of comparable grade levels and experience in the same line of work. We think that will help with communications," Grey said. "It's not crucial, but we have found in the past that it helps if they have some common ground."

Sponsors will go through a brief training program. They will receive information packets about the entire Tennessee Valley area. They will be taught what is expected of them as sponsors, where to go for answers they may need and where to refer people for information and services. This should take the pressure off the sponsor.

"A package of materials is being put together that will have a wealth of information to help orient people to the community. It will have lists of real estate agencies, information about schools, medical facilities and things of that nature," Grey said. "The sponsor isn't responsible for gathering that information. The sponsor is simply the conduit for the information. The sponsor's role is to help the individual find the right sources for the assistance they need. The sponsor is not intended to be the end all and be all. Fundamentally, it is a communication sort of thing."

Beyond the basics of sponsorship, how involved a sponsor is with the transitioning employee will vary. It depends on how much help the newcomer needs and how comfortable the pair is with each other. Age, family situation and lifestyle will also determine what the newcomers are interested in and asking their sponsor about.

"How much the sponsor chooses to do in support of the family is really up to them.

There's a basic thing, which is contact the incoming employee and let them know you are available," Grey said. "Find out what kinds of things they are looking for assistance on and then provide them with some sources for information on that."

The plan is that once this initial wave settles in, they will be able to act as sponsors for their co-workers who arrive after them. Considering the numbers involved, though, Grey expects that they may have to supplement with additional sponsors from the Aviation and Missile Command.

"The intent is that the sponsorship program will shift to those individuals, so when the next group comes in they will serve as the sponsors," he said. "Depending on the numbers who come in the next wave ... I fully anticipate that we will have a role to play in orienting them to the community."

The sponsorship program is not new to Redstone or the Army, Jackie Timme, human resource specialist, said. Any employee coming into Redstone can request a sponsor. They will be provided the same level of support as those BRAC brings in.

"The sponsorship program is there all the time for anyone who comes in. It just seems that the focus is put on when there is a BRAC situation," Timme said. "But the onesies and twosies that come in still have the opportunity to participate in the program."

The deadline to volunteer to be a sponsor is Feb. 29. Those interested should e-mail Timme at jackie.timme@us.army.mil with their contact information, series, grade and job title.

Congregation responds when asked to contribute



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GENEROUS GIFT— Pam Stieglitz, volunteer chairperson for Total Tots, accepts a \$4,008 check to the program from Chaplain (Maj.) Pam Parker. The Protestant congregation made the contribution in a designated offering Feb. 3.

Bicentennial Chapel patrons give to Total Tots, tornado victims

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

Redstone chaplains know what to expect when they ask their congregation to contribute to a cause.

“When we say there’s a need, the folks respond,” Chaplain (Maj.) Pam Parker, the chaplain resource manager for the Garrison chaplains office, said.

That was evident in designated offerings Feb. 3 and Feb. 10.

On Feb. 3, the Protestant congregation of Bicentennial Chapel – which is holding services at the old Post Chapel because of ongoing renovation – gave \$4,008 to the Total Tots Program. Total Tots, through

the Family Advocacy Program at Army Community Service, provides short-term emergency or respite child care service for military families.

“This is so generous,” Pam Stieglitz, volunteer chairperson for Total Tots, said. “One hundred percent of the money they give us goes to the child in need. I am so grateful. Honestly, I can’t say enough. You (the chapel) keep our program alive.”

The Army chief of chaplains, Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Doug Carver on Feb. 7 authorized designated offerings on behalf of victims of the recent tornadoes in the Southeast. As a result, the chapel congregation gave \$3,115 for the local chapter of the American Red Cross in a designated offering Feb. 10.

“It’s for the tornado relief for the folks in the recent tornado,” said Parker, who manages appropriated and non-appropriated funds for the chaplains office.

Organization has fund-raiser for hurricane victim

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government held a fund-raiser in early summer and contributed in December to a BIG chapter member in Mississippi who had lost his home in Hurricane Katrina.

The local chapter members used the planning and execution of the fund-raiser as a bonding period and a forum to look at other activities that may affect minority employees at the federal, state and municipal level. One such activity was the Base Realignment and Closure Commission decisions impacting Redstone Arsenal. The chapter leadership decided to address concerns of members and non-members regarding access to BRAC Commission employment information.

As a result, a Federal Employment Workshop was conducted for the general public at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church on Winchester Road with more than 200 attendees. A second meeting is planned in the near future to address the employment process, how to address individual qualifications to the qualification requirements, and expressing qualifications in competency terms.

The local chapter of BIG meets bimonthly; and members and non members are notified through the announcement section of the *Redstone Rocket*, the *Marshall Star*, and e-mail traffic. Regular membership is open to all government employees in current or retired status with connection to the federal, state and municipal agencies. The chapter accepts applications from individuals employed



Courtesy photo

HURRICANE RELIEF— Mary Peoples, right, president of the local chapter of Blacks In Government, presents a check to Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter president Florence Clay on behalf of recipient George Daniels, who lost his home in Hurricane Katrina.

outside the government who are categorized as associate members.

Newly elected officers of the chapter include president Mary Peoples, vice president James Foster, secretary Arlene Erskine, assistant secretary Alice Williams, treasurer Donovan Etheridge and assistant treasurer Kelly Brinson.

For more information, call 852-6111 or 859-2129, e-mail fosterja@bell-south.net or visit <http://hsvbig.org>. (BIG Chapter release)

Woman contributes in her late sister's honor

Locks of Love hair helps ailing children

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY
Staff writer
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When a loved one dies, people often want to do something in their memory. Margaret Maulder has spent the last two years doing something small that will mean a lot to someone she has never met. After growing her hair out, she has donated it to Locks of Love in her sister's honor.

"She had lung cancer and it spread to her brain," Maulder said. "She was diagnosed in 1995. ... By textbook definition she should have been dead within six months of diagnosis. But she was very headstrong and strong willed."

Maulder, assistant project manager for cruise missile defense systems project office, remembers how devastating the loss of hair due to treatment was for her older sister, Jane Tankersley. When it didn't return, she shifted her pride in her appearance to the wigs she wore.

"When they did the brain surgery, of course they had to shave her head. It was very traumatic for her. But she cried for two minutes over it, dried her eyes and said that was enough crying over hair. Because of the high amounts of radiation they shot through her head and the chemo, her hair never actually grew back," Maulder said. "She always had to wear wigs. She started taking great pride in her wigs like she did with her own head of hair."

After battling the disease for 10 years, Tankersley finally succumbed in September 2005. As her time drew to a close, she left her sisters instructions.

"She had a favorite wig," Maulder said. "When we knew it was getting toward the end, she made us promise to bury her in her favorite wig."

Feeling the need to put her grief into action of some sort, Maulder decided to give someone else the gift of personal pride. She began growing her hair out so she could donate it to a charity organization that provides children with wigs and hairpieces that they couldn't otherwise afford, Locks of Love.

It's not an overnight process. Locks of Love asks that donated hair be at least 10 inches in length. Having worn her hair short for a long time, getting used to the longer hair as it grew was aggravating for Maulder.

"I'm at that age where things start to get on your nerves," she said laughing. "I had been wearing my hair short for a while. As it started getting down on my neck I wondered if I was going to be able to do this."

Once it got long enough to wear up, it was easier to deal with. Readjusting to a shorter length is taking some getting used to.

"I don't miss it," she said. "But I did like flipping my head over and tying it up in a knot. It was out of the way. ... Now it's a little more effort because I obviously can't do that now. I'm in kind of an awkward stage in that I just had it cut, so I'm still trying to get the feel of what I'm trying to do with it."

Maulder had her hair cut for donation on her sister's birthday, Jan. 19. She had originally planned to do it on the second anniversary of her sister's death, but waited until after the holidays at her husband's request.

"He never makes a comment one way or the other about whether he likes my hair better long or short, but he said I should think about wearing my hair that way for a little while longer," she said laughing. "So I indulged him. I don't

think I had 10 inches yet anyway. But when December came around I knew it was getting close. So I thought I'd wait until her birthday."

Maulder is glad to have given her hair in her sister's honor, but thinks she may limit her future donations to quicker endeavors.

"I had a personal purpose the first time I did it," she said. "I don't think I would do it again, but I will donate money. It's a great cause."

She is also glad to have her hair back to what she deemed an age-appropriate style.

"I'm getting too old to wear long hair," she said. "Toward the end I felt, looking in the mirror, like an old woman with long hair."

She encourages anyone who is thinking of cutting their long hair to donate it. She also applauds anyone who is considering growing theirs out specifically for donation. When you see Maulder with her new stylish, sassy cut bouncing around the Sparkman Center, remember her stylish, sassy sister and Maulder's final act of love.

"She was always one who wouldn't go to the store without her makeup on and her hair fixed. She took great pride in her hair," Maulder said. "I thought it was fitting for me to grow mine out as a tribute to her because it did mean so much to her."

For more information on Locks of Love or donation requirements, visit their web site www.locksoflove.org.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

GROWING TRIBUTE— Margaret Maulder's new haircut was two years in the making.

Armywide campaign to support Soldiers and families

WASHINGTON — Headquarters, Army Emergency Relief has announced the start of the Army's annual AER Campaign which runs from March 1 through May 15. The theme of this year's campaign is "Army Emergency Relief: Strength for Soldiers and Their Families."

The purpose of the AER campaign is twofold, according to retired Lt. Gen. Robert Foley, director of AER.

"First, to create greater awareness of the Army Emergency Relief benefits and programs available to Soldiers and their families," he said. He further explained that the campaign provides an opportunity for Soldiers to help their fellow Soldiers by making a donation to AER and continue the proud legacy of "Helping the Army Take Care of its Own."

AER was founded in 1942 in response to Soldiers and their families needing financial assistance during World War II. Since its founding, AER has provided more than \$1 billion in financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans or outright grants. In addition to emergency assistance, today's AER provides educational assistance in the form of scholarships to children and spouses of active duty and retired Soldiers, along with support to sur-

living families of fallen Soldiers, and grants to widows and wounded warriors.

In 2007, AER provided more than 64,000 Soldiers, active and retired, and their families well over \$70 million in assistance Armywide. AER provided assistance for unexpected expenses and financial stress including travel, housing, car repair, utilities, medical expenses, funeral costs and disaster relief.

AER assistance is available to Soldiers and their families, wherever they are located and the amount of assistance is only limited by a valid need. Soldiers and their family members requiring AER assistance can contact their unit chain of command or go to their local installation AER office. At Redstone Arsenal the AER office is located at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, call 876-5397.

Redstone Arsenal's 2008 AER campaign kickoff will be held March 3 at 1 p.m. at Heiser Hall. The entire Redstone community is invited.

Full details on AER's assistance programs and this year's fundraising campaign may be obtained by calling AER officer Kristi Foster at 876-5397. (AER release)

Football great shares devotion at prayer breakfast

NFL hall of famer participates at club

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

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Football great John Hannah made a tackle for Jesus Christ at the National Prayer Breakfast hosted by Redstone Arsenal chaplains at the Officers and Civilians Club on Feb. 12.

Sharing a devotional prayer that he prays every morning, Hannah asked God to make him an instrument of His peace throughout the world, to help him live a life of honor and integrity, to fill him with faith, virtue and knowledge, and to help his children grow up strong in the Lord.

“Keep on asking and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking and you will find it. Keep on knocking and the door will be opened,” he urged his audience through his prayer.

Hannah, an Albertville native, played tackle and guard for the University of Alabama under legendary coach Paul “Bear” Bryant, where he was an All-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

AUTOGRAPH— Chaplain (Maj.) Mickey Jett gets an autograph from football great John Hannah following the National Prayer Breakfast hosted by Redstone Arsenal chaplains at the Officers and Civilians Club on Jan. 12.

American player and a member of an Southeastern Conference championship-winning team. Hannah went on to be an offensive lineman for the New England Patriots, where he was

named All-Pro and All-AFC 10 times, was selected to play in nine Pro Bowls and was named to the NFL All-Decade Team twice. In 1991, Hannah was inducted into the Pro Football

Hall of Fame and in 1999 he was ranked 20th on The Sporting News list of the 100 Greatest Football Players.

Hannah is now a managing partner in an investment services company in Decatur.

Speaking only a few minutes to the crowd of about 275 Soldiers, military retirees and DoD civilians at the National Prayer Breakfast, Hannah said football brought him closer to God.

“My strength is always renewed in God,” he said. “I thank Him for football. I thank Him for letting me play the greatest game ever created.”

Hannah compared his life to King David of the Old Testament.

“If you think about it, that guy went through hell and he made some screwed up mistakes, too,” Hannah said.

“I screwed up a lot in my life. If you look at me and how I lived, you might think ‘He’s not a Christian.’”

But, Hannah said, among the great people he has met during his football career was “God and my Savior.” And because of God, he tries to lead a life that is a good Christian example.

“I live by one set of rules and principles,” he said. “Love your Lord, your God, with all your life and all your soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. I believe in God and live by those rules.”

Many in the audience appreciated having Hannah as the breakfast speaker.

“I got the honor of watching him play football,” Garrison commander Col. John Olsheski said. “I never thought I’d get the honor to hang out with him and meet him. He’s a born again Christian who walks the walk.”

Hannah was joined in the program by 2007 Miss Alabama Jamie Langley, who sang “God Bless America,” and the Huntsville Police Department’s Blue Notes, who sang a short program of inspirational songs.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Anthony Caudle recited a Prayer for the Nation, Lt. Col. David Dye recited a Prayer for the Armed Forces and Chaplain (Capt.) Marcella Barnett recited a Prayer for the Community. The scripture for the event – 2 Chronicles 7:14-16 and Ephesians 6:10-17 – was read by Staff Sgt. Jeff Simmons.

Valentine's Day treat for waiting spouses



Courtesy photo

BOUQUET SURPRISE— From left are Colleen Nicholson, wife of Sgt. 1st Class James Nicholson who is stationed in Iraq; ACS director Sue Paddock; and Cynthia Salvador, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Mynor Salvador who is stationed in Iraq.

Thirty geographically-separated military spouses were treated to free flowers on Valentine's Day.

A self-described "informal group of friends" from Huntsville donated the floral arrangements as a way to say thanks and show their support for the sacrifices made by the families, an unnamed group spokesman said.

The gift was distributed Thursday through Waiting Spouses, an Army Community Service support group that connects families with programs and services

at Redstone Arsenal.

"There might be some tears falling because you cannot be with your loved one. But hopefully, this wonderful surprise will bring a smile for the day," Mary Breeden, Waiting Spouses coordinator, said.

For more information about Waiting Spouses, contact Breeden at mary.breeden@conus.army.mil or call 876-5397. ACS is located at building 3338 on Redeye Road. (*Army Community Service release*)

Price is right about his passion for fishing

Engineering center worker following family tradition

By DEBRA VALINE

Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

From the time he went fishing with his great-grandfather at age 2 and caught his first fish, one Huntsville Center project manager has been hooked.

Brandon Price, with Huntsville's Range and Training Land Program, is passionate about fishing.

Price, 26, grew up in Decatur in a house two miles from the river. He graduated from Decatur High School in 2000, went to the University of Alabama-Huntsville and graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 2004. He is working on his master's in business administration from the University of North Alabama.

As a project manager, Price oversees the design and construction of all Army Reserve projects for the Range and Training Land Program. He's been with the Huntsville Center for five years, starting out as a co-op student, then an intern and finally a full-time employee.

And while he likes his job, it's fishing that he loves.

"My great-grandfather, Lee Price, lived on the Tennessee



Photo by Allen Neuschwander

PERSONAL RECORD— Brandon Price, a project manager in Huntsville Center's Range and Training Land Program, landed this 68-pound catfish in October 2006 while practicing for an upcoming tournament.

River in Lenior City, Tenn., and we would go fishing when I visited him," Price said. "I have a picture of the first fish I ever caught framed at my desk. My great-grandfather, my grandfather, my father and I would hook worms and crickets and fish for whatever fish was biting."

Price has many fishing stories to tell, and there is one theme that runs through all of them: family.

"My great-grandfather started a tradition in the 1930s with our family. He would take my grandfather camping and trout fishing on the Tellico River in Tennessee every year. Since that time my grandfather regularly took my dad as a child, and soon some of my fondest childhood memories were forged on the banks of the Tellico River when my dad would take my brother and me. When I have children one day, I

will continue the family tradition," Price said.

Fishing is no longer just a hobby for Price. He said along with a few other things in his life, it is truly a passion.

In addition to fishing for fun with his family, Price fishes in the amateur bracket in bass tournaments and is lobbying in Montgomery for catfish restrictions and for conservation of natural resources.

Like most fishermen, Price tells fish tales. He likes to tell the story of the giant catfish that didn't get away, but came a day too early to count in a big tournament.

"My friend Allen Neuschwander and I qualified for the 2006 Cabelas King Cat Classic, which is like the world series of catfishing on the Tennessee River," Price said. "We were practicing for the tournament, looking for a new area to fish. It was getting late and we had had a pretty rough day.

"We decided to pull up to a point – a place where land juts into the river and where fish like to hide – in about 108 feet of water and drop our baits down to the bottom. We were cleaning the boat, getting ready to go home. I looked at my rod and the end was moving. I thought I had a small fish nibbling on the bait, but then the tip of the rod went down.

"About a seven-minute fight ensued," Price said. "Once we

got the catfish in the boat and put it on the scales, it weighed 68 pounds. That was a new personal record for me."

Of the 250 boats entered into the Cabelas King Cat Classic, Price and Neuschwander finished a respectable 75th.

"It was a tough two-day tournament," Price said. "We caught more than 100 pounds of catfish, but it wasn't enough to get us any money. We were excited going into the tournament because we had just won \$1,000 in a Gunter'sville tournament. Our confidence was knocked a little."

Of course there are other stories as well, such as the time Price fell into 45 degree water and the times he had thrown his rods out of the boat only to have them sink to the bottom.

Price said he likes fishing with friends and introducing newcomers to fishing, but that he tries to fish with his dad, grand-dad and brother whenever possible.

"Spending the time with my family on the river is a better experience than catching a big fish," said Price, who dreams of one day having his own guide service on the lakes in Northern Alabama.

"Overall I just love it," he said. "When I put my boat in the water and take off, the feeling is unreal. There are no words to describe it."

Resource manager spends time with Iraq's local leaders



AMCOM's Hal Green served 8-month tour

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
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President Bush's address to the nation about U.S. policy toward Iraq in early January 2007 sent Halstead "Hal" Green on a mission to the other side of the world.

In that speech, President Bush announced that the U.S. would double the number of Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Iraq as part of his "New Way Forward" plan to assist provincial and local governments to govern effectively and deliver essential services. Just two months later, Green deployed to Al-Anbar province in northern Iraq to work in a PRT embedded with a Marine brigade combat team operating from the Al-Asad Air Base.

On the surface, Al-Asad is a huge military complex located in the midst of a barren desert known for the numbers of destroyed Russian MiG fighter jets jutting

out of its sand. And yet, there were plenty of professional rewards to be found in the desert sands of Iraq.

"I didn't mind being in Iraq," Green said. "Matter of fact, it was one of the few experiences where you get to do a hands-on engagement and see direct results of your efforts."

Green, a retired military officer who is chief of Operations and Maintenance Execution for AMCOM, volunteered to spend eight months as a member of one of 21 Provincial Reconstruction Teams coordinated by the State Department and now operating in Iraq.

"As part of the troop surge, there was also to be a surge in our diplomatic and engagement teams," Green said. "There

were already 10 teams in Iraq under the State Department. But they had to work to increase that to 25. The problem was the State Department had a flat budget and only 22,000 employees. At the time, they couldn't hire any additional employees and they didn't have the specialties that the teams required."

In February 2007, the State Department signed a memorandum of agreement allowing the Department of Defense to provide these specialists on a temporary basis so they could have additional PRTs in Iraq by March.

"The Department of Defense cancelled its 225,000 employees to find the

See Deployment on page 13

Courtesy photo

SHARING FINANCE EXPERIENCE— Hal Green, chief of Operations and Maintenance Execution for AMCOM, used his 13 years of experience with government banking and finance to assist Iraqi government leaders in developing their own budgeting capabilities.



Courtesy photo

ON SOLDIER'S BUSINESS— Hal Green deployed to Iraq looking like a Soldier, but he carried the briefcase of a civilian. He was in Iraq as a member of a Provincial Reconstruction Team charged with assisting provincial and local governments to govern effectively and deliver essential services. Green worked with city and community leaders in cities in the Al-Anbar province for eight months. His job was to assist city mayors and city councilmen with developing budgets and budgeting processes.

■ Green shares money expertise with Iraq's new local governments

Deployment

continued from page 12

specialists that were needed,” Green said. “They wanted senior civilians who could be involved in engagements with Iraqi officials. They wanted people with extensive backgrounds in their specialties. They couldn’t find all they needed among the civilian work force, so they also tapped into the National Guard and Reserves and brought on active duty Soldiers they needed for these teams.”

Green was a civilian volunteer recruited to serve as a banking and finance specialist. He was assigned to a team of 11 DoD civilians and contractors, as well as National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, who were sent on a mission to work for the betterment of Iraq’s new governments.

“We came from all parts of the U.S. There were 126 of us – 70 from the National Guard and Reserve, 30 civilians and 26 contractors,” Green said. “We had a very highly skilled, highly experienced group. And we were aided by bilingual, bicultural advisers who were either born in Iraq or were of Arab background, who were fluent in the language and dialects, and who understood tribal aspects of the mission.”

Each team was comprised of 10 to 15 specialists from several areas, including banking and finance, economic development, agriculture, rule of law, international relations, city planning, city services, and women and children issues. Among the specialists Green met was a city planner from Nebraska who was a Reservist activated to serve as a city services specialist, a Kentucky Reservist whose experience as a bank manager made him a good candidate for serving as a banking specialist, and another Reservist whose civilian job as an economic planner made him a good choice for the role of economic development specialist.

The team members underwent two weeks of training at the State Department before their deployment. Besides learning about tribal culture, government issues and physical challenges facing the new Iraqi government, the team members also learned how to manage 36 pounds of protective gear, and about safety and security measures.

Once in Iraq, the teams met with various

city and community leaders, and assisted them in developing budgets and other financial programs for their new governments, as well as developing government plans for building capabilities to supply water, fuel and essential services; building and maintaining roads; providing medical care and health facilities; and supporting local agriculture.

Green’s reconstruction team was responsible for working with the governments in the major cities near Al-Asad Air Base — Al Qa’im, Rawah, Anah, Haditha, Hit and Ar Rutbah.

“There had been a military relationship established with these governments. But it was security focused. We wanted to establish a relationship with civil authorities that would build capabilities,” Green said.

“We were working with local leaders and sheiks and new governments who really wanted to work with and learn from the Provincial Reconstruction Teams,” he said. “We did engagement activities with the leadership – the mayors and city councilmen – to teach them and help them develop municipal capabilities.”

Team members actually went into the cities and lived in designated safe places – bombed out buildings, tent cities or run-down government facilities, all under guard — for two to three days while they met with city officials.

“Basically, we operated outside the wire,” Green said, referring to the number of forward operating bases in the province secured by barbed wire and concrete barriers. “We went outside the wire to work with the new governments. We made a trip to each city to get to know the mayors and city councilmen we were working with and to explain to them the way cities are managed.

“I would explain to them the importance of budgets and the budget process. I would then have tutorials for the senior leaders where I taught them about municipal financial planning, budgeting and execution of available funds. The culmination of my work was to conduct the first budget workshop to help develop an FY ‘08 budget. The goal was to have implemented budgets for each city. The whole reason for me being there was to make sure I gave them capacity to manage a budget.”

As they got to know the Iraqi government leaders, Green and other team mem-

bers learned about their heroic acts and sacrifices in the face of terrorism, stories that were both heartbreaking and inspiring. They met one Iraqi police officer whose two younger brothers – one 14, the other 16 – were kidnapped and beheaded when terrorists learned the officer was working with coalition forces. They met a police chief who was serving in the place of one chief who had been assassinated, and another who had been arrested for kidnapping and murder. One sheik told them the story of his son, who was kidnapped and killed despite the sheik paying the agreed ransom.

“That caused him to ally with coalition forces,” Green said.

But the saddest loss, by far, was that of Sheik Abdul Sattar Abu Resha, who was the founder of the Anbar Awakening, and who was assassinated by an Al-Qaida-associated terrorist in September 2007.

“In the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007, all the fighting in the Al-Anbar province went down because there was a coalition of sheiks who decided they were going to address the atrocities of Al-Qaida in Iraq,” Green said.

“This was a coalition of sheiks called the Anbar Awakening led by Sheik Sattar. They had had enough of the Al-Qaida influence in the western province of Al-Anbar, and they formed a quasi arrangement with coalition forces to address the problems in the area.”

Not only did that alliance lead to the effective work of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams, but it also caused a sharp decline in terrorist attacks. Before the Anbar Awakening, there were about 10,000 terrorist attacks in Al Anbar every month. After the Awakening formed, those attacks declined to less than 900 a month, and today are down to fewer than 500 a month.

Learning how to provide and manage city services is vital to the growth of democracy and freedom in Iraq, Green said.

“Under the regime of Saddam Hussein the government at all levels did not have institutions in place to spend oil revenues, which were \$40 billion in 2006 alone,” he said. “Under Saddam, there was a ministerial dictatorship and Saddam decided where the money was spent. The government under Saddam was centrally monitored and dictated.”

Traveling to the various cities was an

adventure in itself for Green and the other members of his team.

“We were located at a huge complex in the desert. The desert was so large in Al-Anbar that wherever you went you had to fly. CH-46s and CH-53s were our primary source of transportation,” said Green, a former military helicopter pilot who flew Cobras and Hueys.

“We were flown by Marines (of the 2nd Marine Regiment), who did an excellent job of transporting us and protecting us. Wherever we went in a city, we had a personal security detail of nine to 12 Marines and three or four gun trucks. We were always surrounded by Marines. We never had to worry about our security.”

Green is only aware of one security incident that involved his team in Iraq. While traveling through one city, the location of a meeting with city leaders was changed.

“We were rerouted,” he said. “Instead of having the meeting in the new city hall we were rerouted to a school auditorium. We were meeting with about 15 tribal leaders and 10 city leaders. About 10 minutes to 12, six of the tribal leaders got up and walked out. At 12 sharp, we heard a huge explosion that happened 12 kilometers away at the city municipal complex where we supposed to have our meeting. A vehicle borne IED (improvised explosive device) was driven through the gate and it blew up the new city hall.”

Although the teams are still operating in Iraq, Green and other team members have been brought home as federal budget increases have allowed the State Department to hire and train employees to take the place of DoD civilians and contractors on the PRTs. Green had mixed feelings about returning home. He returned home in November and recently spoke to the American Society of Military Comptrollers about his experiences in Iraq.

“The work I was doing was really making a difference and it’s not complete. For that reason, I didn’t want to come home,” Green said. “But I know others have picked up where I started. My work here needed me and I was glad to come home to my wife (Almeida Green, who works for SMDC), children and grandchild. Socially, Iraq is very difficult because there isn’t a lot to do there during down time and you are so far away from the people who are important to you. It was a very tough existence for me.”

HHC 59th surges past NCO Academy



Photo by Skip Vaughn

TEAM DEFENSE— NCO Academy forward Kurtrell Jackson (14) looks for offense against the 59th's LaQuaine Bess (40) and Jeff Reuter.

Amos Jackson scores 19 in midseason game

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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The HHC 59th basketball players were optimistic Feb. 11 about the second half of the season.

They beat the NCO Academy 54-42 at Pagano Gym to improve to 3-2, midway through their 10 games until the postseason tournament March 6-13.

"We played good teamwork," 59th player/coach Bobby McSwain said. "We moved the ball around a lot, good teamwork."

He noted the play of Amos Jackson, Reginald LeDay, LaQuaine Bess and Jeff Reuter.

"Just a good team victory," McSwain said. "We're starting to jell together for the playoffs."

Jackson scored 19 points, including three 3-pointers, and LeDay had 12. Bess and Reuter added eight apiece. The 59th led 32-18 at halftime.

Jackson, who had 14 in the first half, said, "We exploited the middle and moved

the ball. We didn't hesitate, we got it, made good clean passes and the shot was wide open.

"If we keep on doing this here throughout the rest of the season, we'll look good going into the tournament."

Eric Raska and Tilton Washington had 11 points apiece for the NCO Academy, which fell to 2-2.

Said NCO Academy coach Shawn Jones, "They got the best of us. They hustled. They got the best of us today."

"We blew a lot of easy layups," Academy forward Kurtrell Jackson said, "and we got outbounded."

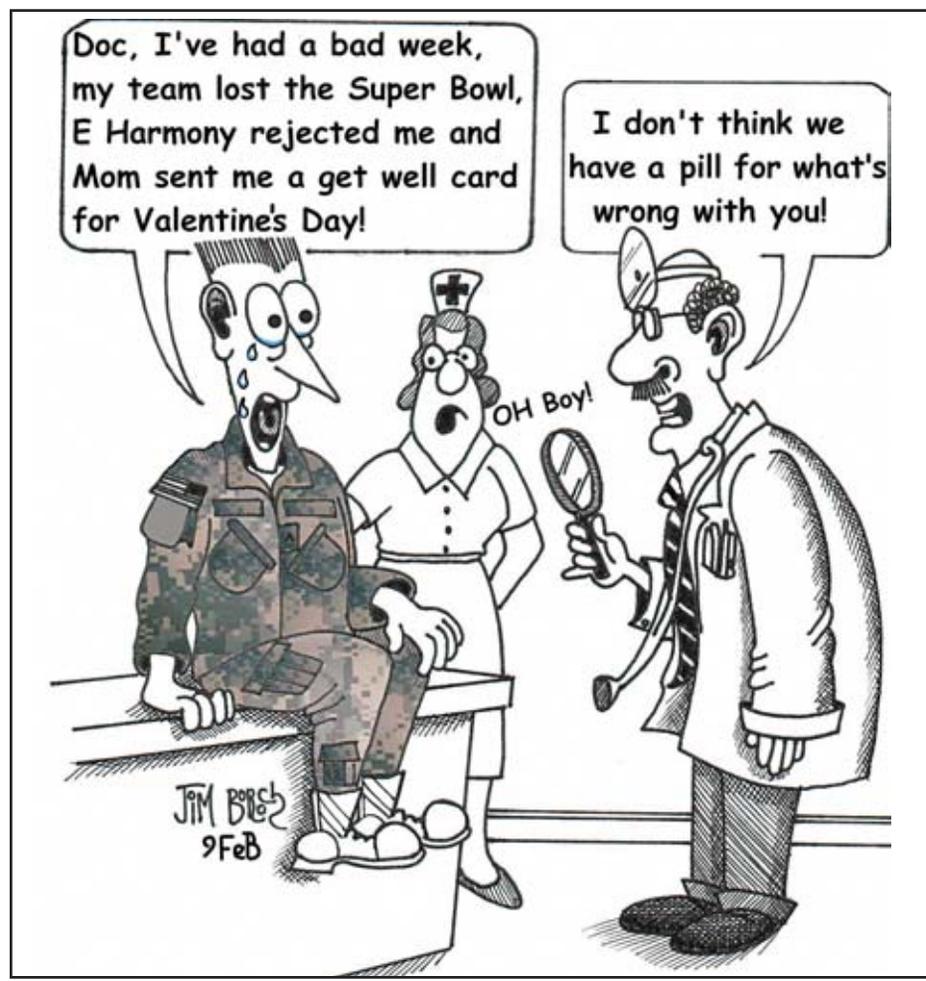
Standings after last week's games had Headquarters & Alpha (6-0), Marines (4-1), Bravo (3-2), Charlie (3-2), HHC 59th (3-3), NCO Academy (2-3), 326th Chemical (1-5) and 375th Engineers (0-6).

Here are results from week four of the season:

- **Feb. 11** – HHC 59th def. NCO Academy 54-42; and Marines def. 326th Chemical 50-48.

- **Feb. 12** – 326th Chemical def. NCO Academy 46-31; and Bravo def. Charlie 53-44.

- **Feb. 14** – Marines def. 375th Engineers 71-29; and Headquarters & Alpha def. HHC 59th 69-55.



■ Seven Marines return home from duty in Iraq

Milestone

continued from page 1

“Other than that, it was actually quiet for us. From what I had seen in the news, I was expecting things to be a lot worse. One of the bases I was at was known to be in a rough area. But things were fairly peaceful when we were there.”

During their mission, the Marines saw how the improvements in the conditions in Iraq have lessened the need for heavy artillery.

“We trained so hard to be able to do the job,” said Payne, 21, of Hazel Green.

“But the war has pretty much calmed down and they were not in need of what we had on the table. A year ago, we would have fired missions almost every day. With the war calmed down, they don’t need artillery. But they do need our presence in case things were to happen.”

The Marines saw how conditions in Iraq are improving.

“The government is getting organized. The Iraqi people, themselves, seem ready to be on board with accepting a government,” Bush said.

“You can see where the fighting has been and where mortar attacks have hit. You can see how things have changed. You can see the coalition forces at work. Was it necessary for us to go in there

after 9/11? Yeah, I think so if the U.S. wanted to continue as a super power. It would have sent the wrong message to let terrorists come over here, and destroy buildings and kill people, and then not do anything about it.”

During the deployment, the Marines spent their free time going to the gym, playing Xbox, and competing at flag football and basketball. Bush spent time reading his Bible. Those at Al-Asad enjoyed a visit from Chuck Norris, and they got to see snow twice, an unusual occurrence that wasn’t exactly pleasant as the snow came down in snowballs the size of softballs.

Whether in the midst of firing a HIMARS or trying to cope with the boredom of a deployment, the Marines know they made a contribution to bringing the war in Iraq to an end.

“It used to be like the wild, wild West over there,” Dray said. “Now, we are planning to turn things over to the Iraqi Army in March in the Al-Anbar province. That’s progress.”

But, Coleman, 20, of Lincoln, Tenn., believes there will be a U.S. presence in Iraq for a long time.

“If we leave, things will go back to the same way they were. I don’t see us leaving anytime soon,” he said.

The Marines appreciated the exuberant “Welcome Home” crowd that cheered them upon arrival at Huntsville International Airport on Feb. 9. The

North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition along with the Patriot Guard coordinated the event for the families and their Marines.

“Our families are all proud of us, but they were also really worried about us while we were deployed,” Payne said.

On their return home, it was Bush who received the biggest “Welcome Home.” He is the only Marine in the group who had children – Leanna, 7, and Isaiah, 5 — waiting for him. His entire Huntsville family was anxious to celebrate Bush’s 26th birthday on his return.

“I didn’t have a birthday cake. I had a pumpkin pie,” Bush said with a smile. “We had a birthday party when I got home for me and my daughter, who also turned 7. My kids are so important to me. My son nearly made me cry when I talked to him on Friday night and he said ‘I’m so excited today because I’m going to see you tomorrow.’”

Bush, the oldest in the group, nearly joined the Air Force in 2001.

“I was at the office in Nashville to sign up when 9/11 happened,” he said. “I thought that maybe that was a sign and I left Nashville without joining.

“But as the war started and then went on, I thought maybe I could do something to help. I always wanted to be a Marine. The Marines have a reputation of being the toughest and most outstanding. And they have a great uniform. So, I joined the Marine Reserves in 2005.”

For most of the Marines, the future is

clear as they make plans to obtain college degrees. Bush, a security guard on Redstone Arsenal for NASA, plans to go to college and study physical therapy. McPeters, 22, of Killen, plans to return to the University of Alabama, where he is studying business marketing. Allred and Coleman have plans to return to Oklahoma and play football for the University of Central Oklahoma while Dray is not yet sure of his plans.

“Right now, I’m taking things one day at a time,” Dray said. “I don’t think we need to have too much on our plates.”

Although Payne would like to join the active Marine Corps, his family is against it. So, he plans to instead go back to college and earn a degree in business management or civil justice.

“I still miss the lifestyle of Al-Asad,” he said. “For some reason, you really get used to that lifestyle and it’s hard to get back into the routine of being home.

“Being over there makes you see things differently. I don’t feel like a hero, but I know I served a purpose. Since we didn’t go on many missions, it makes you wonder about the reason for us being there. I have friends in the Marines who went earlier than I did. The things they saw and the things they did – compared to what I did – makes them heroes in my eyes. I’m not a hero.”

“We were just doing our job,” Dray added.

Nation urged to wash away food-borne illnesses

Clean hands best defense

By **CHERIE A. MILLER**
Environmental health coordinator

Every year more than 3 million cases of food-borne illness, aka “food poisoning,” are reported to health care providers. It is generally assumed

that only a third of all cases are actually reported, leaving another 6 million cases of illness that occur each year.

Most of these food-borne illnesses are attributable to seven common bacteria and cost the food service industry and the public more than \$6.5 billion per year in lost income, productivity and medical costs. One study revealed that a Hepatitis A out-

break with a single food service worker as the source resulted in 43 secondary cases, 5,000 exposures and cost more than \$809,000 to investigate and treat. While these illnesses can be attributable to all points in the food processing and preparation process in both homes and industry, approximately 90 percent of outbreaks are associated with a food service restaurant. The

majority of foods involved were sandwiches, salads and other foods that require extensive hand contact during preparation.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, hand contact is the primary means of transmission of food borne bacteria. In food-borne illnesses reported to the CDC between 1988 and 1992, poor hygiene was a factor in 36 percent of the outbreaks and 93 percent of the workers involved had infections prior to or at the time of the outbreak and easily transmitted the bacteria to food through their hands. The CDC and leading public health officials have identified hand washing as the single most important and least expensive method of preventing food-borne illness.

Throughout the nation, state and local health departments are responsible for ensuring safe and sanitary practices are carried out in the food service industry.

On Redstone Arsenal, the Preventive Medicine section of Fox Army Health Center performs this mission. Military preventive medicine technicians conduct routine sanitary inspections of all food service operations on the Arsenal to ensure compliance with the Food and Drug Administration Model Food Code and Army Regulation. Inspections review all aspects of the food service process, from ordering and receiving to the actual point of service to the customer. One key process that is reviewed is the facility procedure for ensuring good hand hygiene.

One concern that consumers often have about hand hygiene is use of food service gloves by food service workers. Most consumers assume that gloves ensure “hands are clean” and therefore are safer. In reality, gloves are only substitutes for

clean hands and often give workers a false sense of cleanliness and therefore promote poor hand-washing discipline. For this reason, the Model Food Code does not require the use of gloves; when used they must be changed as often as the worker would wash their bare hands and the hands must be thoroughly washed with soap and water before putting on a clean pair. In addition, the warmth and sweat moisture generated inside the gloves while wearing increases the bacterial growth on the hands. If gloves are damaged while wearing, bacteria can leak through the holes — in one study, 18,000 organisms in 20 minutes through a single hole — and enter food.

A related concern is the use of hand sanitizers. While they do kill some degree of bacteria on the hands, the Model Food Code only allows their use in addition to, and not as a substitute for, thorough hand washing to remove bacteria by mechanical friction.

Preventive Medicine reviews hand washing procedures to ensure that proper protocols are observed and followed. Food service managers are responsible for monitoring their staff to ensure that hands are washed when necessary and in the proper manner to remove bacteria. As consumers, you can reduce your risk of food-borne illness by ensuring food service workers maintain clean hands and by thoroughly washing your own hands prior to consuming any food products. The key to safe food really is in your hands.

Editor's note: For more information on food service sanitation or to report food sanitation concerns, call Preventive Medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1441 or 1446.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Safety update

Brig. Gen. William Forrester, commander of the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center and director of Army safety, speaks Feb. 14 to local members of the Army Aviation Association of America. The event was the AAAA Joseph P. Cribbins 34th annual Aviation Product Symposium held Feb. 13-14 at the Von Braun Center. Asked afterward about Army safety, the Pulaski, Tenn., native said, “We’re doing really good. I can tell you exactly how many we lost, but I can’t tell you how many we saved. And that is good. The Army discussion and level of attention are all good. That being said, we can always try to do a little bit better.”

Space Camp scholarship program launches 24th year

Military youngsters invited to compete

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com

This has been a big year for the space program, with the 50th anniversary of the Explorer satellite launch. Now military youngsters have a chance to experience the world of space.

The 24th annual Space Camp scholarship program is ready for liftoff.

“Since 1984 over 200 children have attended Space Camp through this program,” Cathy Hays, quality of life program manager at Army Community Service, said.

The Army Community Service Volunteer Committee announces the Space Camp, Space Academy, and Aviation Challenge Scholarship Program for 2008, open to active and retired military family members. Children of Guard and Reserve members having served on active duty from March 14, 2007 to March 14, 2008 are also eligible.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GENUINE GEMINI— From left, Maureen Tipton, Cathy Hays and Phyllis Montgomery look at a Project Gemini exhibit at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. They're organizing the 24th annual Space Camp scholarship program.

Applicants must reside within a 50-mile radius of Redstone Arsenal and present a copy of their military ID card (or mili-

tary orders), along with their completed application and a handwritten one-to-two page essay titled, “Why I want to

attend Space Camp/Space Academy/Aviation Challenge.”

They must also have at least a C average in school, according to Phyllis Montgomery, co-chairman of the Space Camp scholarship committee.

Maureen Tipton, in her first year with the committee, is the other co-chairman.

“It’s a very unique opportunity for children that are in this area to take advantage of the fact that it’s a scholarship they have to earn through essays and grades,” Tipton said. “I think it opens doors to children. It gives them an opportunity to experience something they may not have had because of the cost of this program.”

The scholarships are funded by local organizations. Last year’s sponsors included the Officer and Civilian Women’s Club, the Air Defense Artillery Association, System Studies and Simulation Inc., Association of the U.S. Army, the Thrift Shop, American Legion Family Post 237, and Enlisted Spouses Club. A representative from each contributing organization serves as a judge for the essays.

Last year there were 10 schol-

arships in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center’s 25th year of Space Camp. At least 10 are planned this year, according to Montgomery.

“It gives them an experience that is invaluable,” Tipton said. “It introduces them to math and science in a fun environment. And it’s an environment that has standards so that all the children are successful.”

Said Hays, “I think the neat thing is the Space & Rocket Center is literally in our backyard.”

Children must be ages 9-11 for Space Camp, and ages 12-14 for Space Academy and Aviation Challenge. Applications are available at the Post Exchange, local schools, Army Community Service (building 3338 on Red-eye Road), and at www.redstonemwr.com. They must be returned by noon March 14 to ACS. Previous winners are not eligible.

The children will attend Space Camp from June 8-13 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The Space Academy and Aviation Challenge are June 8-15.

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

Tobyhanna trio earn Armywide suggestion honors

Annual award
a first for depot

By JACQUELINE BOUCHER
Tobyhanna Depot Public Affairs

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Three Tobyhanna electronics mechanics took top honors in the annual Armywide suggestion competition after discovering a way to save about \$150,000 a year.

Tim Kime, Dave Voorhees and Andy Martino were named the 2007 Department of the Army Civilian and Military Suggesters of the Year — a first for Tobyhanna Army Depot.

The winners will attend an award ceremony, hosted by the Secretary of the Army, March 27 at the Pentagon.

“The suggesters’ idea on the Zero Azimuth Position Sensors highlights their innovative thinking and dedication to making the Army more efficient,” depot commander Col. Ron Alberto said.

Tobyhanna employees submitted 261 suggestions last year; 82 were adopted. A monetary award of \$3,940 was granted for the ZAPS suggestion.

“The suggestion program gives employees an opportunity to present a better way to do business and to be recognized for their efforts,” said Patricia Patelunas, Tobyhanna’s suggestion program manager. “I think the suggesters should be very proud of their accomplishment.”

A suggestion is an idea that benefits the Army or other United States government activity, she said. Submissions must present a problem and proposed solution.



Photo by Steve Grzedzinski

POPULAR MECHANICS— From left, Andy Martino, Tim Kime and Dave Voorhees talk about their suggestion that netted first place in an Army-level competition.

Instead of discarding a \$3,356 basic sight assembly scanner, Kime, Voorhees and Martino proposed, via the Suggestion Program, to reclassify the ZAPS from a component to a part, thereby authorizing them to repair the broken sensor.

Through the process of trial and error, the three men devised a plan to save time and money by fixing the scanners at the depot. They realized the heat generated by the laser caused the light transmitting diode to fail.

Research showed that eight out of 10 times, only a \$20 diode needed to be replaced to bring a broken scanner back online, but because of the ZAPS classification as a component, repairs were unauthorized.

“It really was a common sense approach,” Kime said, noting that it seemed like a no-brainer to spend \$20 to save \$4,000. Electro-Optics/Night Vision

Division works on an average of 225 scanners a year. The unit consists of 14 parts, including the sensor and a glass prism and lens.

Getting the reclassification accepted would solve the problem, according to Voorhees. He explained that if an item is classified a component, it doesn’t get repaired; however, a part can be repaired.

“A component is something you use and throw away,” Voorhees said. “Renaming the ZAPS provided an avenue for us to make necessary repairs saving thousands of dollars for each item.”

“I never expected the idea to go as far as it has,” Martino said. “We were just doing our job — there was a problem and we resolved it.” He explained that the hardest part was just figuring out what the problem was and then how to fix it. Martino was reassigned to the Communications System Directorate’s Satellite Communications Division before the suggestion was approved.

The ZAPS is used in the basic sight assembly scanner of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The scanner is a mirror assembly that moves quickly left and right. Once the zero azimuth position is found, the mirror is adjusted to move equally left and right from the center.

According to the mechanics, the ZAPS allows the technician to find the center of the moving mirror letting the cross-hairs of the night vision system to line up. Without ZAPS the system would sight slightly left or right of the target.

“They (Kime, Martino and Voorhees) could have just as easily gone about doing business as usual, but decided to work together and submit their idea in hopes of improving the process,” Patelunas said. “It shows that employees here really do care about the jobs they do.”

“The suggestion program is an excellent avenue for all employees to present better ways of doing business and to improve the quality of life at the depot,” she said.

Advice on calculating retirement annuity

The following questions and answers originally appeared in the *NARFE Magazine* and are reprinted with permission from the National Active and Retired Federal Employee Association:

Question: I would like to find out how to calculate my retirement annuity.

Answer: You may want to visit the web site www.fedbens.us. This web site has calculators available to compute your high-three average salary and the amount of your annuity. You may want to check with your personnel office to see if counseling is available to you. You can also use the retirement calculators on the Army Benefits Center web site at www.abc.army.mil. Click on Benefits/EBIS, use your password and

PIN to enter EBIS, and click on calculators; or you can request an annuity estimate by calling the ABC counselors at 1-877-276-9287.

Question: I plan to retire in the near future and was wondering if there is a viable alternative to the full survivor annuity, which seems very expensive at almost 10 percent of the gross retirement annuity.

Answer: If you are under CSRS, you may elect (with a notarized agreement from your wife) any survivor base. You do not have to elect the full 55 percent. Your retirement counselor can explain this to you and give you estimates using different amounts. Army Benefits counselors can be reached by calling 1-877-276-9287.

Sports & Recreation

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.

Babe Ruth league

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the 2008 spring season on March 1, 8 and 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2008 are invited; and 12-year-olds are eligible to sign up as well under the Local Swing Player Option. Registration forms will be accepted after March 15 on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required for all new players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. The Babe Ruth parks and their primary contacts are: Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, call Emile Jones 990-5902; Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, call Tim Harrison 544-3180; and Eastern Division, Optimist Park, call T. Poe 527-8763.

Ladies golf group

Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association will hold a Signup Coffee on March 5 at 9 a.m. at the Links at Redstone. All women 17 and over who meet the eligibility requirements for the use of the Redstone golf course may apply for membership in the association. If you plan to attend, e-mail katn@knology.net.

Tennis association

The Huntsville Women's Tennis Association has the following weekly events at the Huntsville Tennis Center at John Hunt Park, 2305 Airport Road: men's round

robin, Monday at 9 a.m.; women's round robin, Tuesday at 9 a.m.; and mixed round robin, Thursday at 9 a.m. Just drop in and play; no reservations required. Cost is \$5 for non-members. For more information, call 883-3986. The association will have a membership social March 4 from 4-6 p.m. at the home of Kim Mims, 2805 Trevor Drive in southeast Huntsville. For information call 509-1437.

Golfing for tots

Golfers are invited to the first Toys for Tots Golf Tournament on May 5 at the Ledges golf course. Four-member teams

can register by calling Gunnery Sgt. Arthur Jordan 213-9683 or e-mailing him at jordanar@mfr.usmc.mil. Registration deadline is March 14. The tournament fee is \$1,000 per team or \$250 per member. The tournament is also seeking sponsors.

Golf tournament

Honor Flight, Tennessee Valley Chapter will sponsor an 18-hole golf tournament March 28 at the Links at Redstone. For more information, e-mail Nick Leone at nleonegolf@comcast.net.

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.

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 Olshefski 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.

Chapter luncheon

The Rocket City Chapter of ITEA will hold a luncheon meeting Thursday 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.



Courtesy photo

Top Gun trophy

Members of the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign receive the Top Gun Award at the Community-wide Campaign Celebration hosted by United Way of Madison County on Feb. 12 at the Von Braun Center. Team Redstone won the Top Gun Award for the 2007 CFC by contributing \$894,610. From left are Melinda Seigler, CFC director for United Way of Madison County; Rosa Kilpatrick of Marshall Space Flight Center, Local Federal Coordinating Committee member; Linda Readus of Aviation and Missile Command, LFCC member; Col. Tom Newman, AMCOM chief of staff; Donna Johnson, LFCC chairman; Marie O'Boyle, Security Assistance Management Directorate CFC loaned executive; and Kristen Hinton, SAMD CFC volunteer.

Catholic women

The Redstone Arsenal and Our Lady of the Valley MCCW (Military Council of Catholic Women) invites all ladies with a military ID to its March get-together on March 7 at the old Post Chapel on Patton Road. MCCW will host the Friday evening Stations of the Cross (the Stations of Peace) at 6 p.m. followed by a Lenten Soup Supper. There will be no morning MCCW meeting. The chapel will, however, still hold first Friday Holy Hour at 11 a.m. and Mass at noon. For more information, call Phyllis Gibat 842-2175 or Chris 701-6490.

Fleet reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Saturday at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on Interstate-565 Exit 3. For information call Bill Marriott 974-3763 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

Technical communicators

The Society for Technical Communication, Huntsville-North Alabama chapter will meet Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. at University of Alabama-Huntsville, Morton Hall, room 122. The agenda includes presentations of current research on electronic portfolios. STC will order boxed meals from McAlister's. Attendees should include their meal choice in their RSVP e-mail. To RSVP, e-mail Cindi Brasher by Feb. 25 at brasher@cuh.edu.

Electromagnetic course

The 12th DoD Electromagnetic Windows Short Course and Symposium is April 28

to May 1 at the Sparkman Center. Registration 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.

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

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Rocket Announcements



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Miss Alabama

Miss Alabama 2007 Jamie Langley visits the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School on Feb. 12. "What an honor it is to be in their presence," the Wadley native said of the Soldiers. "You can just feel the intrepid spirit here." She meets Capt. Jason Knapp, left, of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion, and Lt. Col. Brian Dye, executive officer for the 59th Ordnance Brigade and OMEMS.

Rocket Announcements

its monthly luncheon meeting today 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 at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will sponsor a program for Black History Month at its monthly meeting at 11:15 a.m. Thursday at the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Sharon Lang, historian, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. The meeting will be held in the Loft and the buffet line may be used for those purchasing lunch. Members and visitors are invited.

Women's history

March is Women's History Month; and the Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women is sponsoring a luncheon at Carrabas Restaurant at Parkway Place Mall on March 7 at 11:30 a.m. to benefit the AAUW Educational Foundation. Dr. Ann Roy Moore, superintendent of Huntsville City Schools and 2008 Superintendent of the Year for the State of Alabama, will speak on the future of public education in North Alabama, "Leadership and Change." The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$20 each and can be obtained by calling Elaine Eyer 881-2254 before Feb. 29.

Engineer post

Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. The cost of the buffet lunch is \$10. Make reservations with Amber.D.Martin@usace.army.mil, phone 895-1834. February's topic is "Collaborating Across Disciplines."

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 Saturday from 3-4:30 p.m. at Faith 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." 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.

Space society

HAL5 (local chapter of the National Space Society) presents a free public lecture, "Is the Dream Still Alive?" by Dr. Marty Kress, executive director of the National Space Science and Technology Center, on March 6 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library, 915 Monroe St. A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie Lajoie 509-3833.

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

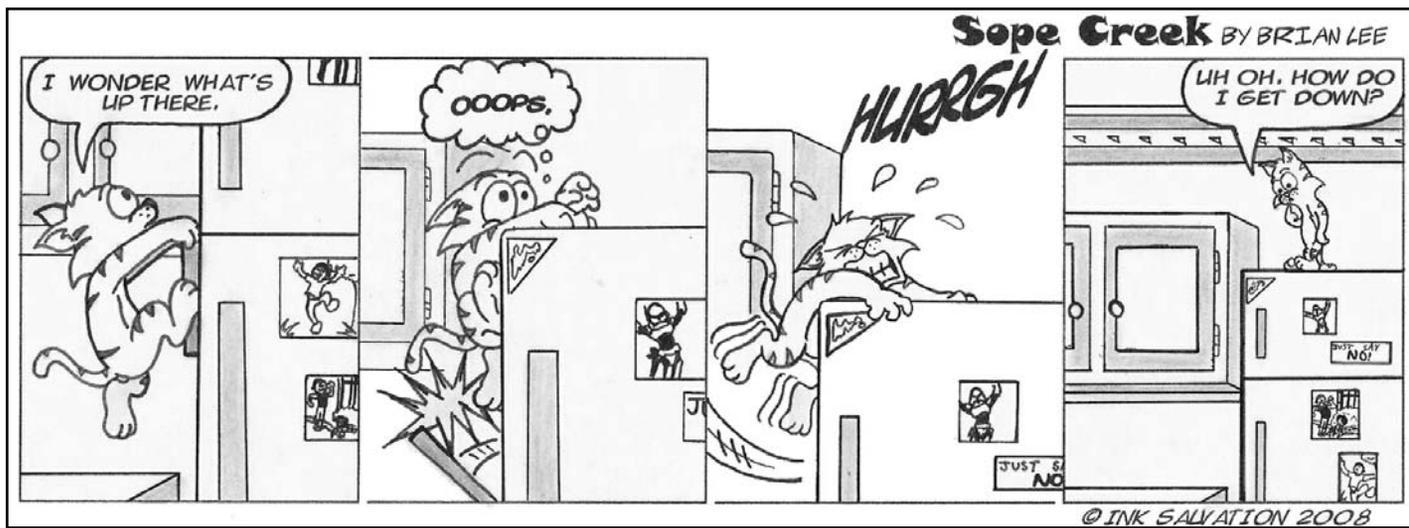
A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or

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

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or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

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

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 93hdstc@bellsouth.net.

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 mili-

tary 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.

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 mem-

bers 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.redstonewar-rants.com.

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.

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.

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.

Woodpecker benefit

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker Foundation is holding its second annual fundraising gala, "Save the Ivory-bill!" on Saturday 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.

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).

Announcements

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 now 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 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.

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 Saturday and again 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. Loca-



Courtesy photo

Superior service

Col. David Lockhart, project manager for Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators, presents the Superior Civil Service Award to Stephen Milburn, retired director of the Targets Management Office.

tions for Saturday are Sam's Club on University Drive and Wal-Mart 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.

Space Camp scholarships

The Army Community Service Volunteer Committee announces the Space Camp, Space Academy, and Aviation Challenge Scholarship Program for 2008, open to active and retired military family members. Children of Guard and Reserve members having served on active duty from March 14, 2007 to March 14, 2008 are also eligible. Applicants must reside within a 50-mile radius of Redstone Arsenal and present a copy of their military ID card (or military orders), along with their completed application and a handwritten one-to-two page essay titled, "Why I want to attend Space Camp/Space Academy/Aviation Challenge." Children must be ages 9-11 for Space Camp, and ages 12-14 for Space

Academy and Aviation Challenge. Applications are available at the Post Exchange, local schools, Army Community Service (building 3338 on Redeye Road), and at www.redstonemwr.com. They must be returned by noon March 14 to ACS. Previous winners are not eligible. For more information, call 876-5397.

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.

Older drivers

AARP Driver Safety Program, a driver improvement course designed for older motorists, will be held March 4-5 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. at Hospice Family Care, 3304 Westmill Drive in Huntsville. This eight-hour course will be taught in two four-hour sessions. There are no tests. Tuition is \$10. Graduates may be eligible to receive a multi-year discount on their auto insurance premiums. Class size is limited to 30 participants. For information and registration, call AARP certified instructor Vince Guarin 880-6928.

Schools superintendent

Dr. Ann Roy Moore, Huntsville City Schools superintendent, will be the featured speaker at the Feb. 26 PTSA meeting at Columbia and New Century Technology high schools. She will talk about the "Future Vision of Columbia and New Century," and will address questions pertaining to how the two schools fit into the city school mix of high schools, what construction and/or facility plans are on the agenda for the two schools, and possible changes in the block scheduling system. School board members will also attend the meeting. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the Columbia campus auditorium. The public is invited.

Black History program

Team Redstone's African American/Black History Month program is Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. This year's theme is "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism." The keynote speaker is James Lambright Jr., director of equal employment opportunity, education, Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Monique Mixon 876-8648.

AER book sale

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for the Army Emergency Relief campaign is April 21 through May 2 at 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Sparkman Center building 5300, the first floor corridor between buildings 5303 and 5304. "As in the past, we accept donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotape," a prepared release said. Donations will be accepted until April 29. If you have items to donate, call Brian Berry 876-8563 to arrange delivery and pickup.

Luncheon program

Logistics Support Activity will hold an African-American History Month Program/Luncheon at 11 a.m. Feb. 27 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711. The speaker is Madison City Councilwoman Cynthia McCollum.

Huntsville Police Department's Blue Notes Five will sing. Tickets are on sale for \$5. For information call Renata Walker 955-9038 and Reena Strong 955-0676.

Wild game cookout

The Wild Game Cookout will be held Friday at 5 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. "You can try venison, duck, bear, boar, beaver, alligator, buffalo and more," a prepared release said. Tickets are \$15 and include draft beer and live entertainment. For information call 830-2582 or 876-4868.

CFC applicants

Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations for 2008. Under federal law, the charitable organization must be a current 501(c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications is March 3 through April 10. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and Postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area. A copy of the 2008 CFC package may be acquired by calling Donna Johnson, Local Federal Coordinating Committee chairman, or Melinda Seigler, CFC director, 842-1037 or on the local web site <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil>.

