

Redstone Rocket

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Helping hands



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System designers get Soldiers' view

Air defense community seeks input from user

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Early user assessment is akin to kicking the tires on a new vehicle. It's best for the designers to get the user's input before the final product.

That's the idea behind bringing a group of Soldiers from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Raytheon in Huntsville for early user assessment of the JLENS communication and control station March 4-6. JLENS stands for Joint Land Attack Elevated Netted Sensor System.

"This is the first of several evaluations with the user community that we will have as we mature the design prior to fielding," Neal Tilghman, a principal human systems engineer at Raytheon Warfighter Protection Center, said. The second early user assessment is scheduled in October.

The goal is to get user feedback on the design concepts and layout of the JLENS communication and control station.

"We're in the early prototype stage and we want to head off any early issues, design concerns, in the early phase of the program," Tilghman said. "The key takeaway from that is we have prototyped the CCS shelter and we're conducting in-shelter exercises with the Fort Bliss user team to validate the design objectives."

The team members from Fort Bliss included Master Sgt. Greg Heidenescher, Staff Sgt. David Brandau, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chad Sneller and 2nd Lt. Mike Jones. Heidenescher and Brandau are from the 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade; and Sneller and Jones belong to 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery.

"We all have an association with the Patriot missile system," Heidenescher, from Monroe,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SHELTER MOCKUP— Soldiers from Fort Bliss, Texas, try the prototype communication and control station for the Joint Land Attack Elevated Netted Sensor System. From left are 2nd Lt. Mike Jones, Staff Sgt. David Brandau, Master Sgt. Greg Heidenescher and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chad Sneller.

N.C., said. "We're here to give inputs on the JLENS system shelters and the JLENS itself. They seem to be asking questions about everything – from creature comfort to functionality."

Heidenescher won't see JLENS fielded because he's retiring in January after 22 years, but he likes the system's concept.

"It looks to be a great asset to what we plan to do in the future," he said.

Brandau, from Charles City, Iowa, has been in the Army nearly 14 years but just in air defense for two years. He too likes the JLENS concept.

"You're going to have a bigger picture of the battlefield," Brandau said. "For those commanders, you're going to have a bigger picture for them to see. It's an awesome piece of equipment."

Sneller, from Midland, Mich.,

has been in the Army 14 and a half years.

"I think this'll be a great system," Sneller said. "It's going to definitely enhance the capabilities of the Army."

Jones, from Silver Spring, Md., has four years in the Reserve and about a year and a half on active duty.

"I was really impressed (with JLENS)," Jones said. "Definitely its capabilities are of a lot of use. I hope the Army goes forward with the program, definitely in the Middle East and Korea."

The JLENS Product Office is under the Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office within the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

JLENS is in the system design and development phase and just recently passed a milestone by completing its preliminary design review in the first

week of February. It will begin testing in 2010 and begin fielding in 2011 to a Fort Bliss unit.

A contract was signed with Raytheon, the material developer, in December 2006 to build two orbits.

The system consists of two 74-meter aerostats which work in tandem and can stay up for 30 days. One has a surveillance radar and the other has a fire control radar. The surveillance radar is built to pick up multiple targets. It passes data to the fire control radar which provides precision tracking information over several joint networks.

Product manager Lt. Col. Steve Willhelm explained, "It's an air defense system, and it's a sensor. It's not a shooter."

"JLENS is an elevated persistent sensor capability that delivers a sensor air picture to the war fighter and associated systems," Willhelm said.

An open lane random survey

What do you think of Army Emergency Relief?

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Pvt. David Jensen
Charlie Company

"I think AER is very good. It gives Soldiers an opportunity if they have an emergency they can utilize that program to pay rent or what-not if they're having trouble with their financial situation. All the people I've dealt with up

there are really nice. They're willing to work with you to help you out. I had issues with being able to make my rent payments so I was able to utilize that (program) and pay it back in small increments."

Pvt. Joel Kohlbrecher
Charlie Company

"I think it's a useful tool because of the simple reason if a Soldier runs into financial bind they're able to get out of it without having to use a check cashing place and having several hundred dollars worth of interest."



Bettie Ferguson
Army Community Service

"I think it's one of the greatest programs there is out there for Army and Army related. There are all sorts of emergencies around and AER helps solve a lot of problems."

Lori Debron
ACS volunteer

"I think it's a wonderful program to assist Army and Army dependents. It's a way that the Army takes care of itself without having to use outside sources. And it's a way to make the Army feel more like a family."



Milton Jones
AMRDEC



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Letter to the Editor

We the people listen closely

Presidential election season is here. It should be fun. I recall a general dressing-down all Government employees were given when the first President Bush was running for re-election against Mr. Clinton and Ross Perot.

Something Mr. Perot said to a black group, NAACP I think, evoked the PC lectures. Job exporting was his subject. Both his opponents supported exporting U.S. jobs.

Mr. Perot told his audience he was running to protect them. He could take care of himself. "You people" was the expression he used. He of course attempted to state that with a billion or so dollars he could invest anywhere in any currency, as could all such very rich people; but wage earners lacking many bucks of liquid capital available could not so protect themselves against job loss.

The assembled group seemed to ignore what he said; they came to agitation over Mr. Perot's two word amateurism "you people." Perhaps the most important non-military policy of the U.S. Government since The Great Society of LBJ went ignored by people and press. Warren Buffet knew the meaning. He didn't need Ross Perot to tell him. JQ Public did not understand. Now Job Export is the lion in the street. I think Senators Obama, Clinton and McCain won't say "you people."

Getting to know you

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

Name: Diane Corlew

Job: Administrative support assistant, Army Community Service

Where do you call home? Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

What do you like about your job?

I like the people I work with. And I like working with the Soldiers that come in for our services. And I like civilians, too, but as a veteran I particularly like serving Soldiers and their families.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to travel. And when I'm at home I like to play with my animals on the farm (in Ethridge, Tenn.) - our horses and cats.

What are your goals?

My goals are to be with my two daughters - Peggy, 14, and Sarahevelyn, who will turn 9 on March 18 - as they go through school; to get them through elementary, high school and college. And to travel with my husband, Edward, who's retired from the Army. And also to have my own career here at Redstone.

What's your favorite type of music?

Classic rock



Summer hire vacancies announced

Three Student Temporary Employment Program Summer Hire announcements will open Thursday and close March 24.

These announcements will be used, along with referrals from the State Employment Service of Needy and Disadvantaged Youth, as sources of candidates to refer to selecting officials for Team Redstone summer hire positions. In addition, some part-time students may be converted to full-time, summer rehires (students who worked last year) may be brought back to work, and other students may be placed. These are the same sources that were used last year to fill summer positions.

The following announcements are listed on the Army civilian personnel web site at www.cpol.army.mil:

- **SCBK080326SH** — Office automation clerk, DK-01/YP-01 and GS-326, grades 1-4;
- **SCBK080303SH** — General clerk, DK-01/YP-01 and GS-303, grades 1-4;
- **CBK080802SH** — Engineering aide/technician,

GS/DE-802, grades 1-4.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center expects up to 1,000 students to apply for these positions. In order to be considered, applicants must be students who are currently enrolled in school.

Applications will only be accepted through the electronic Resumix system. To apply, students must complete an electronic resume that contains required information plus self-nominate for desired announcements.

CPAC anticipates most selections to be made in the April-May time frame. Students who are selected will be contacted by phone or e-mail. Those not selected will continue to be referred as summer vacancies are received.

Questions can be directed to your servicing CPAC civilian personnel specialists or to Linda Epps, 842-9046; Shannon Gatewood, 876-1620; Marion McRae, 313-1753; Kathy Flowers, 876-1540; Kelly Dimitri, 313-1750; Debbie Frenn, 313-1766 or Gaile Walker 313-1759. (Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release)

Quote of the week

'If it weren't for baseball, many kids wouldn't know what a millionaire looked like.'

— Phyllis Diller

Redstone Rocket

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Retiring command sergeant major going to Korea

Cole completes 25-year career

The Garrison's retiring top enlisted Soldier is keeping a promise he made to his wife by taking her back home to her native Korea.

Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Cole has completed his 25-year career and will become the director of plans, training, mobilization and security at the U.S. Army Garrison in Daegu, Korea. He and his wife, the former Mi-Jung Park of Daegu, have a son, Sean.

"I've had a heck of a good ride for 25 years. I've enjoyed serving the nation," Cole, 43, said.

About 80 people attended his retirement luncheon Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club. He received the Legion of Merit from Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CONGRATULATIONS— Command Sgt. Maj. Bill Cole, left, is congratulated by Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski during his retirement luncheon Friday.

Space and missile defense conference set

The 11th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition will take place Aug. 11-14 at the Von Braun Center. The theme for this year's event is "Space & Missile Defense ... the Next 50 Years."

The SMD Conference is attended by more than 6,000 professionals from throughout the United States and its allies around the world. Event sponsors include the National Defense Industrial Association-Tennessee Valley Chapter, Air Space and Missile Defense Association, and the Air Defense Artillery Association-Huntsville Chapter.

Confirmed speakers include Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff; John Rood, undersecretary of state for Army Control and International Security (acting); Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Com-

mand; Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, director of Missile Defense Agency; and Bob Barnes, Missile Defense Agency Advanced Technology. Other invited speakers include Gen. Kevin Chilton, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, and Gen. C. Robert Kehler, commander of Air Force Space Command.

There will be exhibit displays throughout the VBC and daily attractions in each hall, including presentations from local and celebrity authors. These attractions, along with the viewing of all exhibits, are free and open to the public.

To register for the conference, visit the web site at www.smdconf.org, or call Jeanne Weaver at 533-6986, fax 533-4508. Register before June 27 to save.

For more information, call Giselle Bodin at 955-3889 or e-mail giselle.bodin@smdc.army.mil. (SMDC release)

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

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

Violation notices issued: 31 speeding, 6 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 failure to yield right of way, 1 expired tags.



Units add 33 Soldiers in month

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

- Lt. Col. Eric Post, Aviation and Missile Command; Lt. Col. Michael Kosalko, Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas; Maj. Carla Nell Maxwell, Garrison; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hanks, Bravo Company; Sgt. Michael Inchausti, Bravo Company; Capt. Chad Moniz, Charlie Company; Sgt. 1st Class Scott Fuchs, NCO Academy; Staff Sgt. David Miron, NCO Academy; Sgt. 1st Class Brad Anderson, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Audrey Coe, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Michael Milani, HHC 59th; Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Sanders, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Kathy Jackson, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Scott Smejkal, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Latasha Washington, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Garrick Whitley, HHC 59th; Sgt. Rosa Arreguin, HHC 59th;

- Sgt. 1st Class Kimbereley McNeil, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Staff Sgt. Loumiser Glenda Walker, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. Timothy Gorman, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Pfc. Princess Gibbs, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Maj. Daniel Donahue, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; Sgt. 1st Class Greta Wiley, WT Co. A Warriors; Staff Sgt. Kenneth Dewayne Walker, WT Co. A Warriors; Spc. Joshua Tinsley, WT Co. A Warriors; Pfc. Christopher Cooley, WT Co. A Warriors; Pfc. Jeremy Garner, WT Co. A Warriors; 1st Lt. Larry D. Brown, MEDDAC; Sgt. Matthew Kimber Jr., MEDDAC; Spc. Fatih Aksu, MEDDAC; Maj. Michael McGurk, PEO STRI Orlando, Fla.; Lt. Col. Gary Scott Hunter, Space and Missile Defense Command; and Pfc. Johnathan Millwood, 0142 SCHHC.

Army Emergency Relief campaign under way



Photo by Skip Vaughn

STRATEGY TALK— From left are Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski; Lt. Col. Louis Harris, professor of military science at Alabama A&M University; AER campaign chairman Capt. Rob Dewberry; and Lt. Col. Keith Jackson, commander of 832nd Ordnance Battalion.

Annual fund-raiser has \$225K goal

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Every year about this time there are bake sales, car washes and other events with a singular purpose in mind.

The idea is to help Soldiers and their families in times of emergency financial need through Army Emergency Relief.

The annual AER campaign is March 1 through May 30 with a \$225,000 goal.

“AER is the gift that keeps giving – I mean the good gift that keeps giving,” Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski said during the campaign kickoff March 3 at Heiser Hall.

“It’s about Soldiers helping Soldiers in time of need,” Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said.

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

Last year AER helped 402 military and their qualified family members with \$424,864.

Capt. Rob Dewberry is the campaign chairman; and Master Sgt. Odri Hastings is the co-chairman. Kristi Foster of Army Community Service is the AER officer.

Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- Candy Bouquets are available now. Brought to you by Depot Maintenance Army Branch, Integrated Materiel Management Center. For more information and to view the bouquets, call Sherry McCory 842-6772, Pat Reilly 876-0209, Pamela Dykema 842-6642, Sandra Swartz 876-1605 or Muriel Jones 842-6788.

- Supply Management Branch, IMMC, will be hold a Hot Dog Sale on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the building 5302 parking lot. For information call Robbie Evans 842-8714.

- Maintenance Directorate, IMMC will hold a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale. Presale orders will be taken March 13-17, with delivery March 19. For more information, call Ken Hudson 842-6665 or Lorelei Oswald 842-3234.

- PEO Aviation, Aviation Systems, will hold “The Great American Pastime” Cookout to raise money for AER and celebrate the opening of the Huntsville Stars baseball season. The cookout is April 2 at the front of building 5309. For information call Jo-Ann Rice 313-3742.

- Command Analysis Directorate, IMMC annual Book Sale is April 12 through May 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sparkman Center building 5300, first floor corridor between buildings 5303 and 5304. If you have items to donate (books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotape), call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange for delivery and pickup.

- National Maintenance Program Office, IMMC will hold a Brat/Hot Dog Cookout on April 16 and 17 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of building 5302. Cost is \$4 for a brat or hot dog, chips and drink. Extra brat or hot dogs will be available for \$1 each. For more information, call Jesse Price 313-2083 or Kathy Seibert 876-1743.

- Program Executive Office for Aviation will hold the PEO Aviation AER Golf Tournament on April 17 at the Links at Redstone. This is a four-person scramble with shotgun start at 8 a.m. For more information, call Maj. Mark Stiner 876-1271.

- IMMC will hold its annual AER Golf Tournament on April 17 at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. This is a four-person scramble with shotgun start at 8 a.m. Registration deadline is April 11. For more information call David Newton 876-2585, Robert Bray 876-0186, Cletis Severs 876-7125 or Ken Lomax 313-1585. Registration is limited to the first 36 teams.

- The sixth annual Cars and Camouflage Car Show, hosted by Vets with Vettes, is April 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Museum, Airport Road. For more information, call Tom Perkins 464-0346.

- IMMC, Fleet Management Branch will hold a Hot Dog Sale on April 24 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Sparkman Center building 5302 parking lot. For information call Kay O’Brien 842-8614.



New commander makes family readiness priority

Command organizes volunteers to support deployed Soldiers

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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Family matters in the Army. So, when Soldiers are deployed, commanding officers are now charged with one duty that tugs at the heart of those fighting for freedom far away from home — taking care of and supporting the families left behind.

For Maj. Pamela Tingle, that duty is high priority as she takes on the myriad of responsibilities that come with serving as the first commander of the newly formed Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Tingle, with the help of HHC SMDC/ARSTRAT 1st Sgt. Petey Smith, leads an army of volunteers who are members of the organization's first ever Family Readiness Group. The FRG was formally established in February.

"The FRG is one of the duties that falls under the commander," Tingle said. "We have to maintain and stand up a group of volunteers that will provide support to the Soldiers and their families during the deployment."

About 200 Soldiers stationed at Redstone Arsenal and at SMDC/ARSTRAT facilities in Germany; Tampa, Fla.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Hawaii; Washington, D.C.; Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and a few other U.S. locations along with six astronaut Soldiers at NASA in Houston make up HHC SMDC/ARSTRAT. Several of those Soldiers are now deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Qatar.

"These SMDC Soldiers are working on Army missions," Tingle said. "They're in the forward fight. We are here for those Soldiers and to win the war against terrorism. We want to let them know we are here for them and that we believe in what they are doing 100 percent."

Just like other FRGs that have formed locally in support of deployed National Guard and Reserve troops, the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

STANDING UP FOR FAMILIES— Maj. Pamela Tingle, the first commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and HHC SMDC/ARSTRAT 1st Sgt. Petey Smith lead efforts to establish the command's Family Readiness Group. The FRG, officially established in February, is working to support the command's deployed Soldiers and their families.

SMDC/ARSTRAT FRG has a two-fold mission – to support deployed Soldiers by providing care packages, letters and cards, and special request items that make their time away from home easier to manage, and to provide families with the emotional and social support needed to cope with the absence of their Soldier.

The SMDC/ARSTRAT FRG is unique in that the organization's Soldiers and Soldier families are "very spread out all over the globe" to begin with, Tingle said. Deployments make it even more difficult to manage support for these Soldiers.

"It's a logistical challenge to get everyone coordinated across different time zones. But it's important because the FRG

is about building a network of communication, and support for the Soldiers and their families," Tingle said. "The FRG is a line of communication between the command, Soldiers, and their families and close friends. And it's a support system for family members that can help them with things they need during the deployment."

The FRG is also a "social network" for families, providing them with opportunities to get to know each other and to get involved in their communities.

Although the responsibilities for FRGs during deployments has just recently become a responsibility for unit commanders, Tingle sees it as an extension of what an HHC commander and staff does for its Soldiers.

"The headquarters company is in place to take care of Soldiers," Tingle said. "We are here to train, maintain and equip Soldiers. Our main purpose is to make sure our Soldiers are fit to fight. All the Soldiers assigned to SMDC/ARSTRAT – even Lt. Gen. (Kevin) Campbell – fall under our responsibility to make sure they are ready to go to war."

Besides Soldier readiness, the FRG also works to maintain family readiness during a deployment.

"If we can do things that retain and maintain a Soldier's family and that family's support of the Soldier, then we are more likely to keep that Soldier," Tingle said. "A Soldier who feels supported 100 percent by their family is more likely to stay in the Army."

Tingle will be relying on several volunteers who have been recruited to manage the SMDC/ARSTRAT FRG. At Redstone Arsenal, they are Sarah Trial, FRG leader; Milane Todd, treasurer; Willie Stokes, key caller; Joann Bronson, welcome chairman; Sonya Fultz, liaison, and Kathy Campbell (wife of Lt. Gen. Campbell), adviser. Sue Moss at SMDC/ARSTRAT in Colorado Springs is responsible for the FRG newsletter and Holle Wiktorek in Colorado Springs and the wife of Sgt. Jim Beall in Hawaii are also FRG volunteers. Kathleen Riester of Army Community Service has provided support for the FRG's formation.

See **Readiness** on page 7



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PART OF TRADITON— Penny Koger-Thomas of AMCOM G-1 (Human Resources) is included in Ebony Magazine's 2008 "Thirty Rising Leaders Under 30."

Young leader makes magazine's select list

Penny Koger-Thomas among Ebony's top 30

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Penny Koger-Thomas of AMCOM was surprised when she opened the February issue of Ebony Magazine.

She was traveling from New York to Alabama in January and was in the Charlotte, N.C., airport. She subscribes to the magazine but bought it at the airport because of the famous personalities and articles mentioned on the front cover.

"I had a long layover in Charlotte, too, so I needed something to read," said Koger-Thomas, a human resources specialist in the Aviation and Missile Command's G-1 (Human Resources).

She happened to turn right to the page where she was listed as one of Ebony Magazine's 2008 "Thirty Rising Leaders Under 30." The list included males and females throughout the United States who have distinguished themselves as young lawyers, doctors, politicians, government employ-

ees and media personalities.

"I was immediately shocked and called my husband and told him what had happened," Koger-Thomas said.

She believes she was nominated by a mentor in Huntsville. The magazine contacted Koger-Thomas by e-mail in July asking for her background information. She gathered her information and sent it back. Later she received an e-mail from an editor stating how her text would read if she was selected.

But she was still shocked when she appeared on page 136 in the February issue.

"And I was like 'Oh I know her,'" she said laughing.

Koger-Thomas, 29, a Madison resident, has worked for the government about seven and a half years, including two years in the military. She began her civilian career in 2003 as a human resources assistant in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. Within eight months, she was accepted as an intern in G-1. In 2006 she completed the intern program and remained at G-1 as a human resources specialist.

She is a trained green belt Lean Six Sigma facilitator. In the past she served as

executive director of a non-profit organization in Augusta, Ga. She serves on the board of directors of the Volunteer Center of Madison County and on the board of the American Heart Association of Madison County. She is a graduate of Leadership/Huntsville Connect Class 4. In 1977 she was named the Volunteer of the Year for the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Spartanburg, S.C.

"First and foremost, it's a true honor to be recognized (among the 30 young leaders)," she said. "And yet also it was a shock."

A native of St. Stephen, S.C., she is pleased to show others what you can accomplish as a young person and from small town roots.

"Have I done great things? No," she said. "I just feel I've done what I know and love."

But she's not finished. "Well, professionally I want to step into and accept more challenging positions," she said. "And public service-wise, I want to continue my service to the community and continue to mentor others as so many have done for me before."

See Leader on page 7

Try another way to stride into workout

Nordic walking has advantages

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY

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Many people walk for exercise. They can be seen striding the halls at work and strolling the trails of Redstone. If you're a walker looking to get more out of your workout without committing an extra minute or mile, Rick Stock, health promotion educator at Fox Army Health Center, wants to show you something. It's called Nordic walking and he's been doing it for years.

"It's really simple," Stock said. "After awhile it becomes automatic. You burn more calories, take pressure off your back and increase your heart rate."

Nordic walking adds handheld poles to the regular motion of walking. The poles appear similar to those used by cross-country skiers, but are slightly shorter with rubberized tips. Nordic walking itself looks a lot like skiing. The similarity is part of what he enjoys, Stock said.

"I ski. I skied in the Rhine Valley of Germany. I would do it every weekend in the winter. I miss it since I've been back here," he said. "This almost recaptures that feeling."

Adding poles boosts the benefit of walking. Nordic walkers can expect to burn more calories and gain greater aerobic benefit than others walking in the usual manner for the same time and distance.

"It exercises the entire body, including the trunk muscles. It uses no more perceived effort than just walking," Stock, a certified personal trainer, said. "It burns from 20 to 46 percent more calories than ordinary walking. It increases your cardio workout. You get 10 to 15 more heartbeats per minute."

Walking with poles has other benefits as well. The height and position of the poles corrects the walker's stance. It is also easier on your body.

"It takes damaging stress off your joints — hips, knees and ankles," Stock said. "It also forces you to stand up straight and maintain good posture."

The popularity of Nordic walking is on the rise. Clubs and associations for the activity



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

WALK IT OUT— Rick Stock, a health promotion educator, says he gets an extra boost to his workout with Nordic walking.

have sprung up throughout the country. The styles and brands of poles available have expanded as well.

"They have different types," Stock said. "They come with different tips for different surfaces."

Stock attended formal training to learn proper Nordic walking technique from the National Wellness Institute in Stevens Point, Wis. He encourages those interested in picking up a pair of poles to learn the basics from someone who knows what they're doing before they hit the trail. He is organizing a training class April 9 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Wellness Center.

"I'll be showing the basics and talking about the added benefits," he said.

There is no charge for the class, but you must call and register to attend. Call Stock at 955-8888, ext. 1443 for more information.

■ Family readiness group embarks on wartime mission

Readiness

continued from page 5

"Most of the FRG members are civilians and contractors who want to be part of the team and who want to support our Soldiers in any way they can," Tingle said. "Most of them are retired military or come from a military family. So, they know what it's like for families of deployed Soldiers."

The FRG is planning bake sales, book sales, car washes and other fundraising activities at SMDC/ARSTRAT to raise money to pay for the expenses incurred in supporting Soldiers and their families.

"This FRG is all about taking care of each other in the Army," Tingle said. "It's really important when you look at the whole picture. Supporting our Soldiers — our guys and gals fighting the fight — is important to the entire Army. They need to know they are supported so they will want to continue to serve."

"We're one team, one fight. If we want to win this war, we will have to win it together."

Tingle, who is from New York and whose family includes a World War II veteran and several relatives who have service in the military, is a West Point graduate who studied sociology and systems engineering while in college.

"West Point was 45 minutes from my home. We would go there for ball games," she said. "At 13, I decided I

wanted to go to West Point, and I am very glad I did.

"Being in the Army grew on me. I truly enjoyed the leadership and the management aspect of being in the Army. It took me awhile, though, to decide specifically if I wanted to go into aviation or intelligence."

Tingle received her commission in 1997. She completed her officer and advance officer training at the intelligence school at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. She has served in the Army's intelligence field at Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Carson, Colo., where she was chief of the Analysis and Control Element of the 7th Infantry Division.

Tingle left active duty in 2003 and joined the Reserves with SMDC/ARSTRAT. She was mobilized as a full-time Reservist for SMDC/ARSTRAT in 2007.

Before coming to Redstone Arsenal in September 2007, Tingle worked in the SMDC/ARSTRAT office in the D.C. area, where she helped manage the move of SMDC/ARSTRAT employees to the Arsenal. She has also worked in the organization's Colorado Springs office.

Tingle hopes to stay in her current assignment for another year and a half.

"I do like working with the Soldiers," she said. "When you are helping them and supporting them, you feel like you are making a difference in the world and in people's lives."

■ Koger-Thomas surprised to appear in Ebony Magazine

Leader

continued from page 6

Her mentors have included Deborah Johnson-Ross of Maryland, who was a professor of hers at Wofford College in Spartanburg; Christine Miller-Betts, a museum director in Augusta; her immediate supervisor Lori Reynolds, chief of plans and policy division, and G-1 director Tim Grey; and Ronnie Chronister, AMCOM's deputy to the commanding general who mentored her while he served as director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center.

"And that list can probably go on for miles and miles and miles because I know I haven't gotten where I am because of just these people," said Koger-Thomas, including family members and others among past and present mentors. "You learn from everybody you've encountered. And everybody I've encountered has influ-

enced me in some form or fashion."

She graduated from Wofford College in 2000 with a bachelor's in government and history; and she hopes to soon complete a master's from Alabama A&M University. Her husband of six years, 1st Lt. Elton Thomas, is attending the field artillery captains career course at Fort Sill, Okla.

"What I enjoyed about the (magazine) recognition is they took the time to poll the United States and find 30 young leaders," Koger-Thomas said. "I hope our recognition inspires all people to do good for the community because that's really what it's all about. We have to take care of the community because if we don't it's not going to be here. I also want to send a message to naysayers who believe because you're of a certain age you're not capable of leading. It's not the age of the person it's the knowledge and understanding that person has received."

Exercise program to offer Eastern flair



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

EASY DOES IT— Bob and Joan Smith demonstrate basic Tai Chi technique.

Tai Chi sessions set at Pagano Gym

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
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Tai Chi is gaining popularity nationwide as a low impact form of exercise. The slower paced version of Chinese martial arts is particularly appealing to retirees and those with physical limitations. Bob and Joan Smith hope to bring Tai Chi to Pagano Gym.

“There is a lot of publicity in senior magazines talking about the benefits, like flexibility, balance and mental discipline,” Bob Smith said. “It’s a derivative of martial arts. The technique has been changed

from a high impact to a slow flowing movement.”

The couple began learning Tai Chi 16 years ago while attending martial arts classes with their grandchildren. While stuck with it, Joan became quickly discouraged by the way classes were taught. It was several years before she picked it up again.

“I went to three classes and said I was never going back. They didn’t tell you how to do it. They just said to do what they did,” Joan said. “You had to figure out what one hand was doing, what the other hand was doing and how they got turned. I just gave it up.”

For eight years, they have been teaching in the manner that Joan wishes she had learned. The slow-paced movements and

See Exercise on page 19

New detachment has defense-wide buying power

Lower costs envisioned for repairable spare parts

By KARI HAWKINS

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The changes coming to Redstone Arsenal in relation to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission report go beyond the addition of new facilities, additional employees and more missions.

Those changes also involve administrative shifts designed to continue the Army's goal to become leaner, more efficient and more competitive. One such shift is the move of 68 AMCOM Acquisition Center employees involved with purchasing repairable spare parts for aviation systems and missiles to the Defense Logistics Agency.

"As part of BRAC, it was determined that DLA would start buying repairable parts for all the services," said Marsha Thornton, chief contracting officer for the new DLA detachment at Redstone Arsenal.

"At each major command, we are setting up a detachment. There is a group of employees here already in the AMCOM Acquisition Center buying the spares. Those employees will fall under the DLA detachment."

Because of BRAC 2005, the Army will no longer purchase its own spares beginning in late 2009. Instead, DLA detachment employees will perform "joint acquisitions" across the Department of Defense to support multiple service requirements for spares. To make a smooth transition from the AMCOM Acquisition



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SPARING TIME— Marsha Thornton is working to establish the Defense Logistics Agency detachment at Redstone Arsenal. As a part of BRAC 2005, spare purchases for the Army will be moved to DLA, which is establishing detachments at major commands to perform "joint acquisitions" across the Department of Defense in support of multiple service requirements for spares.

Center to the DLA detachment at Redstone Arsenal, a "provisional organization" is now in place and will operate under the guidance of the Acquisition Center until the final transition to DLA.

Although the acquisition of repairable spares will continue "seamlessly" in support of Arsenal programs, Thornton said the DLA will put in place its own policies and procedures at its detachments during the next 12 to 15 months. And although DLA will report to the Defense Supply Center in Richmond, Va., the detachment will still be accountable and responsible to program managers and Integrat-

ed Materiel Management Center employees at Redstone Arsenal.

"Our customer support to the Soldier remains the same," Thornton said. "We will continue to provide a high level of support. To our customers, this move should be invisible. Our commitment is to provide our program managers with the same service they've been getting.

"When people learn about this change, they ask 'What's going to happen to my program? What's going to happen to my spares? What's going to happen to my readiness level?' The readiness levels are going to remain the same because many of the DLA employees will be

doing the exact same job they did in the Acquisition Center. We will still be responsible to (Maj.) Gen. (Jim) Myles for readiness levels."

But DLA will make a difference in the reduction of costs and improvement of efficiencies because the detachments will allow the services to leverage commonality and buying power.

"We are working to develop a tool that will benefit all services," Thornton said. "Under DLA, we will be able to look across all the services and see where we are buying the same types of repairable parts. We will then be able to put those purchases under one contract for all services and manage those purchases through one organization. This will cut lead times and costs."

Since assuming the position of chief contracting officer for the DLA detachment at Redstone Arsenal in November, Thornton has been busy identifying the new organization's employees, establishing the organization's office area in the Sparkman Center's building 5303, getting employees moved into the new work area, and reviewing and reassigning employee workloads.

"Now that we are all together in one area, there are other milestones that need to be met as we become an organization over the next 12 to 15 months," Thornton said. "We need an Information Technology system that will enable us to write contracts for DLA and still interface with the systems in place. And some policies will be different."

Thornton has already been involved in working groups with DLA counterparts both within

the Army and in the other services.

"Some detachments are actually ahead of us in organizing," she said. "So, we are brainstorming and learning from each other so that we will all be successful in standing up our detachments. We are already benefiting from each other."

The DLA detachments will work together to look for cost efficiencies and "for efficiencies in the time it takes to award a contract to the time of product delivery," Thornton said.

Thornton has extensive experience as a contracting officer. She has worked in the Acquisition Center since 1984, working on contracts for tactical missiles and the Black Hawk helicopter. She negotiated and wrote the multi-year contract for the new version of Black Hawk, the UH-60M, and has worked with contracts involving missile programs, including the Javelin, Hellfire and Longbow. She has also participated in the LIFT 2 leadership program, served as a mentor in the Arsenal's leadership mentor program, completed courses with the Center for Creative Leadership and worked on a developmental assignment as executive officer to the AMCOM deputy commander.

"I see this new position as a challenge and I knew it would require a lot of leadership skills," Thornton said. "But I have trained to be a leader, and this is a job that needs to be done right. I want to be the one to do the job right. I'm very passionate about the work I do here to support the Soldiers. I'm passionate about how we support the Soldiers from behind the scenes."

Annual course covers international security rules

Ex-assistant deputy undersecretary serves as the lead instructor

By SKIP VAUGHN
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If you're dealing with another country, you need to know the U.S. government's policies for doing so.

Chuck Wilson is an expert in that area. The retired colonel is a former assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for poli-

cy support.

Now an independent consultant, Wilson was the lead instructor for the annual International Programs Security Requirements Course taught March 4-6 at the Sparkman Center.

"The policy for the course is the responsibility of the undersecretary of defense for policy," Wilson said. "And the administration for the course is handled by the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (DISAM)."

Twenty-eight people attended the class, according to Dick Ruhlman, who has served as host the past four years.

"We normally have 36-40 (people). We're hoping to get 50 next time," Ruhlman said. He is a logistics management specialist in the Logistics Support Activity.

The attendees included AMCOM G-2 (Intelligence and Security) workers, contracting officers, project office members, contractors, an enlisted Soldier, one from

the Navy and one from the Air Force.

"It's an entry-level course," Wilson, who retired from the government in 1997, said. "It's a broad-based course that covers a range of subjects. The hope is to have two more classes scheduled next year - March and November is what we're looking at."

The other instructors were Mary-Jane Roth of Avanco Inc., which has the contract for the course preparation, and Joanne Hawkins of DISAM.

Fire extinguisher safety tips released

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives, but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

The National Fire Protection Association provides the following safety tips.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remem-

ber the word PASS:

- Pull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle, pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- Aim low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with

its parts and operation before a fire breaks out. Local fire departments or fire equipment distributors often offer hands-on fire extinguisher training.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Fire Prevention can be reached at 876-7005.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

POLICY TALK— Lead instructor Chuck Wilson, left, talks with LOGSA's Dick Ruhlman, host for the International Programs Security Requirements Course held March 4-6.

Providing best in protection services for Redstone



Photo by Kari Hawkins

EMERGENCY CARE— Phillip Harrell, center, director of the Garrison’s Directorate of Emergency Services, is flanked by Police Chief Arthur Riley, left, and Fire Chief Troy Vest, who make up a management team committed to providing the best in police, fire and emergency services for the employees and families of Redstone Arsenal.

Police and fire officers ‘friends of community’

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Between the three of them, the administrative team overseeing police, fire and emergency services on Redstone Arsenal has nearly a century’s worth of experience in protecting and keeping the public safe.

And they are using that experience to maintain a safe working and living environment on the Arsenal during a time of budget constraints, and employee, facility and mission growth.

This seasoned team — made up of Phillip Harrell, director of the Directorate of Emergency Services, Police Chief Arthur Riley and Fire Chief Troy Vest — represent a united front in providing Arsenal employees and families with top-notch police, fire and emergency services. From educating young children about fire safety with the help of Sparky the Fire Dog to maintaining safe driving conditions around the Arsenal gates to providing the best in hazardous material response, the employees who comprise the Directorate of Emergency Services work together to protect the Arsenal community.

“I want the public to view us as friends of the community,” Harrell said. “I want the Arsenal community to know they can depend upon us to respond to whatever calls we receive, to whatever incidents

occur, and then do a great job once we get there.

“We want to continue to provide excellent emergency services through the capabilities of a world-class police department and a world-class fire department.”

The experience of the top Emergency Services management team is testimony to the Garrison’s commitment to provide the best possible police, fire and emergency services. Harrell, who was hired nine months ago as the first civilian director of Emergency Services, has 23 years experience as an Army military police officer and a combined 30 years of experience in the emergency field. Riley also served 23 years as a military police officer, serving at Redstone Arsenal several times before retiring from the Army and joining the Arsenal police force as a civilian officer in 1996 and, in 2002, being promoted to police chief. And, Vest has 35 years experience in the fire protection field, serving 15 years in the Air Force Reserves and joining the Redstone Arsenal fire department in 1989 where he became fire chief in 2002.

All three team members are proud to be serving the Redstone Arsenal community.

“I came here at the age of 19 on my first assignment as a military police officer and I just kept coming back,” Riley said. “I was here from 1972 to 1976, from 1980 to 1983 and again from 1991 to 1995 when I worked

See **Emergency** on page 13

Emergency

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with the readiness group on the military police team that provided assistance to National Guard and Reserve Soldiers in Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.”

Today, Riley oversees a work force of 203 police, contract security and administrative support personnel who are responsible for overall Arsenal security, traffic enforcement, accident investigation, and domestic and criminal investigations. Vest manages a staff of 54 firefighters strategically located at four fire houses to respond to about 2,000 calls a year for fire, hazardous material, emergency and rescue services.

“If you have an emergency call on this post, both police and fire will respond,” Harrell said. “One will take the lead. If it’s a fire or medical emergency, then the fire department takes the lead. If it’s a criminal act or an accident, then the police take the lead. And they support each other to handle whatever the incident requires.”

As in the community outside the Arsenal gates, people working or living on the Arsenal have varied views of the employees who provide emergency services.

“People either love to see the police or they hate to see the police,” Riley said. “But they should know we are only enforcing the laws the public endorses. Even though we emphasize ‘officer friendly’ – telling our officers to treat peo-

ple the same way they would expect to be treated — the image the police have is a lot different than the image of the fire department. People always like the fire department because they are always there to fight a fire or help someone if they are hurt.”

Regardless of employee opinions, working in police or fire protection on the Arsenal is viewed in the local emergency community as an ideal work environment.

“We have a good training program,” Vest said. “We have a lot of up-to-date equipment and varied missions, and the things Redstone Arsenal does, in general, make this a very interesting place to work. We have a large variety of people working here on various missions, and our job is to help them accomplish those missions by providing them with a safe work environment.”

Harrell, Riley and Vest work together to manage the departments while also spending federal dollars wisely – a goal that’s important in today’s budget situation.

“We don’t have the staff or funding to do the things that we need to because of budget constraints,” Vest said. “So, we are constantly reprioritizing resources to make sure we provide the best in essential services.”

“It is important that we have resources as more activity takes place on the Arsenal due to BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission),” Harrell added.

“We have a big mission to protect the community and force protection here on post. We have to maintain vigilance against espionage and possible terrorism. Redstone Arsenal is a highly lucrative target. We have to stay vigilant in our operations as well as our training. We never know what we will have to react to, whether police or fire.”

The Arsenal’s Emergency Services is integrated with local emergency service operations in the Huntsville area, learning from them and providing mutual support as needed.

“From a law enforcement standpoint, we have exclusive jurisdiction on the Arsenal,” Riley said. “We assimilate state laws. Anything not covered by federal regulation, then we will assimilate the state laws.”

Both Riley and Vest emphasize good people skills within their departments. They also reach out to the community, providing protection services at special events, and conducting training and demonstrations as requested. And they provide specialized services, such as the police department’s Special Reaction Team and K-9 Unit, and the fire department’s hazardous material response team and first responder medical team.

Although the Arsenal provides its employees and families with a much safer working and living environment than that found in the community outside the gates, employees and residents should still take precautions.

“We’re not immune to what’s happening outside the gate and in the nation,” Riley said. “But we are somewhat of a

gated community with access controls that do provide protection to a certain degree.”

“And most employees here are solid citizens who have invested in a number of ways just to work out here,” Harrell said. “We have a highly motivated and educated work force, and that’s good for the entire Redstone Arsenal community.”

“If you live and/or work on this post then you enjoy the privilege of working in a safe environment created by a low crime rate and a safe traffic environment. We have good citizens working out here. That’s one of the reasons Redstone Arsenal is one of the Army’s best kept secrets.”

That work force is often the “eyes and ears” of police and fire protection on post, reporting suspicious activities, accidents and emergency situations.

“Don’t be afraid to call 9-1-1,” Harrell said. “Call us if you see something suspicious and let us determine what should be done.”

Harrell, Riley and Vest also urge Arsenal employees and families to cooperate with authorities in a time when law enforcement personnel must be highly suspicious.

“We ask the public for patience and understanding,” Harrell said. “The days before 9/11 are over. We are paid to be suspicious of everything and everybody because of the nature of our work. We’re paid to check everything out.

“And, in our work, it may appear we are infringing on some freedoms. But, at times like this, it is a necessity U.S. citizens have to deal with.”

326th Chemical gets defensive against 59th

Defending champion Dragons rally to victory in overtime

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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The 326th Chemical Company basketball team looked like the two-time defending post champion March 3.

Trailing HHC 59th 62-54 with 2:17 left, the Dragons rallied with defense. They tied the score 62-all on David Moragne's step-back 3-pointer with 41 seconds left.

The Dragons went on to beat the 59th 72-64 in overtime at Pagano Gym.

"It was a lot of defense and a lot of heart and a lot of determination," player/coach Eddie Bryan said.

With their second straight win, the Dragons improved to 3-6 and gained momentum heading into the postseason tournament.

"A lot of players are just stepping up, they just know the right time to turn it on because it's a long season," Bryan said.

"Defense is the key."

Moragne finished with 11 points. Frank Stafford led with 26, Kenster Shannon had 15 and Warren Craig added 14.

"Everybody came out of their shooting slump tonight and played good defense," Moragne said. "It was definitely a team effort, and everybody contributed."

HHC 59th (6-4) led 35-25 at halftime.

"We let it go," 59th player/coach Bobby McSwain said. "At the end of the game I think we got a little tired. They raised their intensity and we couldn't match it. Overall it was a good game. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose."

LaQuaine Bess scored 25 points for the 59th. Amos Jackson had 16 and Jeff Reuter had 12.

Here are the final regular season standings entering the postseason tournament scheduled March 6-17: Marines (9-1), Headquarters & Alpha (8-2), HHC 59th (6-4), Charlie (5-5), Bravo (4-6), 326th Chemical (4-6), NCO Academy (3-7) and 375th Engi-

neers (1-9).

Last week's results were:

- **March 3** – 326th Chemical def. HHC 59th 72-64 in overtime; Headquarters & Alpha def. NCO Academy 50-35; and Charlie def. Bravo 60-50.

- **March 4** – Marines def. Charlie 70-

62; Bravo def. 375th Engineers 50-27; and 326th Chemical def. NCO Academy 50-44. End of regular season.

- **March 6** – Marines def. 375th Engineers 84-34; Charlie def. Bravo 58-55; and Headquarters & Alpha def. NCO Academy 50-45.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOOKING UP— HHC 59th's LaQuaine Bess goes up for a shot while 326th's Larry Tharps, right, awaits a possible rebound. The 326th Chemical Company won 72-64 in overtime.

Canada recognizes officer for major leadership

Hughes accepts honor from across border

By **DAN O'BOYLE**
For the Rocket

When it comes to firsts, the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space continues to set the mark.

The most recent addition to the list comes in the person of Maj. Frederick Hughes, the first Army officer to receive Canada's Leadership award following two years of service as an exchange officer in Ottawa.

"A role model in personal commitment, drive and enthusiasm, he quickly became an expert in (the) Department of National Defence process, overcame staff shortfalls and represented the Canadian Forces interest as a project manager in the Defence Cryptographic Modernization Program," the award reads.

Specifically, it was the Acquisition Corps major's job to replace all the Canadian Forces Secure Telephone Unit IIIs.

"I was responsible for running the entire project and laying all the groundwork to make the modern-

ization happen," Hughes said. "To be part of this effort was a tremendous professional development opportunity in and of itself. And then to be recognized with this award is quite an honor, with a nomination process among all Canadian Forces Information Management officers. Plus, I received a Canadian Forces coin, which is a rare commodity, as the CF awards extremely few coins. I feel quite humble to have received this honor, for what I feel was a really important job."

The Information Management Group, where Hughes served, is responsible for delivering and maintaining products and services to meet the information needs of its clients and to contribute to the success of the mission and defense objectives of the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces.

"I was representing our country and at the same time helping to make our country a little bit safer because our national security is tied closely to the Canadian national security with that huge border," Hughes said. "Now we all have the same level of equipment for communication with NORAD and NORTHCOM as examples.

"The other piece of this assignment that was special was that my wife, who is also a Canadian citizen, and our two children, James and Laura, were all together. Suzanne's family all still reside in Canada, so it felt good to know that my work contributed to making them safer as well."

Hughes said the Canadians gave him a "real job" and gave it to him fast.

"They are good soldiers and gave me a lot of responsibility from the get go," he said. "I had a \$24 million budget that I managed myself, with a lot of leeway. They had a lot of faith in my abilities as a U.S. Army officer."

A 19-year veteran, Hughes holds a bachelor's in criminology from Florida State University and a master's in procurement and acquisition management from Webster University.

He has served with Task Force Eagle, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office ITAS fielding officer and as assistant project manager for Transportation and Communication Sectors, Project and Contracting Office, Baghdad, Iraq.



Courtesy photo

RARE COMMODITY— Maj. Frederick Hughes of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space receives Canada's Leadership award following two years of service as an exchange officer in Ottawa.

Environmental cleanup continues at Camp Sibert

Area near Gadsden
ex-chemical site

By DEBRA VALINE
Engineering and Support Center

Looking out over Site 8 at the former Camp Sibert near Gadsden, all you see is a peaceful field with a couple of houses, barns, fencing and cattle. It's hard to believe that the area was used by the military for chemical munitions training from 1942-45.

For the past two years, Corps of Engineers experts from Mobile District and the Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville have been working with Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and 20th Support Command teams from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and contractor partner Parsons to identify some 10,000 anomalies for removal from Site 8.

Of the 11,420 items removed, only 22 items have been mortars, of which only eight contain unknown liquid fill.

Work at Site 8 is expected to continue through 2008.

"We continue to educate the local population about what to do if they find something like this in their yards," Sherri Anderson-Hudgins, the project manager from Huntsville Center, said. "We call it the three Rs: Recognize the item, Retreat from the area, and Report what they found to their local police department. Our goal is to keep everyone as safe as possible."



Photo by Debra Valine

SIMULATED ROUND— This training 4.2-inch mortar round is similar to the rounds that have been found at Camp Sibert.



Photo by Debra Valine

JUST TESTING— USA Environmental employee Ty Wrage and Parsons geophysicist Jae Yun perform a static test on the EM 61.



Photo by Debra Valine

SUITING UP— Parsons employees Mike Warner, left, and Jim Hannon process Dave Flemming through the personnel decontamination station.

Soldiers hurt as severe weather strikes Camp Shelby

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. — Fourteen Soldiers with the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were injured the night of March 3 as a result of severe weather passing through Camp Shelby.

Injuries were mainly limited to minor cuts and bruises with a single Soldier suffering more severe, yet non-life threatening injuries, 39th IBCT officers said.

An unconfirmed tornado passed through the post just south of Hattiesburg,

Miss., at approximately 11 p.m., damaging a barracks building which housed Soldiers from the 39th's 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry with units based in Mena, DeQueen and Sheridan, Ark.

The building's roof was partially blown away by strong winds with the remainder collapsing on several Soldiers inside. The 39th's Soldiers from neighboring barracks quickly responded with a search and rescue effort and establishing triage.

Along with the battalion's physician

assistant, the 39th's medics and combat lifesavers on the scene to assist outnumbered the injured Soldiers. Civilian emergency officials arrived in short order and were able to quickly get the Soldiers transported to the local hospital where all 14 were treated and released.

The 39th Brigade confirmed all Soldiers were accounted for and the families

of the injured Soldiers were notified.

The 39th Brigade, headquartered in Little Rock, is conducting mobilization training at Camp Shelby in preparation for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade was to conduct a farewell ceremony March 6, with deployment overseas later in the month. (*Army News Service*)



Photo by 39th IBCT

COLLAPSED BARRACKS— Rescue personnel search the site of a collapsed barracks at Camp Shelby, Miss., March 3 after severe winds struck the mobilization site for Soldiers of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

World-class center planned for wounded troops

BETHESDA, Md.— The Naval Facilities Engineering Command has announced the award of a design and construction contract required to establish the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda.

This contract was awarded to Clark/Balfour Beatty, Joint Venture, Bethesda, in the amount of \$641.4 million. NAVFAC will oversee the planning and construction of the new center.

“I am confident that the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center will be the crown jewel in an already illustrious military medical system,” Dr. S. Ward Casscells III, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said. “The most important mission for us is to pro-

vide the highest levels of care, comfort and convenience to our wounded heroes so they can focus on the most important mission of all, healing.”

The establishment of the WRNMMC on the grounds of the National Naval

Medical Center in Bethesda was mandated under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act, which recommended the realignment of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, including the relocation of all tertiary medical services to NNMCC, and the renaming of NNMCC as the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. BRAC law requires all services to be relocated by Sept. 15, 2011. (*Medical Command release*)

Letterkenny enters training agreement with college

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — During a symbolic signing ceremony Feb. 25 on the campus of Wilson College, Col. Steven Shapiro, commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, and Dr. Lorna Duphiney Edmundson, president of Wilson College, signed a memorandum of agreement to establish leadership of an educational/training partnership. This agreement will serve Letterkenny employees, contractors and tenants, and others.

“Over the past decade, Letterkenny had a reputation for downsizing. Those days are over,” Shapiro said. “The depot is growing and with that growth comes the need for more training opportunities to refresh and renew our work force with the tools required by today’s technology.”

A grant of \$400,000 was obtained by state Sen. Terry Punt and formally accepted by the secretary of the Army. This set in motion the process that allowed Franklin County Area Development Corporation to formally take the lead to rehabilitate building 102 into a state-of-the-art education facility. The renovation should be completed in the spring.

“This is an excellent example of Wilson College, our community and Letterkenny Army Depot working together for the educational benefit of all,” L. Michael Ross, president of FCADC, said.

The facility can serve 25 students and contains an administrative office and high-technology information-sharing capability conducive to high-quality instruction. (*Letterkenny release*)

How to stop unwanted e-mails, calls

Every day, a veritable army of people is out there vying for your attention via mail, e-mail, phone calls, and cell phone text-messaging.

If you’re like most consumers, you’d like this to stop. That probably won’t happen, but you can slow these unasked for messages to a crawl by availing yourself of several opt-outs. Here’s a quick run-down on those opt-outs:

- National Do Not Call registry. If you put your home phone number on this list, telemarketers are not supposed to call you. The Federal Trade Commission manages the registry, which doesn’t stop you from being called by anyone you’ve done business with in the last 18 months. To opt out by phone, call 888-382-1222.

- Prescreened offers of credit and insurance. Opting out will stop you from receiving offers for credit and insurance, many of which come in the mail – and can pose an identity theft risk. To opt out by phone, call 888-567-8688. To opt out

online, visit www.optoutprescreen.com.

- Direct Marketing Association opt-out services. The DMA is the largest U.S. association of marketers, so taking advantage of this opt-out can dramatically diminish your load of marketing mail and catalogs. Note that only businesses that are members of the DMA will be affected. To opt out, visit the organization’s web site (www.dmaconsumers.org). Keep in mind that the DMA offers several flavors of opt-outs, some of which involve a \$1 fee, so choose carefully.

- Bank and financial institutions. This opt-out limits the extent to which a financial institution can provide your personal financial information to non-affiliates. There is no centralized opt-out organization in this case; rather, you should contact your bank and ask about their data sharing policy – many don’t share customers’ information.

Editor’s note: AMCOM G-2 (Intelligence and Security) provided this release from the National Security Institute Inc.

■ Retiree couple bringing Tai Chi instruction to gym

Exercise

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poses are broken down into easy to understand choreography, much like learning to dance. This helps the student actually learn the proper form, instead of struggling to mimic an instructor as they go through the motions.

The couple have recently moved to Huntsville from Hattiesburg, Miss. Since their arrival, they have been looking for a place to share their love of Tai Chi with others. As military retirees, they particularly wanted to reach out to the other retirees in the community.

“I retired from the Air Force in 1985 with 35 years,” Bob Smith said. “We enjoy teaching anywhere. Redstone has a good facility here. We thought if they were interested, this would be an ideal place to do it.”

Tai Chi is perfect for retirees, he said. The slower pace and gentle movements mean that no one should overexert themselves or strain their body. However, the exercise has many benefits.

“Balance and flexibility are big issues for retirees,” Joan said.

Anyone at any fitness level can participate in Tai Chi. Age is not a factor, either. Bob Smith is 79 and Joan is 75. Tai Chi also allows for reduced mobility. It is easily adapted to compensate for physical limitations.

“We had one lady in a class who couldn’t walk,” Bob Smith said. “She did the upper body movements from her wheelchair. She couldn’t stand at all. She was 92 years old. If people have limitations in their muscles or joints they just have to be aware. Don’t push it.”

Gaylene Wilson, MWR sports and fitness director, is excited to see Tai Chi come to Redstone. Plans are to hold classes at Pagano Gym because of the size area required. Mirrors on the walls will also let class attendees not only see how they’re doing, but watch the instructors from both sides. Wilson said this endeavor is just another way they are trying to better serve the community.

“We were looking for a program that our retiree population might really like,” Wilson said. “It’s something we’ve never done before. They contacted me and offered their services. We will be offering this free of charge. We have a huge retiree population in this area. This is something different that they can do outside the norm.”

There are informational sessions scheduled where attendees will see a Tai Chi demonstration and learn more about classes. Dates slated are this Friday; Wednesday, March 19 and Friday, March 21. All will be at 10 a.m. at Pagano Gym. Wilson asks that anyone interested in attending one of the sessions call to reserve a spot. For more information or to sign up, call her at 842-2574.



Sports & Recreation

Babe Ruth league

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the 2008 spring season Saturday 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 Saturday 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.

Nature hikes

The Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama holds its 2008 "Spring Burst" guided hike series. These hikes are free to the public; and donations will be accepted. In case of rain, hikes will be canceled. The next event, approximately 1.5 miles at a moderate pace, is 10 a.m. March 29 at Monte Sano's Old Railroad Bed Trail. For more information, call 534-LAND.

Baseball beginners

Youth Sports is registering for "Start Smart" baseball. This is an introductory baseball program for children 3-5. The program is Saturdays from March 29 through May 3 from 10-11 a.m. at the Youth Center. Registration is \$35. Call 313-3699.

Adult baseball league

The Men's Southern Senior Baseball League will conduct its "Open" Spring Training practices at John Hunt Park, Field 1, starting this Sunday and throughout the rest of March and April. The open practice schedule is as follows; March 16 (2-4 p.m.), March 23 (2-4 p.m.), March 30 (6-8 p.m.), April 6 (6-8 p.m.), April 13 (6-8 p.m.), April 20 (2-4 p.m.) and April 27 (2-4 p.m.). The SSBL is an amateur men's baseball league in Huntsville, currently with two age divisions (over-48, over-35). Provisions are being made to allow some over-25 players to play in the over-35 division. Teams come from Decatur, Huntsville and Madison. Games are played in Huntsville and Decatur. The league is affiliated with the Mens Adult Baseball League/Mens Senior Baseball League. The season begins the first week of May and ends the last week of August. Contact John Means (jmeans57@aim.com) or Kirby Gaudin (KirbyG@aol.com) for more information about the league. The over-48 division

Bill McArdle (b-rmcard@ix.netcom.com) and the over-35 division commissioner is Jim Crum (jimcrum10@yahoo.com). Commissioners should be contacted by new players interested in joining teams in their respective divisions.

Basketball skills

The U.S. Junior Olympic basketball skill competition, for ages 8-13, is March 21 at Harvest Meadows Community Playground, 320 Lockhart Road in Harvest. Registration starts at 10 a.m. and the competition begins at noon. For more information, call 520-3748 or visit www.usolympicteam.com.

Golf league

The OMMCS Golf League will have its 2008 season second meeting Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Links at Redstone golf course clubhouse. "It appears that we may have a team vacancy for the 2008 season," a prepared release said. "We are also looking for individual golfers to participate with some of our teams that have lost a player or two." League play is April 1 through the first week in September, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:45-4:52 p.m. Each four-member team will play one day per week. Each team roster will have from 6-12 players. The \$110 team entry fee is used to pay to winning teams for the first and second parts of the season, as well as individual and team wins each week. For more information call Dean Anderson (home) 852-3531, (cell) 797-3531 or Dave Parker 313-4196.

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 Friday. The tournament fee is \$1,000 per team or \$250 per member. The tournament is also seeking sponsors.

Motorcycle run

Elks Lodge 1648, at 725 Franklin St., invites everyone to the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle Run on May 10 (rain date is May 24). Cost is \$15 per rider, \$10 per passenger. Registration starts at 9 a.m., with the first bike out at 10

and last bike in at 3 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the Huntsville Police Foundation to help build the Fallen Officers Memorial. For information call Doug Smith 503-3454 and James Henley 882-3406.

Senior softball

This is an opportunity for men 55 years and over, of all skill levels, to participate in slow pitch softball. Practices are Monday, Thursday and Saturday beginning March 15 at 10 a.m. at field 4 in Brahan Spring Park. Those who cannot make the Monday and Thursday practices can still join them for Saturday. The regular season starts May 1, and all games will be played in the evenings. For more information call Lynn Deibler 885-0498 or Fred Garcia 883-1135.

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.



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 childcare 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.

Admin professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals monthly meeting is March 18 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club.

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June Pockrus will present the program "Successful Seminar Planning." For more information, call president Amanda Medley 313-4970 or membership chair Elise McWilliams 876-4515.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon is April 7 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, Personal Growth Center. Scheduled speaker is congressman Artur Davis from Alabama's 7th congressional district. For ticket information, call Marlene Clemons 313-2378 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

University women

American Association of University Women will present Dr. Ellin Jimmerson, historian and theologist, speaking on "Messages From the Border," a program on illegal immigration, April 1 at the Beville Center UAH, 550 Sparkman Drive. The lecture is free and open to the public. A meet and greet starts at 5:30 p.m., dinner (\$20) at 6 and the program at 6:30. Seats are available for non-diners. Reservations should be made by March 27 for both diners and non-diners with Lois Guendel 880-8643.

Engineering tutorials

IEEE will hold tutorials during IEEE Southeast-Con 2008, April 3-4 at Embassy Suites in Huntsville. For more information, call Keith Jadus 955-6029 or visit the web site <http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/3/secon/08/>.

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 4150 cafeteria. For more information, call Ellen Jones 544-6616.

Airborne association

The Vulcan Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. Saturday. All active duty and veteran Airborne and Glider qualified individuals are eligible to become members and are invited to attend. For more information, call Barry Simpson 651-8665.

Security professionals

The Mid-South Chapter of NCMS, the Society for Industrial Security Professionals, and the Defense Security Service will hold the ninth annual NCMS/DSS Security Seminar April 10 at the Von Braun Center. The theme this year is "Transitioning From the Greatest Risk to the Greatest Asset." To register call Paul Malone 428-1308. The web site is <http://www.ncms-mid-south.org/>.

Project institute

The Project Management Institute, North Alabama Chapter will hold its monthly luncheon meeting March 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. Kenneth Merwin, president of Polaris Systems Inc. is the featured speaker. The cost is \$20 for PMI members, \$25 for non-members. Register at the following: <http://www.northalabapmi.org/ChapterMeetings.htm>.

Young business leaders

Young Business Leaders will hold its spring breakfast with Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, chief of

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Photo by Robert Stevens

Improved operations

Faith Dunham, center, a contractor support shift operator in the AMCOM Operations Center, is recognized by her supervisors for her outstanding service and achievement. She was instrumental in the development of enhanced processes within the Operations Center that will expedite the training of new employees. With her are Peter Maloney, left, her technical manager from DCS Corporation, and center director Col. Bill Marrero.

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engineers and commander of the Corps of Engineers. The breakfast is April 3 at 6:30 a.m. in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. Tickets are \$13 each or tables of eight for \$100. Pre-registration is required by March 28 by calling the YBL office 882-6003. YBL is a workplace ministry to men.

Defense summit

The Tennessee Valley Chapters of the National Defense Industrial Association and Women In Defense, and the Huntsville Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association are planning the third annual Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Summit from March 24-27 in Huntsville. The summit is co-sponsored by the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology/Joint Advanced Concepts. For more information, visit www.JIAMDSummit.org.

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/>.

Civil War debate

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table

will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. "Separating the Man from the Myth, the Great Stonewall Jackson Debate" is the topic for the first TVCWRT debate. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. Call 858-6191 for more information.

Engineer society

This month's SOLE program and luncheon is March 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Brig. Gen. Genaro Delarocco, program executive officer for missiles and space. Cost is \$16 for non-members, \$15 for members. For reservations call Jane Reeves 544-7991 or Dave Welch 837-5282, ext. 1706.

Defense industry

Attention program managers and DoD contractors, a Unique Identification industry event will be held April 8-9 in Huntsville. "Sponsored by the Department of Defense UID & eBusiness Policy Office, the UID & eBusiness Forum will educate you on how to achieve successful UID and eBusiness implementation through step-by-step instruction, expert guidance and technology demonstrations," a prepared release said. "The forum will help you sort through the technical, policy, standards and business process details."

The first 300 DoD personnel to register, who have not attended a previous forum, will receive a funded registration. Registration rates for all others increase March 14. For more information and to register, visit www.UIDforum.com.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will meet March 20 at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club in the old Regimental Room. In celebration of Women's History Month, networking topics will include "Famous Women Who Made History" and "Significant Federally Employed Women at Redstone Arsenal, Past and Present." The public is invited. The buffet line may be used for those eating lunch. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Genealogy society

Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society will meet March 17 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, Main Branch, third floor. The program is "25 Things You can Research at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library Heritage Room," by Howard Blood.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting March 26 at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Steve Roser, vice president of Defense and Aerospace Systems Division, Sanmina-SCI. The chapter will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday, March 22 at 8 a.m. at Victoria's Cafe, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burtram 325-1938.

Emerging technology

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

Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

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

Civilian deployment

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

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. Go to www.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 military orders for 30 or more days and their dependents, are eligible for e-filing of federal and state tax returns. There is no charge for this service. For an appointment, call 842-1040.

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;

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Basic Algebra; and Organization Management. Deadline to register is Friday. Call 876-9763 or visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222.

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. The shop will be open for sales Saturday, April 5 from 10-2. Volunteers are needed for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call 881-6992.

Welfare requests

The Thrift Shop is accepting written requests for donations. It can only accept requests from charitable organizations that have a federal tax exemption number. Include your federal tax exemption number, point of contact, telephone number, the amount requested and the specific use of this donation. The deadline for requests is March 21. Requests can be delivered or mailed to Thrift Shop, Attn: Mary McCarthy, welfare chairperson, building 3209, Hercules Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

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>.

Scholarships for youth

Youth Friendship Foundation Inc. and the Investing in Our Youth Partnership are accepting scholarship applications for 2008. All high school seniors are eligible. Applications are available to download at www.youthff.com (go to "Documents"). Deadline to submit application and all required documentation is April 21. For more information, call 655-9616.

Space Camp scholarships

The Army Community Service Volunteer



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Logistics retiree

Arthur Cramer receives the Commander's Coin from LOGSA commander Col. James Rentz in recognition of 42 years of civilian service. He retired in January after working 15 years as a logistics management specialist with the Logistics Support Activity.

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 Friday to ACS. Previous winners are not eligible. For more information, call 876-5397.

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 Barry 876-8563 to arrange delivery and pickup.

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 continues 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>.

Volunteer family award

Nominations for the 2008 AUSA Rubbermaid-Irwin Volunteer Family of the Year Award may be submitted only through Association of the U.S. Army chapters. Applications can be downloaded from www.ausa.org. For more information call Jim Rountree, the AUSA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter's family programs chairman, 337-4905.

Military pay system

The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System is scheduled for implementation Oct. 1. DIMHRS is a fully integrated web-based, all-service, all-component, military personnel and pay system that will support military personnel throughout their careers. In addition to personnel functions, Soldiers will be paid through DIMHRS (no longer through Military Pay) beginning Oct. 1. DIMHRS will provide accurate and timely data on personnel assets, standard data for com-

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parison across services and components, properly track Soldiers for both pay and service credit, track all military personnel, including those in theater, providing integrated personnel and pay functions. All military personnel must become familiar with the system and its functionality regarding maintenance of personnel records. For more information and monthly updates, visit www.army-dimhrs.army.mil.

Job opportunities

Are you looking for a full-time permanent position that suits your personality, talent, and career ambitions or some short-term projects to keep your skills current? Then don't miss the Aerotek Recruiting Event at Army Community Service on Thursday at 9 a.m. They have positions in accounting and finance, administrative, architecture, automotive, aviation, clinical, construction, contact center, energy, engineering, environmental, labor, manufacturing, mortgage and science. This event is open to all military identification card holders over age 18 who have routine access to get on post. Come dressed professionally with a polished resume. For more information or resume writing assistance, call Debra Jefferson 876-5397.

Cancer awareness class

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. How much do you know about this disease including diagnosis and treatment, prevention, and your personal risk factors and how to lower them? Bring your lunch on March 20 at noon to the Wellness Center Classroom at Fox Army Health Center and learn the newest information. This class is open to all active/retired military, their family members and DoD/Army civilians. Class size is limited to 24 people. To sign up, call 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Autism fund-raiser

April is Autism Awareness Month. The Autism Society of Alabama is supporting a fund-raising walk April 12 at Chapman Middle School. Sponsors, walkers and donations are sought for this event. The

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walk gets larger every year and will include a moon bounce, goody bags, and crafts for the kids, plus a resource fair for the parents. Pre-registration is \$25 and includes a T-shirt (\$30 day of the walk). To sign up call 1-877-4AUTISM or visit www.autism-alabama.org. All donations are tax deductible. The ASA also asks local companies to become sponsors. If you wish to be a sponsor, call the Autism Society of Alabama (205) 951-1364 by March 20.

Vibration course

A vibration training course will be held March 17-19 at Wyle Laboratories, 7800 Highway 20 West. The presenter is Wayne Tustin from California. Participants will learn to measure in-flight vibrations and how to develop and conduct appropriate tests. For more information, visit <http://www.equipment-reliability.com/course5.htm>.

Easter egg hunt

Join Child and Youth Services for its Easter Egg Hunt on March 22 at 1 p.m. at Vincent Park. All Redstone community children through age 10 are welcome. Children will be divided into age appropriate groups at this free event. Call 955-6114.

Easter brunch

Join the Officers and Civilians Club will have its annual Easter Brunch on March 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, call 830-2582.

Easter services

Bicentennial Chapel will hold all its Easter Services March 23 at Bob Jones Auditorium. The Easter Sunrise Service is 6:30 a.m., Catholic Mass at 9:15 and the

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Protestant Service at 11. For more information, call 842-2964.

Doughnut fund-raiser

The Maintenance Information Operations Branch is sponsoring a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale in support of Army Emergency Relief. Preorders will be taken through March 17. Preordered boxes are \$5 per dozen; and your boxes can be reserved by calling 842-6665 or e-mailing kenneth.hudson@conus.army.mil. If you preorder, you will need to go to building 5301, second floor, cubicle 12D130 to pay for your doughnuts. If you order 10 or more boxes, the organizers will come to your location to pick up your money. When ordering they will need your name, phone number, e-mail, and how many boxes you want to purchase. The doughnuts will be available for pickup March 19 from 7-9 a.m. in the building 5300 corridor between buildings 5301 and 5302. There will also be boxes of doughnuts for sale at that time for \$6 per dozen.

NARFE scholarships

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association offers \$1,000 college scholarships to eligible high school seniors who are children or grandchildren of NARFE members. The Federal Education and Assistance Fund administers the program through contributions to the NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Fund. The deadline to apply is April 30. For more information or to obtain an

application, call Jerry Cox 536-6057, Barbara Boomershine 519-3327 or visit www.natvp@narfe.org.

Talent show

The Street Troopers Inc. will have a talent show, open to all amateur performers, March 21 at 2 p.m. at 500 Lockhart Road in Harvest. First place is \$150; and second place is \$75. "The act must

be able to be enjoyed by the whole family," a prepared release said. "No profanity or anything that is not mother approved." For an application, mail to the Street Troopers Inc., 143 Tammy Gaines Lane, Huntsville, AL 35811 or e-mail hrlagland@mchsi.com. Return the application by Friday. For more information, call 520-3748 or fax 746-9376.

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