

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 57 No. 18

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May 7, 2008

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Thanking volunteers for all they do

More than 600 contribute
60K hours in past year

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

Redstone Arsenal wouldn't be the same without volunteers. There probably wouldn't be a golf course, or many of the children's services, or free tax assistance for active duty and retired military families, among other things.

"Without you many of the programs we do here would not be possible," Debra Jefferson of Army Community Service told the 256 attendees at the 24th annual Installation Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 29 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

More than 600 volunteers collectively contributed over 60,000 hours of work valued at more than \$1 million in the past year at Redstone Arsenal.

"And that's just with the volunteers that record their time," Cathy Hays, quality of life program manager at ACS, said. "We have a lot of volunteers that don't record it. They just do it because it's the right thing to do."

See **Volunteers** on page 7



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MUTUAL ADMIRATION— In foreground, retired Air Force Col. Michael Viccaro, a member of the Military Officers Association of America, applauds his fellow volunteers during the Installation Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Redstone wins Defense environmental award

Redstone Arsenal has received even more recognition for its environmental work.

The Department of Defense announced April 25 that Redstone is among the winners of the 2007 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards. This installation had already received the Army's highest honor in environmental stewardship: the fiscal 2007 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for Cultural Resources.

"I'm proud of the team we've got taking care of the environment at Redstone," Terry Hazle, the Garrison's chief of environmental management, said.

The Defense awards recognize outstanding achievement in environmental management by the DoD components, at both domestic and overseas bases, to sustain military readiness, training and operational capabilities.

"You're the best of the best when it comes to cultural resources."

— Tad Davis
deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environment, safety and occupational health

A ceremony honoring the winners is scheduled June 4 in the Pentagon Center Courtyard. John J. Young Jr., undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, will officiate.

"You're the best of the best when it comes to cultural resources," Tad Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for environment, safety and occupational health, said in presenting the Army award Feb. 19 at the Officers and Civilians Club. "You've got a lot to be proud of in that arena."

DoD's winning installations and teams include the following:

Redstone Arsenal; Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, Calif.; Naval Air Engineering Station, Lakehurst, N.J.; Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Robins Air Force Base, Ga.; Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.; Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash.; Partnering Team, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.; Pennsylvania Army National Guard Natural Resources Conservation Team; and Fort Indiantown Gap Training Center, Pa.

Accomplishments cited in the Army award package included the following:

- One hundred percent of installation surveyed for archaeological sites;
 - One hundred percent mapping of archaeological and historical sites;
 - Partnered with Huntsville School System to train students in archaeological and Native American education;
 - Worked agreements with State Historic Preservation Office to protect history of buildings with effect on mission;
 - Work with Native American tribes;
 - Oversight of 47 installation cemeteries;
 - Completed a Comprehensive Cultural Resources Management Plan.
- "You're actually sowing the seeds of success for generations to come," Davis said.

See **Award** on page 9

An open lane random survey

Mother's Day is May 11. What's special about your mom?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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*Pvt. Alison Dauernheim
Charlie Company*
"She's always been supportive. She's always there for me when I need her. She's my backbone."

*1st Sgt. Tracy Moffitt
Charlie Company*

"She has supported me throughout my whole service career – 24 years in the military. And she's never missed a beat. That's why she is so special to me."



*Alecia Gillespie
Child Development Center*
"I would say her selflessness. She puts others before herself and is always helping and giving to others that need her."

*Keenan Wingfield
Age 5*

"She always plays with me. She likes going to school with me. Mom and me, we always play games together. My mom's always doing stuff with me and my two brothers."



Letters to the Editor

Calling to celebrate National Police Week

The Congress and president of the United States have designated May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. Members of the U.S. Army Garrison-Redstone, Directorate of Emergency Services, Police Department play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Redstone Arsenal's Soldiers, employees, contractors, residents and visitors. It is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards and sacrifices of their security and law enforcement community; and that members of our security and law enforcement community recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder, and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression. The men and women of the U.S. Army Garrison-Redstone, Directorate of Emergency Services, Police Department unceasingly provide a vital public service.

I call upon Team Redstone – all Soldiers, employees, contractors, residents, visitors and organizations of this community – to observe the week of May 11-17 as Police Week, with appropriate ceremonies and observances. In so doing, we may join in commemorating security and law enforcement officers, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

I further call upon Team Redstone to observe May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty. Let us remember, recognize and pay respect to our fallen heroes.

Col. John Olshefski
Garrison commander

Quote of the week

'Some are kissing mothers and some are scolding mothers, but it is love just the same.'

– Pearl Buck (1892-1973)

Driver on dangerous route

On Friday morning, May 2, at approximately 7 a.m., I was driving to work on post. I was westbound on Redstone Road and was passed by a late model Chrysler PT Cruiser, maroon in color. Said vehicle was traveling at an excessive rate of speed westbound in the middle lane, passing at least six other vehicles at once. As the maroon PT Cruiser approached the traffic light at West Line Road and Redstone Road just in front of the Rocket Auditorium, the vehicle made a dangerous lane change without signaling and with brake lights on, leaving less than a car's length of room for the vehicle she'd just passed. The offending driver endangered herself and at least six other people. She appears to work in the Sparkman Complex.

Name withheld by request

Army wife shares her true feelings

I would like to share this with our readers of the *Redstone Rocket*. We are coming up on a long weekend (Memorial Day) and many people show their patriotism, but there are those who feel that sense of pride every day – the Army wife. My daughter is just "one" of those wonderful wives who keep the fires burning on the home front waiting for her Soldier to return and pick up where they left off with their lives.

I talk with her several times a week to see "how she is doing," and of course I always get the same answer: "Oh, I'm doing OK, and so are the kids." Then just the other day after talking with her on the phone I received this e-mail, and that is what prompted this request. By the way this is Sgt. Paul J. Pytlik's second deployment to Iraq (this one is for 15-18 months); he had a hardship tour to Korea (his second tour), Kuwait, and has been stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, since 1998. Deployments are not new to this Army wife, she is seasoned, but every one of them is as difficult as the very first one.

The following is the text of Nikki's e-mail:
"Just a little something I would share with you all..."
– Love, Nikki

"I'm the one you walk past in Wal-Mart smelling a man's brand of deodorant and buying the same brand of shower gel. I'm trying to remember his smell. I'm the one that sprays his cologne on his pillow so it seems like he is by me when I go to sleep.

See **Feelings** on page 19

Redstone Rocket

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Remember rules of road for motorcyclists

With the return of warm weather and the rising gas prices, it's a good time for a reminder on Redstone policy for riding motorcycles on post.

Here's Garrison Policy 385-56 as provided by the Directorate of Emergency Services, which said enforcement for full compliance will begin May 13:

Before operation of any motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal, personnel shall successfully complete an approved rider or operator safety course. This training requirement excludes those operating motorcycles with attached sidecars and three-wheel motorcycles.

The safety course must include the following: Appropriate Motorcycle Safety Foundation or Specialty Vehicle Institute of America or MSF state approved curriculum taught by certified or licensed instructors; hands-on training; and a performance-based and knowledge-based evaluation.

Requirements for Personal Protective Equipment are as follows:

- **Helmets** — certified to meet Department of Transportation standards properly fastened under the chin.

- **Goggles and face shields** — impact or shatter resistant goggles or full-face shield properly attached to helmet. A windshield or eye glasses alone are not proper eye protection.

- **Sturdy footwear is mandatory** — sturdy leather/heavy canvas footwear high enough to protect the ankle is mandatory.

- **Clothing** — long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves or mittens, designed for motorcycle use, is mandatory.

- **Garment visibility** — highly reflective clothing, vest, or reflective belt — to be worn over the shoulder and under the operator's arm, bandoleer style — to allow maximum visibility to other vehicle operators. The reflective gear will be worn as an outer garment and will not be covered by any other article of clothing or equipment. Reflective gear will be worn by operators and passengers when in operation.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

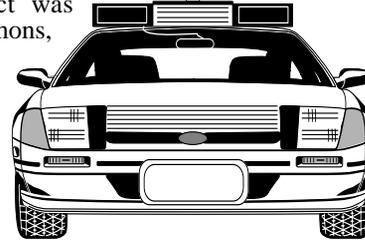
April 24: An individual was observed selecting a bottle of cologne, concealing it and then departing the Post Exchange without paying. The subject was stopped and detained. Upon arrival of the police, the subject was processed and issued a court summons, then released. Investigation continues by the investigations section.

April 26: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license after being stopped for speeding. He was issued two violation notices and released.

April 26: An individual attempted to run Gate 10, but was stopped by the gate guards, at which time they detected an odor of an alcoholic beverage. The police were contacted and responded. After failing a series of field sobriety tests, he was arrested and transported to the station. He submitted to a breathalyzer test and registered .19 percent blood alcohol content. He was processed and placed into a detention cell until his BAC reached an acceptable level.

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

Violation notices issued: 46 speeding, 4 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 expired tag, 1 driving with a suspended driver's license, 1 driving under the influence, 2 inattentive driving, 1 expired driver's license.



Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Roberta Burnett

Job: Program assistant at Child Development Center, Garrison

Where do you call home?
Camden, S.C.

What do you like about your job?

I like the kids. I like working with the children — all my little infants.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like playing bingo and just being with family.

What are your goals?

To retire in about 3-5 years and just travel.

What's your favorite type of music?

Gospel and some blues



Garrison takes systematic approach to future

Leaders establish five main goals

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski likes to describe "what right looks like." And that includes setting the path for his work force.

The Garrison sharpened this vision at a workshop April 13-16, where its leaders agreed on a cohesive, systems approach to five key areas:

- Develop a diversified Garrison

work force.

- Ensure a focused approach to communications.
- Proactively forecast resource requirements over multiple years.
- Successfully transition inbound and outbound organizations.
- Demonstrate collaboration among services across Team Redstone.

At this Leadership Strategic Planning Offsite, champions for each of these five systems presented their charters and proposed action paths. At the request of Gar-

rison deputy commander Curtis Clark, cross-disciplined teams gathered to review the charters and make recommendations for effective integration of the activities.

The workshop concluded with a ceremonial signing of a one-page document by Olshefski, Clark, Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper and each Garrison director. The document outlined the strategic, operational and tactical five goals of the Garrison.

Olshefski said Garrison pledges to continuously provide high quality, effective and efficient installation operations support and quality of life programs to all of Team Redstone.

The Garrison team is dedicated to the success of this high technology, research and development-focused installation, and to ensuring a community of choice for all those who work and live on the installation. (Garrison release)



Courtesy photo

BRAINSTORMING— Garrison directors work together to review and shape the Garrison's strategic focus at their recent workshop.

Marine returns to arms of young family

Chief Warrant Officer 3 served two tours in Iraq

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Two days before the birth of his daughter, Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 3 R. Dale Stephens learned he was being deployed for the second time to Iraq.

Mallory Paige was 3 months old when her daddy shipped out to Camp Lejeune, N.C., for training prior to his mid-September deployment with the P Battery, 5th Battalion, 14th Marines out of Spokane, Wash., and attached to the 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, Task Force Military Police.

She was 13 months old when Stephens returned home April 25 with a bright-colored Marine Corps teddy bear as a gift for his daughter.

The separation from his young first-born child and his wife of just five years, Lauriellen, was tough by any standards. But a Marine does what he's told to do, goes where he's told to go and stands for values that endure long after the memories of separation have dimmed.

"Marines do what they're told," Stephens said. "I could have retired instead of go to Iraq. But I chose to go instead because I am a Marine. This has been my life's choice. I had 20 years worth of training and preparedness for what I was doing over there."

Stephens, 38, has served 21 years in the Marines, with 10 of those years on active duty. He has served in Kuwait during Desert Storm in 1990-91, in Iraq in 2004-05 during Operation Phantom Fury and in 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom, in Somalia in 1992 and in New Orleans in 2003. When he's not on active duty, Stephens works as a supervisor for the U.S. Postal Service at its Wall Triana facility.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SWEET HOME ALABAMA— Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 3 R. Dale Stephens is back home with the Marine Reserves, Kilo Battery, South Memorial Parkway. He has just returned from an eight-month deployment to Iraq with P Battery, 5th Battalion, 14th Marines of Spokane, Wash.

During his recent eight-month tour in Iraq, Stephens was a platoon commander for a convoy security team consisting of three platoons based at Camp Ramadi in the Al Anbar province. There were 47 Marines and three Navy Corpsmen in his platoon.

"We traveled all over Iraq," Stephens said. "We escorted logistical supplies for the Multi-National forces in western Iraq. We also escorted detainees from tactical units to Camp Cropper in Baghdad. Most days, we were threatened by IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and ambushes."

The experience on this deployment was vastly different than his first tour in Iraq with the 1st Marine Regiment in 2004-05 during Operation Phantom Fury. During that deployment, Stephens was a fire support coordinator on a Marine mis-

sion to take the city of Fallujah.

"There were lots of fire fights," Stephens said. "I coordinated close air support and indirect fire for the 1st Marine Regiment."

While highly dangerous, that first deployment involved an exact mission and a clearly defined goal of taking a city from the terrorists. Stephens' second deployment was more peaceful and, at the same time, more menacing.

"The people are changed. They are out walking the streets, shopping, getting on with their lives. Things are definitely getting better for the Iraqi people," Stephens said.

"But that created a new level of danger. Providing protection on missions was more complex because the Iraqi people are physically a lot closer to us now. There

are different rules of engagement. As a Marine, we wanted them to feel comfortable around us. But we still wanted to have the space we needed to feel comfortable. It can be a very dangerous situation."

Stephens' platoon worked with Iraqis daily, providing security for Iraqi government officials and tribal leaders in Ramadi. Such missions are extremely dangerous because they require transporting officials through places like Al Qa'im, Tarbil, Baghdad and Fallujah.

"My platoon of 15 vehicles did 120,000 road miles while we were there," Stephens said. "Normally, our missions required us to travel during the day, and that was pretty safe, especially since we were traveling in armored vehicles equipped with 12 heavy machine guns. The Iraqis and the terrorists don't have the capability to fight against that kind of power. That's why IEDs are the biggest threat."

The convoy security team also worked on several joint raids with Soldiers in parts of Iraq that were "hot spots." At times, Iraqi military and police would also participate in raids.

"It's a slow process of training Iraqi military and police," Stephens said. "They were under Soviet doctrine for so long. It is taking time to teach them what it means to provide leadership and to be responsible for small units of military and police."

The mission left this new dad a bit more worried than usual for both himself and his Marines.

"Those worries may have been because of the new baby, or they could have been because I knew the most dangerous place in Iraq is on the road and that's where we spent most of our time," Stephens said. "Or, it could have been some of both."

Stephens, an Ardmore High School graduate, joined the Marines when he was 17. Nearly seven years later, he joined the



Greg Patch/RTTC Photo Instrumentation Group

Coordinator certified

Brig. Gen. Frank Turner III, commander of Developmental Test Command, presents the Department of the Army Lean Six Sigma black belt certification to Mike Liles, Lean Six Sigma coordinator for Redstone Technical Test Center. Liles is the first person within the Developmental Test Command to complete all the Army business transformation Lean Six Sigma black belt requirements. This certification represents the successful completion of numerous cost saving initiatives for the Redstone Technical Test Center.

■ New father finishes second tour in Iraq

Marine

continued from page 4

Marine Reserves, Kilo Battery, in Huntsville so that he could pursue a degree at Calhoun Community College and Athens State University, and begin a civilian career.

“Ever since I was 5 years old I wanted to be a Marine. I always considered the Marines as being the best,” he said. “I joined the active Reserves because I wanted the time to go to college, but I didn’t want to leave the Marines.”

Stephens is grateful for the training and experience of being a Marine, something that has influenced all aspects of his life.

“Marines stand up for something, regardless of what is happening around them. Our values – honor, courage, country — won’t bend for society,” he said. “We live with those values and we take them with us as a Marine and into our civilian lives.

“When you are a platoon leader you have to have especially tough standards for yourself and your young Marines. We lead by example. It’s not an easy challenge when your Marines are 20 years younger than you.”

While in Iraq, Stephens spent a lot of time mentoring his Marines, most of which were from the Spokane area.

“I counseled them on every aspect of their lives. I lead them,” he said.

“When I joined up with my platoon, I

had 50 Marines whose faces I didn’t even know. But Marines are the same everywhere. It wasn’t long before I knew them all. Now, they want me to attend their Marine Corps Ball in November.”

He said the war in Iraq has changed the Marine Reserves in a positive way.

“It’s made us focus on our mission more. We have a war going on, so we don’t have as much time at garrison,” he said. “It has made us more of a professional warrior. Marine Reserves who don’t have the stomach for it have left us long ago.

“But we haven’t had a lot of trouble recruiting because the values that are core to a Marine have not changed. Being a Marine is not something you think about. It’s something you do ... And, as a Marine, you know the man on your left and the man on your right has made the same commitment to our values, and they will do the right thing regardless of what the cost is – and we know what that cost is. I’m happy to do my service. I’m happy to do all I can for my nation.”

During his deployment, Stephens talked to his wife nearly every day. They also communicated frequently via e-mail.

But that was no substitute for being able to see his daughter grow from an infant to a toddler. Stephens is looking forward to a 40- to 50-day leave to make up for lost time.

“She still looks at me kind of funny when I greet her in the morning,” he said with a smile. “But that will change.”

Things to do for Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief fund-raisers include the following:

- For a list of events held by IMMC, visit <http://immcweb.redstone.army.mil/aer/index.htm>.

- Coupon books are for sale from the ILS/Manprint Office, Integrated Materiel Management Center. The \$20 books have coupons from more than 60 businesses and restaurants in the Huntsville area. For more information and a complete list of coupons offered, call Cheryl Baker 842-3157, Ranny Vinson 842-8793 or Kim Sharp 876-8696.

- AMCOM G-6 is having a Krispy Kreme Coupon and Domino's Pizza Card Sale until the end of the campaign. If you don't need the coupons, you can purchase a card and donate them to AER where they will be distributed to Soldiers and their families. For information call Glenda Parker 876-6909, Luereen Phillips 876-6942 or Elaine Stoots 842-2494.

- A Silent Auction for two baskets of items for baby is conducted by the Depot Maintenance Division and Transportation Division, IMMC. Bidding closes on May 28. For information contact Lynn Moore at lynn.moore@conus.army.mil.

- The Garrison is having a silent auction today from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the Sparkman Cafeteria. For more information, call Wanda Quigley 313-3735.

- The annual ASGE AER Shirt Sale continues through Thursday at building 5419. Orders are being taken for T-shirts, polo, denim and twill shirts and blouses. Several design logos are available. For information call Sharon Dudley 876-4565, Tina Gardner 876-1225 or Kristie McClure 842-8791.

- AMRDEC is selling patriotic lapel pins, lanyards and candy bars until May 27 at building 5400, room A-260. Call Jan Martin 842-0691.

- Command Analysis Directorate, G-3 Annual Book Sale has been extended through Friday 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 video-tape), call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange for delivery and pickup.

- A bowling tournament, sponsored by AMRDEC's Engineering Directorate, is today from noon to 4 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. Registration is \$40 per team. Call Jarius Palmer 842-7328 or LaShonda Washington 876-5992.

- The Acquisition Center is having a plant sale this morning at 9 at building 5678. Prices range from \$2 to \$8. For information call Theresa Harper 876-9209.

- A Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by Program Executive Office for Aviation, is Thursday at 10 a.m. around buildings 5687 to 5681. Tickets are \$5. Call Janet Dickerson 313-4496.

- A rummage sale, held by members of Depot Maintenance Division, IMMC, is Thursday at building 5300, room 5140. They're looking for items you have that are in good condition that you would like to donate for the sale. For information e-mail Lynn Moore lynn.moore@conus.army.mil or Nina Cox tank.cox@conus.army.mil.

- A barbecue cookout, held by Lower Tier Project Office, is Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 106 Wynn Drive. Call Roosevelt Pitts Jr. 313-1068.

- A hot dog cookout, sponsored by Security Assistance Management Directorate, is May 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5304. For information call Katherine Cable 313-6953.

- The Engineering Support Division and PD-SSM will hold its first Dancing for the Soldiers AER Event at 1 p.m. May 15 at Bob Jones Auditorium. For information call Lashona Washington 876-5992 or Dimeccia Blake 313-5016.

- A car wash, sponsored by PD-SSM, AMRDEC, is May 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the AAFES Tire Center. Hot dogs and drinks will be available. For information call Dimeccia Blake 313-5016.

See Relief on page 7



Photo by Michelle Jones

POKER WINNINGS— Greg Tackett, right, director of the System Simulation and Development Directorate, presents Dave Thomas the first place trophy for winning SSDD's third annual AER Texas Hold-Em Poker Tournament held April 16 at the Rustic Lodge. Seventy people participated in the poker tournament and raised more than \$1,400 for Army Emergency Relief.

Veterans Memorial Foundation gets \$10K boost from AUSA

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will donate \$10,000 to the Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation to assist in its fund-raising efforts.

The \$10K check is to be presented today at the Veterans Memorial Foundation head-

quarters building at 403 Franklin St.

The Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation officially opened its headquarters in March. Since then, it has been fund-raising for the \$4 million goal to complete the Veterans Memorial Park. AUSA volunteers have been giving their

time to help staff the headquarters office in order to assist with the fund-raising.

The park will serve as an inspiration to young people and to recognize the sacrifice of those from Madison County. Construction on the park will begin on Veterans Day in November and is scheduled to

be complete by Veterans Day 2009.

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the AUSA hopes that the \$10K donation will help greatly in the fund-raising efforts and encourages the local community to support this memorial construction. (AUSA release)

■ AER campaign continues through May 30

Relief

continued from page 6

- A barbecue cookout, sponsored by the Depot Maintenance Division and Transportation Division, is May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside building 5302. For more information call Deborah Asberry 842-6026, Rickey Dorsett 876-1157 or Aubrey Fencher 876-4009.

- A softball tournament, sponsored by AMRDEC Engineering Directorate, is May 22 at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area. Registration is \$50 per team. For information call Jarius Palmer 842-7328.

- A 4-Man Scramble Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Acquisition Center, is May 29 at 9 a.m. at the Links at Redstone. Team registration ends May 23. For information call Chris Campbell 876-3448 or James Minnon 876-5383.



Courtesy photo

PICNIC LUNCH— Redstone Technical Test Center workers have their AER “Lunch on the Lawn” on April 30. Some 200 attended the event where the Officers and Civilians Club catered hamburgers/hotdogs. Side dishes were donated by RTTC employees.

■ Installation volunteer service worth more than \$1M

Volunteers

continued from page 1

To recognize more of these individuals, Redstone Arsenal changed its appreciation luncheon this year. Unlike past years, there was no competition with judges to select volunteers of the year.

“This year’s different. We let each organization choose who they felt should be honored,” Hays said. “And each organization was allowed to honor two volunteers.”

As a result, 30 volunteers from throughout the community were recognized during the

luncheon as Helping Hand Honorees. Each received a certificate, a lapel pin, MWR bucks from Morale Welfare and Recreation, and a gift bag from corporate sponsor Bill Heard Chevrolet.

“The organizations found the (past years) process was too difficult and time consuming so we found many volunteers were not being recognized,” Hays said. “And this way nobody knows better than the organizations who their special volunteers are. And that’s why we have such a high number of honorees this year.”

Jefferson, the luncheon’s narrator, read descriptions of each volunteer’s service. The awards were presented by Garrison com-

mander Col. John Olshefski and Alice Myles, wife of Redstone Arsenal commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles.

The commanding general was traveling on official business but expressed his appreciation to the attendees via videotape. “Volunteers have a special place in Alice’s and my heart,” Myles said.

Said Olshefski, “Your work is valued and truly, truly appreciated.”

Among the honorees was Michaelle Goforth, who volunteers at the Thrift Shop, mainly as a cashier.

“I love to volunteer with the community,” Goforth said, “knowing that the funds we take in go back to help the Soldiers and their families in the military

community.”

The other Helping Hand Honorees included:

- Kim Anton of Army Community Service, Aniceto Bagley of Military Officers Association of America, Sara Ballard of Army Community Service, Buck Bannister of Bicentennial Chapel Protestant Congregation, Rena Bannister of Bicentennial Chapel Protestant Congregation, Susan Bender of Officer and Civilian Women’s Club, Dan Bucey of the Links at Redstone, Edward Burchenal of Youth Services;

- Lynn Carden of Officer and Civilian Women’s Club, Leonard Clark of Flying Activity, Stephanie Cook of Girl Scouts, Randy Duff of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Ervin Dye of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic

Faith Community, Beverly Green of Thrift Shop, Staff Sgt. Michael Huffaker of Youth Sports, Sam Leto of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kassie Lewis of School Age Services, Lt. Col. Cheryl McAuley of Military Officers Association of America, Ann Moore of Retiree Council;

- Grant Rosensteel of Retiree Council, Jeanette Schlerntzauer of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Faith Community, Penny Seltzer of Girl Scouts, Ivy Joe Shiver Jr. of Warrant Officers Association, Lewis Spencer of Flying Activity, Frank Thonus of the Links at Redstone, Ashlyn Wall of School Age Services, Jim Weaver of Outdoor Recreation, Bradley Williams of Youth Services and Dave Wyatt of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance.

Smokey steals show at Arbor Day celebration

Trees are important, but kids love the bear

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The youngsters from the Child Development Center flocked to the famous guest attending Redstone's 16th annual Arbor Day celebration Thursday at the Visitor Center at Gate 9.

Smokey the Bear drew most of their adulation during this celebration which serves as a reminder of the importance of trees. Wearing the costume was forest ranger/technician Leitha McCain, a forest

ranger/technician from the Alabama Forestry Commission's Marshall County office in Guntersville.

Taylor Hamilton, a forest ranger/technician with the commission's Madison County office in Brownsboro, gave fire safety advice before presenting the special guest, Smokey the Bear, who emerged from the visitor center.

Redstone also received its 10th "Tree City USA" award, an annual recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation. The city of Huntsville is among the other recipients this year.

"It's something to be proud of," Hamilton said.

See Celebration on page 9



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SPECIAL GUEST— Children from the Child Development Center reach out to touch Smokey the Bear. Helping with crowd control at right is Danny Dunn, chief of the natural resources branch in the Garrison's Environmental Management Division.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PLANTING CEREMONY— Arianna Gilliam, 5, helps plant a sugar maple tree which is held by Greg Hicks, acting installation forester. She is the daughter of Maj. Darryl and Annie Gilliam. Her father is assistant product manager for the Medium Extended Air Defense System in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

Celebration

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Redstone has more than 18,000 acres of forest land that it manages. It plants an average of 100 acres of new trees annually. Trees help provide training areas and serve as a buffer during testing.

"Trees play an important part of the overall Army mission here," Danny Dunn, chief of the natural resources branch in the Garrison's Environmental Management

Division, said.

Winning the Tree City USA award is important to Redstone because "it shows us we're putting the proper amount of concern toward our trees and our forests," Dunn said. "And we're happy to do that."

Acting installation forester Greg Hicks held a new sugar maple tree as the youngsters took turns shoveling dirt during the planting portion of the ceremony.

Kristina Oshiro, 5, smiled when asked her opinion of trees.

"I think they're good," she replied, "for birds and for squirrels and for leaves."

■ Post adds to its top-level environmental honors

Award

continued from page 1

Redstone is up-to-date on its building surveys. When the program originally started, there were nearly 3,000 buildings that had never been registered.

For an area filled with archaeological sites – the Tennessee Valley is considered the second richest area for archaeological sites in the country – Redstone had to do 100 percent mapping of its archaeological and historical sites. Some 912 archaeological sites were identified on the Arsenal's 37,910 acres of land.

On the education side, Redstone is considered the first installation in the Army to develop an education program specifically for archaeological resource and Indian culture. This includes the Path to Nature and an Indian Education/Archaeological

Resources Outdoor Classroom, the centerpiece of which is a full-size replica of a Late Mississippian Period wattle and daub house, constructed by Redstone staff and volunteers.

Redstone officials also coordinate with 17 Indian tribes. These include one in Alabama, some in Florida and North Carolina, and mostly in the states of Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. There are many Native American graves on this installation. And there are 11 sets of partial human remains which officials here are trying to rebury.

Before the Army arrived in 1941 at what was to become Redstone Arsenal, small communities occupied this rural land. An ethno-graphic survey has included interviews with their descendents. Two major works were completed within the past year; and sites have been linked with people who once lived here.

Soldiers rock out in Coffee House kickoff



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

ARTIST— Singer/songwriter Anna Liese performs some of her original songs for the Soldiers during the Coffee House.

Weekly entertainment on tap for the trainees

By Spc. RYAN STROUD
59th Ordnance Brigade Public Affairs

As the sun slowly started to set over the heart of Redstone Arsenal, Soldiers from the 832nd Ordnance Brigade gathered around to eat, hear words of fellowship and enjoy the rocking sounds of the Coffee House kickoff April 25.

Coffee House, which will take place every Friday evening on the Arsenal, was the brainchild of Chaplain (Maj.) Mickey Jett, chaplain for 59th Ordnance Brigade, and Col. Tom Keegan, commander of 59th, in hopes to give the Soldiers in training a place to go to relax and let their worries float away.

“This whole event started with a conversation between Col. Keegan and myself,” Jett said. “And we talked about

starting a coffee house, which is an alternative place for Soldiers to hang out on a Friday night.

“This event (and those like it in the future) is for all the Soldiers in training to come and relax,” he said. “They have a chance to talk, have a fellowship, refreshments, play games, and other events of that nature. This is a place that they can go that’s away from the barracks.

“Soon we will have movie night, which will be positive type movies for the Soldiers to enjoy,” he added. “The movie will help the Soldiers get away from the pressure they might be facing and let them relax a bit.”

The first Coffee House specialized in food and music, featuring singer/songwriter Anna Liese, from Seattle, now based out of Nashville. She played a collection of songs from her catalog, some which will appear on her new record, still being recorded.

For Liese, this is her first



Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud

FEELING THE BEAT— Soldiers dance onstage while a band plays during the Coffee House kickoff April 25. The Coffee House, which was put together by Chaplain (Maj.) Mickey Jett, chaplain for 59th Ordnance Brigade, will be held for trainee Soldiers every Friday night.

experience performing for Soldiers and seeing a bit of military life.

“I think it’s really, really

awesome to be here,” Liese said. “This is the first time I’ve

See **Kickoff** on page 11

Units add 28 Soldiers during April

The Garrison provided the following in-processing list for April. In some cases, the Soldiers were already at Redstone but moved to other units here:

- 1st Lt. Wayne D. Rogers Jr., Bravo Company; Capt. Patrick Baker, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Capt. Rob Dewberry, Garrison; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Knight, Aviation and Missile Command; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ryan Richardson, Aviation Center AC; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Everett Stevens, HHC 59th; Maj. Kurt Adams, Corpus Christi Army Depot; Master Sgt. Donald Boyette, Logistics Support Activity; Master Sgt. Jeffrey Moses, HHC 59th; Master Sgt. Alexander Taylor, Headquarters & Alpha Company;
- Pfc. David Ash, MEDDAC; Pfc. Luke

Haglund, WT Co. A Warriors; Pvt. Montoya Havard, 0142 SCHHC; Pvt. Kristopher Keenum, 0142 SCHHC; Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Able, Charlie Company; Sgt. 1st Class Richard Bauer, MEDDAC; Sgt. 1st Class Steven Coup, Regional Training Site Main; Sgt. Steven Chandler, WT Co. A Warriors; Sgt. Jennifer Crites, AMCOM; Sgt. Stephanie Maxwell, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Sgt. Joey Seann, MEDDAC; Spc. Larry J. Roberts Jr., Garrison; Spc. Ryan Stroud, HHC 59th; Staff Sgt. Jimmy Ayala, Space and Missile Defense Command; Staff Sgt. William Gravely, Charlie Company; Staff Sgt. Charles Hollingshed, Dental Clinic; Staff Sgt. James Journigan, AMCOM; Staff Sgt. Wade Proudfoot, Headquarters & Alpha Company.

Drivers needed to keep Soldier Show on road

By TIM HIPPS

FMWRC Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Drivers are needed to help keep the U.S. Army Soldier Show on the road throughout its 25th anniversary tour.

Active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers with a valid Class A driver's license are preferred, but applicants with any valid driver's license are eligible for training.

Freightliner trucks and a commercial bus are used to transport the U.S. Army Soldier Show cast, crew and equipment around the country from April through November.

From May 15 through June 10, the show will be

touring Europe, so there's a window of opportunity to get new drivers trained for the remainder of the tour.

"We need them as soon as possible," Sgt. 1st Class Ivan Brown of Army Entertainment Division said. "Right now, we have two civilian and two military drivers. We should be able to run with six.

"If they come aboard temporarily, we will use them until November, but we would prefer a two-year commitment," Brown said of potential drivers, who would be attached to Army Entertainment Division at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Application forms are available online at www.armymwr.com. Once completed, mail the form to U.S. AED Attention: Ronald Burgwyn, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

Friday night entertainment for troops has rocking start

Kickoff

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ever done anything like this. I've only been here for two hours and I already feel like I've learned so much from the Soldiers."

Liese was met with open arms from the Soldiers in training as they whooped and hollered, waving their hands and dancing through her performance.

"It makes me feel a little emotional," Liese said with a smile.

"I know other (artists) might do this on a much grander scale, but once I got here, everyone has welcomed me with open arms and just been so awesome and amazing. I'm very appreciative and humble to be here."

Pvt. Mark Pierce and Pvt. Mark Walton, both of Charlie Company, attended the festivities and looked toward the future Coffee Houses.

"I thought the concert was pretty good," Pierce said. "It was nice to see something different

happen out here."

"I thought this was a unique experience and something that I probably wouldn't have done or attended before," Walton said. "This gives us something we can do to occupy our time on Fridays instead of sitting around in the barracks, doing nothing."

"I think I will go see some of the movies or other events that will be held," Pierce said. "The food's good and it's a chance to escape for a little bit, so this will be a good opportunity for the Soldiers here and the future Soldiers coming into training."

Langsmith honored at Missouri Military Academy

MEXICO, Mo. — Cadet Jonathan Langsmith, son of Army retiree Richard Langsmith of Huntsville, has been promoted to sergeant first class at Missouri Military Academy's Middle School.

He was also awarded the Academic Fourragere for superior scholastic achievement, and the Brigadier Bar for exemplary performance in the middle school's precision rifle drill team. In addition, he was placed on the Honor Roll for his academic and military grades.

Langsmith is a member of the academy's 119th Corps of Cadets, which includes students from 30 states and 17 nations. Located in Mexico, Mo., MMA enrolls young men in grades 6-12 and post-graduate studies, and includes a separate middle school which focuses on reading improvement and development of life skills.

Of the 60 institutions on the U.S. Department of Education's roster of "Exemplary Private Schools," MMA is one of only two military academies so honored. For 2006-07, it was designated as a JROTC "Honor Unit with Distinction" for the 36th time by the Army. (Missouri Military Academy release)



Jonathan Langsmith

Said Jett, "This concert has been a great start to the Coffee House. It's just great to see the Soldiers here listening to the band and enjoying some music."

Liese said the pleasure was all hers to play for the Soldiers and she wanted them to know this experience was extremely meaningful to her.

"In my songs, I try to make them the most honest, truthful and vulnerable as I can... whether it's a breakup song or about my faith in God," she said. "But (my songs) are also about fighting through the storm and I

hope the Soldiers (hear and feel) those things in my music.

"And thank you," Liese added. "This is such a different world (the Soldiers) live in and for me to be this close to it really helps me appreciate what they do.

"I can't imagine what some of these Soldiers are feeling or understand everything they're going through, but to see the camaraderie and to see that everyone has a positive attitude, I can learn so much more from them than they could ever take away from me."

Organization honors senator's work for nation's military

Shelby receives Medaris Award

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer

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One of Alabama's leading political figures was recognized April 25 by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association for his dedication, support and leadership in America's national security and missile defense initiatives.

Sen. Richard Shelby received NDIA's highest award – The Medaris Award – during the local chapter's annual awards dinner and ceremony at the Von Braun Center. The award, presented to such recipients as Sen. Howell Heflin, local businessmen Joe Moquin and George Williams, and retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet and Lt. Gen. James Link, was created to honor the leadership and contributions of the late Maj. Gen. John Medaris, former commander of what was then the U.S. Army Ordnance Missile Command.



Richard Shelby

“General Medaris made significant contributions to the Huntsville community and our national defense,” Shelby said in an e-mail interview a few days after the award presentation.

See **Honor** on page 13

Association gives annual scholarships, other awards

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of National Defense Industrial Association announced its 2008 Award Winners at a dinner April 25 at the Marriott Tranquility.

The Defense Management and Defense Technical awards were presented to those who have made significant contributions to this nation's defense. Along with these awards, NDIA also presented Scholarship Awards and Graduate Fellowships to deserving students interested in science and engineering.

The Defense Management and Defense Technology Awards were given to outstanding government and industry employees. The program is focused on recognizing the accomplishments and talents of outstanding government and defense contractor employees within the local defense industrial base work force. These leadership awards are nationally recognized and honor members of the technical, scientific and acquisition community.

Here are the 2008 award winners:

Defense Technology Award — Dr. Larry Altgilbers, SMDC TC; Jeff Brown, contractor MITRE, GMD-JPO; Lt. Col. John Chicoli, PFRMS; Donald Eslinger, contractor SPARTA, MDA/CTF.

Defense Management Award — Col. Michael Cantor, PEO M&S; Cam Gean, SMDC TIMC; Sue McClung, AMRDEC (JTC/SIL); Dr. Robert Yates, contractor GRA, AMRDEC (PM JAMS).

Best Freshman Engineering Design Team — Bryan Jasper, UAH; John Meadows, UAH.

Scholarship Awards (as chosen by the universities they represent) — Michael Alldredge, UAH; Arthur Cheatham, Alabama A&M; Anthony Luchner, UAH; Calvin Minor, Alabama A&M; William K. Moore, UAH; James Seals, Alabama A&M; Craig C. Morris, UAH; Travis Whitlow, Alabama A&M.

Space and Missile Defense Working Group Fellowships — Joel Bundy, University of Alabama; Robert Hawkins, UAH; David Mayo, UAH; Jonathan Rogers, Georgia Tech; David Spears, University of Alabama; Dustin Wood, UAH. (*National Defense Industrial Association release*)

Honor

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“His legacy means a great deal and I will always treasure this award.”

Medaris is known for the leadership and direction he provided to his command and the significant contributions he made to the field of missile system technology.

In 1955, Medaris was the first commanding general of the newly created U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency. He activated the agency, assuming responsibility for the development and production of the Jupiter missile system, the weaponization of the Redstone ballistic missile and the successful launch of the Explorer I satellite. In 1959, he left the agency to become commander of the U.S. Army Ordnance Missile Command, where he was responsible for all Army Ordnance programs in rocket, guided and ballistic missile, and space fields.

The Medaris Award has been awarded annually since 1981 by the local NDIA chapter to recognize individuals who have demonstrated technical excellence in promoting the defense preparedness of the nation.

Shelby was chosen as this year’s recipient for his long legacy working on behalf

of the nation’s military, and on behalf of Huntsville’s military and industrial communities. He is a member of the full Appropriations Committee and has been integral in working to secure funding to not only protect the servicemembers stationed around the world but to also ensure they have the training and equipment needed to survive and win any conflict, said an NDIA press release. Shelby maintains a careful watch over the nation’s defense and aerospace industries that are critical to the nation’s defense and readiness and to Alabama’s thriving economy, it continued.

Additionally, Shelby was recognized for his support of the technical educational system to ensure the quality and quantity of graduating students for the defense industrial base.

“Sen. Shelby has really contributed significantly to the entire government/industry base,” said Bob Darnall, president of the local NDIA chapter. “In the past, this award has gone to a lot of senior folks who served in the military or in civil service, and who have continued to serve in some capacity when they’ve retired. So, this award is really a lifetime achievement award.”

Shelby’s influence both on military and industry, and on education can be

seen in the buildings in Huntsville that have been dedicated in his name, Darnall said. On Redstone Arsenal, the headquarters for the Missiles and Space Intelligence Center is known as the Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence. And recently the University of Alabama-Huntsville named its new science building the Shelby Center.

“NDIA is stressing education as a national thrust,” Darnall said. “Sen. Shelby has worked hard in trying to increase the number of engineering students in graduate and undergraduate schools. He supports programs that get young people interested in engineering and that keep them interested.”

Shelby said he is honored to accept The Medaris Award, which was presented on behalf of NDIA by Rep. Bud Cramer. He said the award’s namesake defines the value of the award itself, particularly as it pertains to the development of military technologies.

“General Medaris was a dedicated leader who moved our nation forward in the engineering and science fields as they relate to missile development,” he said.

“As the first commanding general of the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency, he oversaw the inception of a capability that has transformed into a critical component of our national defense. Guided missile development, and the advance-

ment of the space program as a whole, has meant a great deal to our military’s success and will continue to prove so in the future. This award exemplifies the importance of supporting our defense community and ensuring that our war fighters have a technological advantage in the field.”

Although The Medaris Award is considered a lifetime achievement award, Shelby isn’t resting on his laurels. The military – and particularly Soldiers and Soldier welfare – is a significant focus of Shelby’s work in Congress.

“Throughout my time in the U.S. Senate, I have worked to support our men and women in uniform,” he said. “I remain committed not only to standing proudly beside our military installations, but also to providing them with the support that enables them to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to our national defense. I am proud of my efforts and will continue to work as hard as I can to support our armed forces.”

His job is made easier by the DoD and contractor employees in Huntsville who are key to the military’s technological success.

“The Huntsville defense community is critically important to our state and nation,” Shelby said. “As a strong supporter of this community, I am proud to work with these people for the betterment of our servicemembers.”

Arriving organization brings world of opportunity

Security assistance command beginning its move in June

By **KARI HAWKINS**
 Staff writer
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A senior executive with the Army Security Assistance Command said the organization's move to Redstone Arsenal is an "opportunity to move our organization to the next step."

The Army is now in the planning stages for a \$130 million Army Materiel Command/USASAC complex that will be located off Martin Road. And, although construction isn't set to be complete until 2011, USASAC employees will begin moving from Fort Belvoir, Va., into temporary facilities on Redstone Arsenal in June, said Richard Alpaugh, deputy to the commanding general of USASAC, speaking at a membership meeting of the Tennessee Valley chapters of Women In Defense and the National Defense Industry Association at the Huntsville Marriott on April 23.

"We'll be moving into a great facility," he said of the new complex. "It will be a workplace that will allow us to do our job."

The job of USASAC involves executing the nation's security assistance mission in the transfer of defense articles and services, and military training from the U.S. to foreign countries through the Foreign Military Sales Program. USASAC is an AMC command with 300 employees managing \$10 billion worth of work with foreign countries. About 200 of those employees manage foreign military sales in 140 different countries.

Currently, USASAC has 4,148 cases valued at \$24 billion and annual sales of \$3.6 billion. It is linked to 140 different armies, 47 air forces, 26 navies and 26 other country entities.

"We're part of a bigger DoD operation," Alpaugh said. "We're part of the Security Cooperation Program that involves foreign military sales and much more."

Other activities of USASAC include counternarcotics assistance, regional training centers, emergency services, humanitarian assistance, international military education and de-mining assistance.

"The thing we most do is build relationships," Alpaugh said. "What we do in security cooperation is priceless ... Some of the things we do just because it's the right thing to do to make the world a better place."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SENIOR EXECUTIVE—Richard Alpaugh, deputy to the commanding general of the Army Security Assistance Command, views the command's move to Redstone Arsenal as an opportunity to increase the command's influence and reputation in its work with foreign security assistance programs and foreign military sales. He speaks April 23 at a membership luncheon for the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Women in Defense.

For example, in many countries that have been at war, thousands of mines are left buried and partially buried, only to explode when children play in the fields where they are hidden. USASAC tries to prevent children from being injured or killed by these mines by providing foreign countries with de-mining assistance.

Another example is the more than 2,000 foreign officers who are training in the U.S. at any given time.

"They are learning not only military tactics, but also the American way of life so they can aspire to that way of life," Alpaugh said. "And, so that when they go back to their country, they can share the values they learned here."

In foreign military sales, often the equipment sold is considered excess defense articles no longer needed by the U.S.

Telemetry tower dedicated on Madkin Mountain

You might have noticed the new tower atop Madkin Mountain.

A telemetry tower, a joint effort of the Redstone Technical Test Center, Aviation Technical Test Center and the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works, has been constructed on Madkin Mountain for the joint use of RTTC, Redstone Arsenal and ATTC, Fort Rucker.

The tower and shelters, a project to support current and future aviation and missile testing in and around Redstone Arsenal, provide a platform for specialized telemetry data antennas and a location for

support equipment. The new tower is 100 feet tall with a 22-foot diameter Radome on top which makes it easily visible around Huntsville.

The Radome houses telemetry tracking antennas and is spherical in shape to provide line of sight views to items under test. This new telemetry tracking station will receive and relay data to several ground station sites on Redstone Arsenal for real time and post mission analysis by test engineers. Telemetry data is used to evaluate weapon system performance and to validate system models.

Brig. Gen. Frank Turner III, commander of Developmental Test Command, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony of this new test capability along with ATTC commander Col. Christopher Sullivan and

RTTC director David Byrd. Under base realignment and closure, ATTC and RTTC will merge into the Developmental Test Command's Redstone Test Center. *(Redstone Technical Test Center release)*



Greg Patch/RTTC Photo Instrumentation Group

RIBBON CUTTING— Opening the tower site are, from left, Col. Christopher Sullivan, commander of Aviation Technical Test Center; Brig. Gen. Frank Turner III, commander of Developmental Test Command; and David Byrd, director of Redstone Technical Test Center.

Women's club contributes to community causes

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club has donated and distributed \$28,980 to the Redstone community, private organizations in Huntsville and Madison County, and other national charitable organizations.

More than 32 requests for grants were received this year, according to Demy Robley, chairman of the OCWC Community Assistance Committee. Each application was reviewed by Robley and other members of the committee.

The OCWC board approved the recommended amounts for grants. Money for grants was generated through the volunteer work of members at fund-raising events. The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Committee members include advisers Alice Myles and Kathy Campbell, president Lori Smith, secretary Nanette Gamaldi, treasurer Sue Bender, art auction co-chairmen Lynn Carden and Natalie Taylor, ways and means co-chairmen Desa Micklewright and Laurel Swanson, and members at large Glenda Moeller and Christa Devanney.



Courtesy photo

DONATION— Janet Gabel, left, executive director of Crisis Services Center of North Alabama, receives a check from OCWC community assistance chairman Demy Robley.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Victim advocates

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski, center, presented certificates of appreciation to unit victim advocates April 28. Members of their unit would go to them in order to report a sexual assault. Unit victim advocates provide this service in addition to their regular duties. "Not only do they do what we ask, but they do more," sexual assault response coordinator Colleen Nicholson of Army Community Service said. "They help to promote the program within their unit, within the community." From left are Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Cason, 59th Ordnance Brigade equal opportunity adviser; Nancy Wilson, unit victim advocate at the Program Executive Office for Aviation; Olshefski; and Staff Sgt. Lyquinta Bruno, unit victim advocate at Headquarters & Alpha.

You ought to hear what you're missing

Hearing loss preventable

By **ROBIN WARREN**
Fox Army Health Center

Ten million Americans have already suffered irreversible damage from noise, and 30 million more are exposed to dangerous levels of noise each day, according to medical experts.

People experience sound in their environment on a daily basis. Sounds from television and radio, household appliances, and traffic can be heard just about anywhere. Normally, people hear these sounds at safe levels, but, when they are exposed to harmful noise — sound that is too loud or loud sound that lasts a long time — the hair cells in their inner ear can be damaged, causing noise-induced hearing loss. These hair cells are small sensory cells in the inner ear that convert sound energy into electrical signals which then travel to the brain. Once damaged, hair cells cannot grow back.

Hearing loss due to noise exposure is the following:

- **Progressive** — meaning it occurs over a long period of time;
- **Painless** — by the time hearing loss is noticed, the damage has been done;
- **Permanent** — hearing that is lost cannot be regained.

Unprotected exposure to noise over time may also lead to other health problems such as high blood pressure, and an increased anxiety level.

Safe noises include a whisper, 30 decibels; a refrigerator, 40 decibels; normal conversation, 60 decibels; and a sewing machine, 60 decibels.

Loud noises include a lawn mower, 90 decibels; chain saw or pneumatic drill, 100 decibels; loud rock concert, 115 decibels; and motorcycles, firecrackers and small arms, 120-150 decibels.

Hearing loss due to noise exposure can also occur as a result of a one time very loud, very short duration noise such as weapon discharge. This type of hearing loss is called acoustic trauma. Acoustic trauma may permanently damage the inner, middle and or outer ear instantaneously.

May's observance of Celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month is a good time to analyze your own hearing and determine if you are one of the estimated 28 million Americans who have a hearing loss that can be treated. You may have a hearing loss if you: frequently ask people to repeat themselves; often turn your ear toward a sound to hear it better; understand people better when you wear your glasses or look directly at their faces; lose your place in group conversations; keep the volume on your radio or television at a level that others say is too loud; and have pain or ringing in your ears.

The best way to prevent hearing loss due to noise exposure is to eliminate or reduce the noise level so that it is not hazardous. When noise cannot be eliminated, you should always wear hearing protection. Other ways to prevent hearing loss due to noise exposure is to limit the amount of time around noise, or increase your distance from the source of the noise.

Noise induced hearing loss is 100 percent preventable. To protect your hearing:

- Know which noises can cause damage (those at or above 85 decibels).
- Wear earplugs or other hearing protective devices when involved in a loud activity (special earplugs and earmuffs are available at hardware and sporting goods stores).
- Be alert to hazardous noise in the environment.
- Protect the ears of children who are too young to protect their own.
- Make family, friends and colleagues aware of the hazards of noise.

If you suspect hearing loss, have a medical examination by an otolaryngologist (a physician who specializes in diseases of the ears, nose, throat, head and neck) and a hearing test by an audiologist (a health professional trained to measure and help individuals deal with hearing loss).

Even a very slight hearing loss can have an impact on your daily life. Remember, there is no reason for anyone to miss all the important sounds of life.

Editor's note: Registered nurse Robin Warren is the hearing conservation program manager at Occupational Medicine, Fox Army Health Center.

Catholic community celebrates confirmation

By DAVID MACEDONIA
For the Rocket

Robert Baker, bishop of the Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama, conferred Catholic confirmation to nine candidates from Redstone Catholic community April 21 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

Confirmation instructors Father (Maj.) Rajmund Kopec, Marliese Huell and Betty Bland spent 10 months preparing the candidates, and their parents, for this sacred rite by rigorous weekly classes consisting of reading, practical exercises and tests.

The recipients of confirmation for this year were Christopher Carter, Patricia Jo Gibson, Alexandra Kim, Sarah McNeely, Kelsey Merrigan, Jena Morales, Meagan Rush, Jason Ruzicka and Kaitlan Smith.



Photo by David Macedonia

RECEPTION— Sarah McNeely, among nine confirmation recipients, poses with Bishop Robert Baker after the ceremony at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Huntsville.

General pledges fixes for Fort Bragg barracks

Rogers acknowledges shortfall in old facilities

By GERRY J. GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A senior Army officer responsible for Soldiers' housing pledged remedial action in the wake of news reports citing some Soldiers living on Fort Bragg, N.C., were housed in sub-standard quarters.

"It is my responsibility for maintaining barracks throughout the Army," Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Rogers, deputy director of operations and facilities for U.S. Army Installation Management Command, in Arlington, Va., said April 29 during a roundtable discussion with Pentagon reporters.

"Folks, we let our Soldiers down, and that's not like us," Rogers emphasized to reporters. "That's not how we want America's sons and daughters to live, and there's no good excuse for what happened."

Earlier in April, the father of one of the Fort Bragg-based Soldiers uploaded a video onto an Internet web site that depicted a clogged bathroom drain and profuse peeling paint inside a 1950s-vintage barracks that housed his son and some other 82nd Airborne Division Soldiers who recently redeployed to Fort Bragg after a duty tour in Afghanistan.

However, work orders had already been submitted to correct the barrack's discrepancies that were identified in the

video, Rogers said. Most of the shortfalls, he added, had been corrected before the video's posting.

"The flaking paint condition was, in fact, ugly. ... We have scraped that paint off, and the surfaces are being repainted," Rogers said.

The clogged and flooded drain in the bathroom floor was reported and repaired immediately, he said.

Twenty-three other 1950s-style barracks are in use on Fort Bragg, and all of them are slated for demolition within the next five years as new barracks are constructed, Rogers said. There are no health or safety issues with those older barracks, he added.

There is a process in place at Army posts worldwide in which older barracks in use are maintained until they are torn down, Rogers reported. That process failed at Fort Bragg, he acknowledged.

The older barracks used to house Soldiers "are looking worse and worse, so we're getting the new barracks on line as soon as possible," Rogers said.

Senior Army leaders directed garrison commanders worldwide to walk through and inspect their barracks April 26-27, Rogers said. The feedback is still being examined, and a report may be ready as early as sometime this week.

"We got most of those barracks looked at," Rogers said, noting some rooms were unavailable for inspection until residents had returned from four-day passes.

See Fixes on page 18

■ Organization has close ties with foreign countries

Command

continued from page 14

"When we see something that is used up, it doesn't carry any value for us anymore," Alpaugh said. "But that equipment can be repaired and refurbished, and it can be used by another country to start and build a military force."

But the U.S. doesn't sell its cast-off military equipment just to get rid of it.

"We sell it to promote the strategic interests of the U.S. around the world," said Alpaugh, who was the 2007 recipient of the prestigious Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award for demonstrated strength, integrity, industry and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service.

"We sell it not for a military reason, but for a strategic reason designed to promote regional stability and to secure a favorable balance of power."

In that balance of power, the U.S. wants to "create situations where no country or organization is so overwhelmingly dominant that it can reach out and take control of its neighbor," he said. "That creates an aura of peace and supports mutual goals. The U.S. government is doing this for purely altruistic reasons to make the world a better place."

When done right, foreign military sales and other security assistance programs strengthen the political/military ties between the U.S. and foreign countries, provide countries with military capability and interoperability, and enhance defense industry interests of the U.S. and its foreign customers.

In the past six years, U.S. foreign military sales have more than tripled for several reasons. Because the value of the dollar has decreased, U.S. military equipment is a better financial deal for foreign countries. Also, time has shown that military equipment purchased from the U.S. is far better than equipment bought from the European Union or the former Soviet Union.

"We have the best products, the best technology and the best price," Alpaugh

said. "Our goal is to field the total package to all these customers. We're not just selling a truck or a tank. We're also selling them the spare parts, training and 10 to 20 years of commitment so that the countries can count on the equipment for a useful life."

USASAC works within AMC with the technical assistance of such organizations as AMCOM, Program Executive Office for Aviation, and PEO for Missiles and Space. Law requires USASAC to operate security assistance and foreign military sales at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer (the command is funded by a 3.8 percent surcharge on every foreign military sale).

"The reputation of the U.S. government is really on the line here," Alpaugh said. "There are thousands of millions of dollars at risk. It's important to aggressively manage the program ... We work hard every day to understand what our customer's needs are and what we need to do to meet expectations. By and large we are a very successful program with customers who come back and back and back."

In closing, Alpaugh said he anticipates moving about half of USASAC employees to Redstone Arsenal.

"There will be lots of wonderful opportunities for employment with USASAC," he said.

Speaking directly to the women in his Women In Defense audience, Alpaugh said 54 percent of USASAC's employees are female, compared to 28 percent in AMC, 36 percent in the Department of the Army, 43 percent in the federal government and 47 percent in the general employment population.

"Women are senior desk officers and senior managers at USASAC," he said. "We have ladies in positions all the way along the line. This is one of the most interesting, diverse commands in the Army."

For more information about USASAC, check out the website located at www.usasac.army.mil or contact Alpaugh at rick.alpaugh@us.army.mil.

Veterans Affairs contacting recent combat vets

WASHINGTON — On May 1, the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin contacting nearly 570,000 recent combat veterans to ensure they know about VA's medical services and other benefits. A contractor-operated "Combat Veteran Call Center" will telephone two distinct populations of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In the first phase, calls will go to an estimated 17,000 veterans who were sick or injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. VA will offer to appoint a care manager to work with them if they don't have one already. Care managers ensure veterans receive appropriate care and know about their VA benefits.

For five years after their discharge from the military, these combat veterans

have special access to VA health care. The department screens combat veterans for signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. VA personnel have been deployed to the military's major medical centers to assist wounded servicemembers and their families during the transition to civilian lives.

For the new call center, the second phase will target 550,000 Operation Iraqi Freedom-Operation Enduring Freedom veterans who have been discharged from active duty but have not contacted VA for services. Once contacted, veterans will be informed about VA's benefits and services.

The initial calls will be made by a private contractor, EDS, which specializes in technology. (VA release)

Vessel safety check means boating smart

Community event
 Saturday on post

By WAYNE SPIVAK and ROBERT DARAIO
 U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

It is a fact that safe boats do save lives. For recreational boaters, operating any size or type of boat, safety should be an all-important part of the boating experience.

In addition to wearing lifejackets and completing a boating safety course, getting an annual vessel safety check of your boat is an ideal way to boat smart from the start. MWR Outdoor Recreation has partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 082-24-06 to provide this service to the entire Redstone community Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation on Sportsman Drive.

What is a vessel safety check? It is a free courtesy check of your boat (vessel) to verify the presence and condition of specific safety equipment required by federal, state and local regulations. A vessel examiner is a certified member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the U.S. Power Squadrons who is trained to conduct a VSC. He or she will perform the check on your boat, discuss the purpose and value of required and optional marine safety

equipment, answer any boating related safety questions, and make recommendations that will help make you a safer boater. In addition to boating safety education, some important new Homeland Security rules for boaters are discussed. In addition to the information at this event there will be free food and drinks as well as a special appearance from Coast Guard Auxiliary Safety Panda.

"A VSC is a public service intended to serve as prevention through education. It is also intended to help recreational boaters gain a respect for the boating environment," Peter Urgola, department chief of vessel examination for the Auxiliary, said. "What the boater will receive is a copy of the safety check and basic evaluation so that the boater can learn about safety equipment, safety precautions, and follow some of the suggestions for a safe outing."

It is important to note that a check usually takes about 20-30 minutes to perform, is totally voluntary, is not a boarding or a law enforcement action, and there are no citations ever given as a result. Boats that "pass" a check will receive a distinctive VSC decal, which is displayed on your boat.

"The decal does not exempt the boater from a law enforcement boarding, but it does indicate that the boat has received a vessel safety check and will better prepare

the operator for a more positive encounter should he or she get boarded by a law enforcement officer," Urgola said.

Obtaining a check has some great benefits. Urgola said passing a VSC will qualify the boat for a discount from some participating marine insurance companies. Additionally, if your boat does not pass the check, you can receive discounts on missing or replacement boating safety equipment items. Simply take a copy of the check report to the nearest participating retailer, purchase those items, and return to get another VSC completed.

A check can be a valuable learning experience for the boater while providing some extra safety tips. For example, putting plastic covers on boat battery terminals, carrying a VHF marine radio, filing a float plan, de-watering devices, anchor and lines, and carrying a toolkit and first aid kit are just a few. Before venturing out on the water each time, it is always a good idea to discuss safety and safe operation procedures with your passengers. Fit each passenger with their lifejackets making sure they are fit and snug. Then, locate and discuss the operation of various safety items such as fire extinguishers, VHF radio, flashlights, first aid kits, and life lines.

How do you obtain and schedule a local vessel safety check in your area? From Saturday through July 9, the U.S.

Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons will be promoting the annual Vessel Safety Check Mega Weeks, where vessel examiners will set up VSC stations in your area. To contact a vessel examiner directly, go to www.vesselsafetycheck.org and click the "I Want a VSC" button. You will also find a wealth of boating safety information and more information about VSCs located there.

You can obtain additional information about the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, boating safety education, and vessel safety checks, and can locate a flotilla unit nearest you, by visiting www.cgaux.org and going to the "visitors" section.

Wearing lifejackets, taking a boating safety course, boating sober, and getting an annual vessel safety check are important points that will make you a safer boater and a more confident skipper. More importantly, these behaviors and routine practices will help save lives.

For more information about boating safety from the Coast Guard and federal boating requirements, visit www.uscg-boating.org. For more info about this local event, call Outdoor Recreation at 876-6854.

■ Remedial action promised at Fort Bragg barracks

Fixes

continued from page 17

Meanwhile, Army garrison commanders and command sergeants major have made an assessment that Soldiers are housed in accordance with Army standards, Rogers said. On-the-spot corrections have been made to bring unsatisfactory barracks living conditions into compliance with Army standards, he noted.

Installation Management Command's top enlisted person, Command Sgt. Major Debra L. Strickland, accompanied Rogers at the roundtable. Strickland will chair a noncommissioned officer forum that will provide an NCO perspective on Army barracks issues.

Taking care of Soldiers, including ensuring their living quarters meet Army standards, is an NCO's primary task, Strickland told reporters.

"The noncommissioned corps has the basic responsibility for the welfare of our Soldiers," Strickland pointed out.

More than 10,800 of Fort Bragg's 51,000 Soldiers live in barracks or post family housing units, according to installation officials.

Don't expect claims after spouse assaults your car

Negligent behavior just doesn't pay

By **ERIKA McPHERSON**
For the Rocket

The Personnel Claims Act, as implemented by AR 27-20, chapter 11, authorizes the payment of Soldiers' and civilian employees' claims for the fair market value of personal property lost, damaged or destroyed incident to service. However, a claimant may not be paid for any loss or damage, in whole or in part, that is the direct, proximate result of negligence by the claimant, a member of the claimant's household, or a houseguest.

Negligence is the failure to exercise the degree or care expected under the circumstances. What degree of care is expected will vary with the circumstances. In general, if the claimant does

something a reasonable or prudent person would not have done, the claimant is deemed negligent. However, if a claimant does something that normally would be considered negligent but does so because it is the best option available, the claimant most likely has done what a reasonable and prudent person would have done under the circumstances.

For example, a Soldier moving from one set of quarters to another packs belongings in the passenger compartment and trunk of the family's vehicle. While the Soldier is taking a last look around the old quarters to check for items left behind, a thief breaks into the locked vehicle and steals four suitcases full of clothing from the passenger compartment. Although the automobile passenger compartment is not normally considered a proper place to store personal property, this claimant had no better place to keep the property under the cir-

cumstances and has done all that a reasonable and prudent person would do. Note that the claimant would still be expected to keep the most valuable possessions in the trunk of the vehicle.

Losses resulting from the negligent or wrongful conduct of spouses, children over age 7, and adult family members and houseguests are not compensable. For example, the day after signing a separation agreement, a Soldier's spouse takes a sledgehammer to the Soldier's car while it is properly parked in front of the Soldier's barracks. The loss is the result of the spouse's wrongful act and is not compensable.

Children under age 7 are deemed to be incapable of negligence, and a lesser degree of care is expected between the ages of 7 and 14 than is expected of adults. However, parents and persons to whom young children are entrusted are expected to supervise such children properly. For example, the

claimant's 3-year-old son finds a cigarette lighter on a low nightstand and sets the claimant's government quarters on fire while the claimant's spouse is asleep upstairs and the claimant is on duty. The son is incapable of negligence. However, the claimant's spouse's failure to put the lighter out of reach and to supervise the child is negligence, which is the proximate cause of the loss. In this case, a claim for the damage to the quarters would not be compensable.

The PCA is not insurance. It is a gratuitous payment statute designed by Congress to lessen the hardships of military life by providing prompt and fair recompense for certain types of property losses. Claimants should use proper care to ensure their claims are not barred from payment due to negligence. For more information about the PCA or other claims topics, call the Redstone Arsenal Claims Office at 876-9006.

■ Hope lives on within waiting wife

Feelings

continued from page 2

"I'm the one you see in the back of the church, a tear running down my face as the congregation prays for our country and our troops. He's one of them.

"I'm the one you beep at for sitting at a green light. I was looking at the flag blowing in the breeze at the corner gas station and thinking of all it means to me, to him, and to our life together.

"I'm the one with a trunk full of flat rate boxes and customs forms, I know my local postal workers by name. The package I send him makes him seem close to me.

"I'm the one that has silly superstitions like wearing the same necklace throughout the deployment because he gave it to me and I will not take it off or change it. I'll wear it every day until he

comes back home.

"I'm the one you walk past as I completely fall apart and lose it because I left my cell phone at home. You might think 'it's just a phone,' but it's the life line of my marriage and it was his day to call.

"I'm the one you have labeled as quiet or reserved, the one who is never really part of anything, you don't know I wear the faraway look because my heart boarded the plane with his.

"I'm the one that hears 'tell him I say thanks, that I'm praying for him' at least once a day, and I always tell him for you, but I can't help but think, who prays for me as I continue to do my best to serve him.

"I'm the one that nods right along as you say that you understand or that it's better now with the Internet. I know that it is, but what you don't know is that nothing will ever replace the joy of receiving a letter or that the webcams and instant messenger just remind me of all the million little things about him that I love and miss.

"I'm the one that is so used to saying I'm fine, to being numb, to missing him, that I can't remember any other way to be. I wonder at times if the 'fine' he tells me is the same 'fine' that I seem to be these days.

"I'm the one that hates Friday and Saturday nights because if he was home we would have the option to go do something... whether it was a movie or dinner or even just stay home and have family night and watch a good movie with the kids.

"I'm the one that eats out more often because it's just not the same to cook for me and the kids.... He enjoyed home cooked meals.... And I enjoyed how much we enjoyed dinner and sitting at the table all together.

"I'm the one that is as strong and patriotic as the hero I married, not because I stand on the frontlines but because I stay behind stoking the homefires for months on end with a quiet resolve not unlike the one that personifies him.

"I'm the one that tells an ACU teddy bear or the moon good night, that I love you, because it makes me feel less lonely and because I hope he somehow hears or feels it.

"I'm the one that turns the porch light on at sunset to light his way back home, to me, to our life together, to the love and the good times we once shared.

"I'm the one that will see a white bus full of Soldiers or empty and start to cry... because it's that same bus that took him away from me and I wish he was on there to come home to me.

"I'm the wife of an American Soldier; I'm the hope that lives within him after storm clouded days. The freedom from war that gives wings to his heart, may they reach across the miles and bind our hearts together against all that we must face in this world."

Susan K. Edmunds
Proud mother/mother-in-law
and retired staff sergeant

National Guard blasts 326th Chemical Company

13-run fourth inning caps 25-7 victory

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

With a guy named Roger Clemons – no, not that one – making his pitching debut, the National Guard wasn't about to lose on this night.

The National Guard softball team improved to 4-0 by beating the 326th Chemical Company 25-7 on April 29 at Linton Field. Clemons pitched all four innings in his first game for the defending champion Guard.

Clemons' arrival enabled player/coach Rodney Henshaw to move from the mound to his regular position of shortstop and shore up the team's defense.

"We actually played better defense, started to get back to where we were last year," Henshaw said.

Henshaw provided most of the offense in this win. He had two home runs, including a two-run shot, a triple, a three-run double and six RBIs.

The Guard scored three runs in the first inning, two in the second, seven in the third and 13 in the fourth. "We just started off slow and ended up coming back, hitting the softball," Henshaw said.

Third baseman Marty Jones enjoyed the romp with his teammates, but said the team's defense could improve.

"The way it looks now we're playing almost as good as our competition," Jones said. "We've put ourselves in positions where we've had to come back and win games. We haven't played good defensively. That's what I mean by playing almost as good as our competition. As far as hitting the ball, I mean we're going to score runs."

Carlos Richardson, 326th player/coach along with Greg Miller, was on the mound



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PRODUCTIVE NIGHT— National Guard player/coach Rodney Henshaw homers in the top of the third inning against 326th Chemical. He finished with two home runs, including a two-run shot, a triple, a three-run double and six RBIs in the 25-7 win.

as the Dragons fell to 1-2.

"We were a little tight," said Miller, the second baseman. "We hadn't played in over a week. Nobody was making easy plays, and it just led to one run after another."

Standings entering this week had National Guard (5-0), Bravo (4-1), Marines (3-2), Charlie (3-3), 326th Chemical (2-3), Headquarters & Alpha (1-4) and NCO Academy (0-5).

Here are the results from week three:

- **April 29** – Bravo def. Marines 15-11; Charlie def. Headquarters & Alpha 22-2; and National Guard def. 326th Chemical 25-7.

- **April 30** – Marines def. NCO Academy 22-6; and Marines won by forfeit over 326th Chemical.

- **May 1** – Bravo def. Charlie 12-7; National Guard def. Marines 23-8; and 326th Chemical def. NCO Academy 17-10.

Tournament catches on with local anglers

Eighty-eight bass top 160 pounds

The team of Chuck Hemm and Rusty Strickland won the Tennessee Valley Chapter of Army Aviation Association of America's spring 2008 bass tournament April 26 at Riverwalk Marina in Decatur.

They caught five bass weighing 17.05 pounds. Second place went to Michael Garlen and Morris Sheehan with 16.20 pounds. Otis Armstrong and John Lohr finished third with 11.15 pounds.

Big fish honors went to Matthew Brunaugh for his 6.2 pound bass. The total tournament catch was 88 bass for more than 164 pounds.

The tournament drew 29 boats and 55 anglers for a day of fishing on Wheeler Lake, including a few light showers.

Bob Vlasic was honored for his continuing 17 years of leadership when this semiannual bass tournament was renamed the Bob Vlasic's Classic.

Sponsors included Aerodyne, Alabama Watersports, Anderson Boats, Avion, Belzon, Boeing, Camber, Choo Choo Lures, Covenant Homes, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dynamic Research Corp., Dynetics, Fabri Tech, Gander Mountain, Gold Key Real Estate, SAIC, Sigma-Tech, Southwest Research Institute, VT Aepco, Westar, and Yulista. A social followed the distribution of prizes with refreshments complements of Russell Associates and AAAA.



Photo by Tom Bequette

PRIZE WINNERS— From left are Tom Geoffroy, Bob Vlasic, Chuck Hemm, Rusty Strickland and Chuck Ogle during the award ceremony for the spring 2008 bass tournament.

Rocket Announcements



Sports & Recreation

MWR 5K run

The MWR 5K run, sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation's Sports and Fitness, is Thursday at "Tin City," near the Quonset huts off Patton Road. It's open to the Redstone community. Registration starts at 2:30 p.m. and the race at 3. Cost is \$10, which includes a T-shirt. For more information, call 842-2574 or 313-6096.

Young cyclists

May is National Bike Month. The second annual May Bike Month Kids Race is 5 p.m. May 12 at Westpark – just west of Target, Highway 72 west. Registration is free and open to all cyclists under age 13. To get to Westpark, turn south into the office park from Highway 72 West or from the west end of the Target parking lot on McMurtne Drive. For more information, call Jamie Miernik 536-7190.

Motorcycle run

Elks Lodge 1648, at 725 Franklin St., invites everyone to the Fallen Officers' Memorial Motorcycle Run on Saturday (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.

Toys for Tots 5K

The Toys for Tots 5K fun run/walk is 9 a.m. June 7 at the Edgewater Community, 111 Edgewater Drive, in Madison. T-shirts go to the first 200 registrants. Cost is \$10. For information call Sgt. Daniel Shipps 213-9683, ext. 111 or e-mail shipps-df@mfr.usmc.mil.

Firefighters classic

The sixth annual Huntsville Firefighters Golf Classic is June 14 at Colonial Golf Course. Cost for this four-man scramble is \$60 per player. Proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. For more

information, call Glenn Benson 828-7842 or Larry Ayers 651-6312.

Roller derby show

Dixie Derby Girls will present a free night of fun and skating for the Redstone community Friday at 6:30 at the Youth Center. "Come see Huntsville's local roller derby girls face off for the sole enjoyment of the military community," a prepared release said.



Conferences & Meetings

Bible studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invites you to study God's word each Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. at building 3466 on Snooper Road. This is the temporary location because of Bicentennial Chapel's major renovation. Free childwatch is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call Erica Hobbs 325-3152 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

Sergeants major

The Sergeant's Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Members are offered breakfast for \$6 plus tip. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For more information, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain 842-6778.

Federal employees

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Refreshments and

social begin at 9:30 a.m. and the business meeting at 10 with program to follow. The program will be a forum for all 5th Congressional District candidates who qualify for the seat being vacated by Rep. Bud Cramer.

Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. southeast. Dr. George Rable, professor of Southern history at the University of Alabama, is to speak on "Fredericksburg: The Battlefield and Beyond." Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. Call 858-6191 for more information.

Veterans group

VFW Post 5162 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion building on Triana between Bob Wallace Avenue and Governors Drive. For more information, call Robert Davenport 679-3180.

Logistics workshop

The International Society of Logistics, in collaboration with the Logistics Support Activity, presents the 2008 Life Cycle Logistics Tools Workshop and Users Group Meeting on June 3-4 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Huntsville Airport. This seminar is to provide logistics professionals with the latest information on life cycle logistics decision support tools, as well as emerging concepts, policies and lessons learned. The symposium registration fee is \$79 payable by credit card, check or DD Form 1556. For a registration form, visit http://www.hats.org/sole/2008_SOLE_Seminar_RegistrationForm_11Apr08.doc.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer Group will meet Saturday at 9:15 a.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. The Windows/Internet Special Interest Group will start at 9:15 with a discussion on a topic of general interest. At 10:45 there will be a short business meeting followed by a presentation by Kevin Wangbickler on predictions made 15 years ago about the use of computers and the Internet by teachers for improving education. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 534-4324.

Reserve unit openings

The 2008 Women of Grace Conference is May 16-17 at Grace and Truth World Outreach Church, 7762 Wall Triana Highway in Harvest. Times are May 16 at 7 p.m. and May 17 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call evangelist Latisha Ragland 655-5800.



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

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.

Reserve unit

If you have several years invested in your military career, you do not want conflicts between Reserve duty and civilian life to keep you from earning 20 qualifying years. The 184th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment affords you the opportunity to drill for retirement points on Tuesday evenings. You still earn pay for and retirement points for IMA or IRR annual training and other tours, as well as your 15 automatic retirement points for being in the active Reserve. The unit meets at 5:30 p.m. most Tuesdays on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. King jwk108@yahoo.com or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

Thrift shop

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



Courtesy photo

School badge

Capt. Ivo Stoev from Bulgaria receives his Army School Badge after completing the Acquisition Basic Course at the Army Logistics Management College. Course director Maj. Christine Hackett makes the presentation.

Commissary sale

The Redstone Arsenal Commissary Case Lot Sale is scheduled May 14-17. "We will also be sponsoring an 'On-Site' Case Sale April 24-26 in Birmingham Air National Guard Base, 5700 East Lake Blvd., Birmingham," a prepared release said.

Flying activity

The Redstone MWR Flying Activity will hold its biannual open house Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in building 4828, near Redstone Airfield. Free food and drinks will be provided. Mini flying lessons are \$25 for children and \$30 for adults. This event is open to the entire Redstone community. For more information, call the flying activity 880-9495.

40th reunion

S.R. Butler High School Class of 1968 is planning its 40-year reunion for May 24. For more information, call John Miller 536-9986.

Best 1st sergeants

Nominations are being accepted for the third annual 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Award. The award, presented by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, recognizes Army active duty, Reserve and National Guard nominees from the North Alabama area. Anyone can nominate a first sergeant for this award by contacting David Carney at david.r.carney@us.army.mil or david.r.carney@lmco.com or 652-2460. Winners will

be selected based on the care they provide their Soldiers and the families of Soldiers, and will be announced at AUSA's annual Army birthday dinner. Nominations must be submitted by May 15.

Volunteer sponsors

The Garrison's Directorate of Human Resources is soliciting volunteers to serve as sponsors for military and civilian employees relocating to Redstone Arsenal. Sponsors will ensure a smooth and uneventful transition for individuals realigned to Redstone as a result of a permanent change of station move or civil service job change. To become a sponsor, call Theresa Falcetano 313-2205 or Ronnie McDaniel 842-2418.

Quarterly retirements

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is June 19 at 4 p.m. at Heiser Hall. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are required to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. To make arrangements for participation call Sgt. 1st Class Steven Walker 876-7969 or Sgt. Stephanie Maxwell 842-2625 by May 29. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled Sept. 25.

Skin cancer class

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month. Learn the latest information about skin cancer at noon May 15 in the Wellness Center Classroom at Fox Army Health Center. The class is open to all active/retired military, their family members and Defense/Army civilians. Class size is limited to 24. To sign up call 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Health center holiday

Fox Army Health Center will be closed May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. On May 27, the Primary Care Clinic will be open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. All other clinics and services will be closed the entire day for a training holiday. The Health Center is closed on Saturday, Sunday, Thursday afternoons and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox does not have an emergency room or emergency medical services. In an emergency, dial 911.

Family weekend

"Family First Weekend" is May 17-18 at Southeast Church of the Nazarene, 2275 Cecil Ashburn Drive in Huntsville. The

Rockstar Announcements

program features Jeremy Johnson, a singer-songwriter-speaker. For more information, call 881-3399.

Job resume workshop

A workshop on resume writing is Thursday from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Seating is limited and military spouses have first priority. For more information, call Debra Jefferson 876-5397.

Employment opportunity

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, is hiring border patrol agents to protect this nation's borders against terrorism and illegal immigration. Border patrol agents have the initial earning potential of \$36,658 to \$46,542, within the first year of employment, depending on the candidate's education and experience. Benefits include overtime pay, accelerated promotion plans, health and life insurance, federal law enforcement retirement plan and others. In addition, border patrol agents are eligible to earn above \$70,000 a year after successful completion of a two-year trial period under the Federal Career Intern Program. CBP will accept applications May 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Please preregister at 876-5397.

Senior service graduation

The Senior Service College Fellowship, at the Defense Acquisition University, South Region, announces the graduation of its 2008 class May 20 at 2 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony is Claude Bolton. Introduction of the keynote speaker will be provided by Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles. The Redstone community is invited.

Teacher appreciation

The CYS Parent Advisory Council is sponsoring Teacher Appreciation Week May 5-9. "Several special events have been scheduled; donations and volunteers are needed," a prepared release said. "We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the caregivers and staff for your dedication and hard work. This year we are especially grateful for your extra effort and energy put forward during the accreditation process."

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Rocket Announcements

Young Marines

Young Marines of North Alabama will have boot camp Saturday at the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, 3506 South Memorial Parkway. The training will be held on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. Recruits will complete an intensive course of training in citizenship, drug abuse prevention, close-order drill and physical fitness. The program is open to boys and girls ages 8-17. For more information, call James Newell 682-4835, e-mail bwmarine820@aol.com or visit www.orgsites.com/al/ymarines/.

Engineering camps

The University of Alabama-Huntsville will offer two Engineering camps during the summer. The weeklong day camp is designed for high school students interested in learning more about the opportunities in the engineering profession. The camp incorporates active participation in a broad scope of learning experiences including "hands-on" lab experiments, group projects and lectures by engineering college faculty. The 2008 camps are June 9-13 and July 14-18 on the UAH campus. Each day, the camp runs from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Enrollment is limited to 20 students per session. The fees for each session (one week) of the camp are \$350. Fees include all activities, lunch, instruction and supervision, and materials that

will be provided when the student arrives at the camp. A limited number of partial and whole need-based scholarships will be available for the summer camp. For more information, call Robin Douglass 824-3590.

Korean War veterans

The third annual Korean War Veterans luncheon is June 23 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hyun's Korean Garden Restaurant, on South Memorial Parkway. The guest speaker is AMCOM chief of staff Col. Tom Newman. If you are a Korean War veteran, you and your guest will be the honored at this event. To RSVP your seat, call Hyun's Korean Garden Restaurant 489-8888.

Terrorist simulation

Redstone Arsenal employees should prepare for an Anti-Terrorist Weapons of Mass Destruction Exercise today and Thursday that will test responses among the Arsenal's emergency personnel as well as its organizations and tenants. The training exercises will simulate real-life aspects of a terrorist attack at Garrison headquarters, building 4488, on Martin Road near the intersection with Rideout Road. Today's activities will involve procedural plans and responses leading up to the actual simulated event on Thursday. The exercise will restrict some traffic flow and



Photo by Skip Vaughn

End of era

Soldiers could wear the Battle Dress Uniform for the final time April 30. This woodland camouflage utility uniform made its debut in 1981 and was phased out by the Army last week after 27 years. Members of the AMCOM G-3 (Current Operations Directorate) wearing BDUs on the last day are, from left, Lt. Col. Eric Kaempfer, Maj. Marty Eaton, Col. Walt Lorcheim and Lt. Col. Victor Cordier.

could cause some traffic to be rerouted in the area of the Garrison building. Besides the Arsenal's police and fire departments, the exercise will also include the Directorate of Emergency Services; Garrison Safety; Fox Army Health Center; Public and Governmental Affairs; Criminal Investigation Division; Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; Directorate of Human Resources; Directorate of Information Management; Directorate of Public Works; Resource Management; Directorate of Logistics; Morale Welfare and Recreation; Plans, Analysis and Integration; Environmental; Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; AMCOM Legal; Warfighters Protection Laboratory and Equal Employment Opportunity Office. The Huntsville Police Department, HEMSI and American Red Cross will also participate.

Fox pharmacy news

Fox Army Health Center Pharmacy now carries Lipitor tabs, all strengths, Coreg generic, all strengths, and Coreg CR, all strengths on its formulary. See complete Pharmacy Formulary listing online at www.redstone.army.mil.

Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: May 8 from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center and at SMDC

building 5220. May 16 from 7-noon at the Corps of Engineers and 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316. May 23 from 7-noon at building 5400 and 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency, 106 Wynn Drive.

Charlie Brown musical

The cartoon characters of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" will come to life on stage when Columbia High School's theater and choral departments bring this musical to the stage Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Columbia campus, 300 Explorer Boulevard. Based on Charles Schulz's Charlie Brown comic strips, the show brings old favorites Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Sally, Linus and Schroeder to the stage. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and \$5 for preschool children. They can be purchased at the door, or call 428-7576 to reserve tickets.

Weather radios

The WAFF 48 Storm Team will come to Redstone Arsenal on May 28 to program weather radios. The event will be from 3-7 p.m. at the Post Exchange. Stop by and get your weather radio programmed and meet the WAFF 48 Storm Team. Weather radios will be available for purchase.



