

# Redstone Rocket

VOL. 57 No. 25

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

June 25, 2008

## Around town



Celebrating Old Glory

Page 4

## Post profile



Cuban refugee realizes dream

Page 12

## Over there

Surgery in Boston awaits Iraqi baby

Page 14



## Just for kids

Science fair region awards

Page 18



## Win or lose



Tiger shows troop support

Page 20

# 'Thanks for taking care of Soldiers'

Commanding general honors AER campaign contributors

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

The 2008 Army Emergency Relief numbers speak for themselves.

This year's fund-raising campaign raised \$292,120.03 to eclipse a \$225,000 goal, surprising AER officer Kristi Foster.

"This is my seventh year to do this and every year you surprise me," Foster told the campaign participants assembled for the AER award ceremony June 17 at Heiser Hall. "It was absolutely amazing. And I'm still just overwhelmed by your efforts, your generosity, your work. Thank you very much."

Garrison commander Col. John Olshefski reminded the audience of the purpose of Army Emergency Relief. "Remember it takes care of Soldiers," he said.

He introduced Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal.

"This community has done a powerful thing here," Myles said.

Myles thanked the participants for their work and set the tone for next year's campaign.

"We are not going to stop at 292 next year," he said. "I tell you right now the minimum goal is going to be about 300.

"This is like Sunday night after we just beat the New England Patriots 42-0. We've got the (Dallas) Cowboys next week.

"All of you, thank you for taking care of our Soldiers and their families by making available to our work force (the opportunities) so they can contribute."

Campaign chairman Capt. Rob Dewberry and co-chairman Master Sgt. Odri Hastings served in these roles with Foster for the second consecutive year.

"This is the second year we had the same team," Dewberry said. "Having the same team and having the leadership we were fortunate to have, it just doesn't get any better."

Dewberry gave a special thanks to Horace Wilson, of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, who served as narrator for the award program. The certificates were presented by Myles and Olshefski.

Army Emergency Relief gives no-interest loans, and in some cases grants, to active duty and retired military and their qualifying family members in times of emergency needs. Recipients can also include National



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**YOU DESERVE A HAND**— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles leads applause during the Army Emergency Relief award ceremony June 17 at Heiser Hall.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**BIG CHECK**— Army Emergency Relief participants pose with a check for the final amount raised by this year's campaign, \$292,120.03.

Guard and Reservists who are called to active duty under Title 10 of the U.S. Code. Examples of emergency expenses include unexpected travel, car repair, mortgage

assistance and utility bills.

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

# An open lane random survey

What do you like to do for fun?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com



Pvt. Anthony Bethel  
Bravo Company  
"Anything athletically related. Anything that's got to do with sports – football, basketball."

Pvt. Kareem Jones

Bravo Company

"Being with my family — my mother, my brother and my sister in Charlotte, N.C."



Jeanne Welt  
teacher at Liberty Middle School in Madison  
"I love knitting, and I love decorating and reading."

Jim Brown

retired sergeant first class in Huntsville

"Vegetable garden. I grew up on a farm (in southeast Missouri). And it's very relaxing. I do electronics, too. When I first moved to Huntsville I was an electronics engineering aide with Chrysler, worked on the Saturn (launch) vehicle in June 1960."



## Quote of the week

'Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation.'

— Oscar Wilde

## Letter to the Editor

### Marine Corps boot camp 1968

The Marine Corps of 1968 did not have stress cards and no one ever graduated from boot camp fat. The corps of that era also recruited from a different personnel pool. The draft was going and a war was in progress. The USMC competed with other services to fight a war. While I suspect that the Army made some effort to have the understanding of their troops, the Marine Corps made none. Educational requirements, criminal records and physical conditions were different as was the approach to training. They had to turn out motivated, trained troops from different backgrounds in the shortest time possible.

Recruits in USMC Boot Camp were "encouraged" to do their very best, under the worst conditions, and not to expect a reward. As a matter of fact, they might get punishment for doing something right. R. Lee Ermy, on "Mail Call" on television, is a medically retired USMC staff sergeant. He was a D.I. (drill instructor). Upon retirement, he joined some organization that gave the honorary rank of gunnery sergeant. He once remarked that as a D.I. he always gave his recruits little "reminders" in training. From what I can gather, these "reminders" certainly had not changed since World War II as is documented in Manchester's "Goodbye, Darkness."

The USMC of 1968 was a good deal as I envision the French Foreign Legion must have been. The officers and NCOs were professional and dedicated to their jobs. Of course there were a few bad eggs, but overwhelmingly they were good. Each NCO had previously had the same training we had. The very first

See Marines on page 9

## Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to skip.vaughn@htimes.com or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.



## Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

**June 13:** An Arsenal employee reported that her purse was stolen from her workplace. Investigation continues by Directorate of Emergency Service investigators.

**June 15:** A taxi driver approached Gate 10 and requested a visitor pass. It was revealed that the subject's driver's license was canceled. The subject was issued a violation notice and released.

**June 15:** Someone stole a recreational vehicle cover from the recreational vehicle storage lot. Investiga-

tion continues by DES investigators.

**June 17:** A motorist was stopped for speeding on Skinner Drive when police detected the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. A search of the inside of the vehicle revealed a small amount of marijuana. The subject was issued two violation notices and released.

**June 18:** Someone damaged a laptop computer valued at \$1,300 while in a government building. Investigation continues by DES investigators.

**Traffic accidents reported:** four without injury, one with injury.

**Violation notices issued:** 29 speeding, 1 canceled driver's license, 1 no driver's license, 1 expired tags.



# Redstone Rocket

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

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

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

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

email: skip.vaughn@htimes.com  
Rocket articles are available online at the following:  
<http://publicaffairs.redstone.army.mil>

### Rocket Staff

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Kari Hawkins

Kelley Lane-Sivley

Copy Editor/Layout: Scott Seeley

Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith

Lacy Pruitt

The *Redstone Rocket* is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by *The Huntsville Times* a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for The *Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source.

## Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@htimes.com

**Name:** Dalpne Franklin-Akpan

**Job:** Legal assistant, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

**Where do you call home?**  
Huntsville

**What do you like about your job?**

My job duties are interesting, also very challenging and I really like my co-workers.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
Cooking, bowling and reading, etc.

**What are your goals?**

My life goals are learning all that comes my way and keeping on the paved pathway of encouraging my daughter, Denisha (age 14), and others.

**What's your favorite type of music?**

My favorite is gospel jazz – easy medleys.



# Army reports four deaths from mishaps

FORT RUCKER — The Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center provided the following list of accidents Armywide during May 23-29:

- A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle accident May 23 at approximately 6 a.m. in Columbus, Ohio. He was operating his 2001 Ducati 748R motorcycle when he collided with a minivan that pulled out in front of him. He was wearing a helmet and had attended an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course.

- A Soldier drowned in a swimming accident May 24 at approximately 2:30 p.m. in Panama City Beach, Fla. The Soldier observed two minors on a flotation device caught in a rip tide and entered the water to help them. The beach's warning flags were double red.

- A Soldier was killed in a motorcycle

accident May 26 at approximately 6 p.m. in Washington, D.C. The Soldier was operating a borrowed 2002 Yamaha 600cc and lost control of the motorcycle, veered off into the wooded area and went down a steep embankment. The Soldier was licensed, wearing the required personal protective equipment and had attended an Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. The Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center is investigating this accident.

- A Soldier died on May 29 from injuries sustained in an all-terrain vehicle accident that occurred May 25 at approximately 7 p.m. in Wenden, Ariz. He and a fellow Soldier were operating ATVs along trails at a local state park when he reportedly fell from his ATV. He was not wearing a helmet. Alcohol is reported as a contributing factor.

# WestWind wins helicopter contract

WestWind Technologies has been awarded a more than \$37 million contract to build additional CH-47 Transportable Flight Proficiency Simulators for Redstone Arsenal's Cargo Helicopter Project Management Office, which is responsible for the Army's CH-47 fleet worldwide. The program will include production of five build-to-print units and associated spares.

In January, WestWind Technologies deliv-

ered its first two CH-47F Transportable Flight Proficiency Simulator units ahead of schedule and marked the first time CH-47 simulators have been built in Huntsville. Four prototype units were produced at Patuxent River, Md., by Manned Flight Systems, and WestWind began full-rate production in the fall of 2007. This new contract will continue that production program for the five new simulators.

# Calendar photo contest under way

## Welcome home pictures sought by newspaper

*Stars and Stripes*, the independent daily newspaper of the U.S. military, has launched a calendar photo promotion named "Welcome Home 2009 Calendar Promotion."

This campaign, which runs through a gallery set on *Stars and Stripes'* community photo site, invites its readers to upload their images of service-members coming home from deployment. Participants have until July 16 to upload their photos.

Twelve photos from among the top-rated images will be selected by *Stars and Stripes* for inclusion in the limited edition Welcome Home 2009 Calendar. One image will be awarded the Grand Prize of an American Express gift card worth \$300 and 10 copies of the calendar. Eleven runners-up will also be selected. They will each receive 10 calendars showcasing their photos.

The "Welcome Home 2009 Calendar Promotion" is conducted online only. Visit the web site at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com) and click on the "Wanted Your Photo" button on the top right. (*Stars and Stripes* release)

# Retirement questions answered

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

**Question:** I am retiring at age 58 and opting to take a monthly payment from my Thrift Savings Plan account. I know I can change the amount in the future, but can I reduce the monthly withdrawal amount to a lower monthly amount in the future?

**Answer:** At the end of each year, you can contact the TSP to change

the dollar amount you are receiving. This can be a decrease of the dollar amount you had previously chosen. The number to call is 877-968-3778, or you can visit the web site at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

**Question:** Is it possible to garnish a federal annuity?

**Answer:** Federal retirement benefits cannot generally be garnished. However, amounts due based on a court order concerning divorce or child support can be enforced. Federal agencies also can make claims against federal retirement benefits.

# Honoring Old Glory in veterans park

Flag Day celebrates banner's 231st year

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

Old Glory flew high and proud on June 14 as Huntsville's veterans groups celebrated the 231st birthday of the U.S. flag with patriotic music, exhibits and speeches at Veterans Memorial Park.

It was an historic event in a park that will undergo a drastic change during the next year as the new \$4 million veterans memorial is built on its grounds. For that reason, said retired Sgt. David Carney, president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, the downtown Huntsville park became a special location for several veterans groups and the community to celebrate Flag Day 2008.

"Together, we have created a significant collective memory," he said.

Making that memory were such groups as the Huntsville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Alabama Marine Moms, Veterans Museum, the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, Air Force Historical Society, Patriot Guard Riders, the 19th Alabama Re-Enactors and Military Order of World Wars. They were joined by members of the Alabama National Guards 151st Band, local Boy



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**UNVEILING OLD GLORY—** Members of local veterans groups unfurl a 15-by-25-foot flag at the Flag Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park on June 14. The giant flag became the centerpiece for a historical photograph that involved encircling the entire flag with members of veterans groups and attendees of the Flag Day ceremony. During the next year, the park should be under construction as the new \$4 million veterans memorial is built on its grounds.

Scout Troop 400, Air Defense Artillery Association, Sergeants Major Association, Warrant Officers Association, Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer and event attendees in posing around a 15-by-25-foot U.S. flag for a photograph that is now part of the park's history.

But that larger-than-life flag wasn't the only U.S. flag flying high at the event. Attendees waved flags throughout the morning celebration and a large flag hung high over the park

grounds.

"Look up, as it flies over this very spot, a location that will soon be the center of our tribute to our veterans as we transform this park into the Madison County Veterans Memorial depicted on that billboard in front of us," said guest speaker retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet as he pointed toward the sign announcing the upcoming construction of the memorial.

"Above us waves the symbol of unity in America. It's the sym-

bol of our values and our ideas, the symbol for our liberties. It's the symbol of our military and our country's might. It's so powerful, it's the foundation of our national anthem or is our national anthem. It's the one symbol that represents all we believe in. It's an object of respect and reverence."

Calling the U.S. flag a "beacon of freedom," Drolet said it has stood for "freedom, justice and the resolve of our nation" since being adopted by the sec-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**HISTORY LESSON—** Ken Carpenter of the 19th Alabama Re-Enactors explains the firearm of a Continental Army Soldier during the American Revolution to present day Soldiers and children at the Flag Day ceremony in Veterans Memorial Park. His audience included 4-year-old Mary Parker and 8-year-old Anderson McKiernan, their father Lawrence "Mac" McKiernan of the Army Reserve 375th Engineer Group, Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Loehmer of the 375th, and retired Reserve Command Sgt. Maj. John Perry.

ond Continental Congress in 1777. It was also the inspiration

See **Flag** on page 7

# Missile Defense Agency honors its work force

*Director praises honorees for 'dedication, hard work'*

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

This was like a remote telecast of the Academy Awards. As each winner was announced during the ceremony in Washington, a local audience clapped in Bob Jones Auditorium. Of course the Redstone winners drew the loudest ovations from their co-workers. The fifth annual MDA Employee Award Ceremony included group/team and individual categories for members of

the Missile Defense Agency. Hundreds of workers in the auditorium watched the telecast Thursday from the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va. "I think you can see the teamwork, sacrifice and dedication that goes into this organization," Air Force Lt. Gen. Trey Obering, the MDA director, said. He presented the awards and congratulated all the recipients. "Every one of you with your dedication and your hard work are making a tremendous contribution to this agency and therefore this nation," he said. The narrator was Lt. Col. Doug Oyler, deputy chief of staff of MDA/South. After the telecast, local winners in attendance were recognized by Rene Reid, assistant deputy chief of staff.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE—** Missile Defense Agency workers attend their fifth annual award ceremony Thursday.

# Bicentennial Chapel welcomes congregation home

*Renovation ends,  
services return*

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

Those attending church services on Redstone have spent 2008 in the old chapel, located just off Patton Road, while workers completed renovations and repairs on Bicentennial Chapel, having moved to the location the first week of January. They plan to have work completed this week. After six months, Bicentennial Chapel will reopen its doors Saturday night.

"Our last service here (in the old chapel) will be June 22nd," Maj. Pamela Parker, chaplain resource manager, said.

Problems with the air conditioning system in the 30-year-old building prompted the temporary move. Since the entire system had to be replaced, and new ductwork installed, trying to occupy the facility while the project was under way just wasn't possible.

"We ended up almost getting some remodeling done because of what they had to do to replace the air conditioning," Parker said.

The new ductwork also changed the location of vents and registers. While they were removing the old system, workers had the opportunity to make a few repairs. System upgrades also created a completely new room.

"The old system had a big boiler room," Parker said. "They were able to cut an opening in the concrete block wall into the hallway. That's our new choir room."

The chapel has taken advantage of the rare building downtime to replace old cushions and kneeling pads in the sanctuary. Officials had previously purchased new curtains, but delayed their installation once they found out about the repair schedule.

"They're something we had purchased before the move came up," Parker said. "When the move came up we asked them to hold them and come and install them after we get back in."

Other much needed renovations have gone along with the cosmetic. The kitchen facility has received a facelift, too. The

commercial stove and separate refrigerator and freezer units are much better suited to the larger scale events the chapel holds. There is also a new icemaker.

"We have all new appliances. It's almost like an industrial kitchen," Parker said.

The building has benefited from paint touchups and new carpeting as part of the vent rerouting. The bathrooms have also been redone to be more spacious and handicap accessible. As a complete picture, Bicentennial Chapel looks refreshed and modern.

"We can almost call it the new chapel again," Parker said.

Chapel staff began making the move June 23, in order to be ready for this weekend. During this week, all chapel phone numbers are working.

"They will still be working here while we're running around," Parker said. "Then they will transfer the lines back over there."

The first service will be Catholic Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday. Sunday morning, Sunday school will resume at the facility. During the temporary move, space restriction caused it to be relocated.

"Religious education has been at Youth Services," Parker said. "But we will be able to take all of our activities back to the other building."

Sunday morning Mass will be at the usual 9:30 time in the sanctuary, with the Protestant service to be held at 11. It will be business as usual from then on, with one exception. They will not be holding weekday Mass again until July 8. The hiatus isn't entirely move-related, though.

"Normally, we have Mass every day except Monday. The priest is off on Monday," Parker said. "But he is having surgery, so we won't be doing it from June 24th through the 7th of July."

The congregation has enjoyed its time in the old chapel location. For many, it was a stroll down memory lane. However, everyone is excited about returning to Bicentennial.

"Many folks went here before they moved over to the new chapel. They were excited to come back," Parker said. "They have enjoyed the nostalgia. It's been a fun diversion. I think once we get in over there and they see what we've done, they will be glad to be home."



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**MAKING SWITCH—** Ashley Ray rewires pulpit light switches at Bicentennial Chapel.

# Minnesota Guard recruiters top of nation

By C. TODD LOPEZ  
Army News Service

ROSEVILLE, Minn. — The Minnesota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion has already beaten its goal for the year — with more than three

months to spare.

The battalion has recruited about 1,700 new Soldiers since Oct. 1, well over the unit's mission goal, said Lt. Col. Jake Kulzer, the unit's commander.

"Right now we're at about 180 percent of our assigned mis-

sion, so we are crushing that," he said. "And that's what makes us No. 1. Also, with the new Active First program, we're putting more folks in than anybody else in the country."

Kulzer said Guard recruiters in Minnesota have put 170 Soldiers into the Army through the Active First program. Under that program, which began in October, young men and women are recruited by the National Guard to complete a term of service in both the Active and National Guard components of the Army. Those recruits are paid bonuses based on the duration of the active-service commitment they choose to accept.

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren visited the recruiting battalion June 16 after having been in Minnesota to sign an Army community covenant in the state's capital, St. Paul.

Kulzer said he explained to the secretary why he thought his battalion of 98 recruiters, spread across 72 locations in the state, was able to achieve the phenomenal recruiting rates that put them in the No. 1 recruiting spot within the Army National Guard.

"Well, we have been working really hard," he said. "And we have a tremendous noncommissioned officer corps. My NCOs have also been in a long time, they are smart, and they know how to make mission."

Kulzer also credits the community, the local media and the state government for creating an environment that is conducive to Army recruiting. (Army News Service)



Photo by Kim Henry

## Congratulations

Lt. Col. Andrew Hamilton is the new product manager for Ground Maneuver Unmanned Aircraft Systems within the Program Executive Office for Aviation. He succeeded Lt. Col. Keith Hirschman in a change of charter ceremony June 17. The Ground Maneuver Product Office provides life-cycle management for the Shadow unmanned aircraft system. Under Hirschman's leadership the Shadow surpassed 300,000 flight hours in theater and reduced its accident rate by 50 percent annually. Hamilton was previously assigned at Fort Rucker. Hirschman will attend the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in the fall.

## Help prevent fatty sewers, clogged pipes

Keep storm drains clean  
for those downstream

Fats, oils and greases in the installation's sewers are a major problem. Preventing this problem is easy and is a top priority for the installation community, according to the Garrison Environmental Office.

Grease is washed down drains in homes and restaurants during food preparation and cleaning. The grease comes from meat fat, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, dairy products and sauces. When washed down the drain, grease adheres to the sewer pipes in the streets and in your home. Much like eating greasy foods can clog your arteries, grease in drains can clog your pipes, with potentially costly results.

Blocked sewer mains can force raw sewage into your home or neighboring homes, damaging the interiors and causing health concerns. Some blockages cause raw sewage to overflow into streams, storm ditches, streets, yards and other areas. This kind of incident can damage the environment and subject the installation to legal action and fines. In addition, contact with untreated wastewaters can

cause infection and disease. This can also increase Directorate of Public Works maintenance costs — an unnecessary burden on the installation budget.

Here's how the homeowner can help prevent sewer overflows:

- Do not put fats and greases down your drains, toilets or disposals.
- Store waste grease, meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, dairy products and fatty sauces in containers for trash disposal.
- Use a sink strainer to prevent food scraps and other items from entering the drain.
- Reduce the use of highly saturated fats (those which are solid at room temperature).

Here's how restaurant owners can help:

- Ensure that all kitchen sinks have grease traps.
- Ensure grease traps are properly sized, installed and maintained.
- Clean grease traps regularly, in coordination with the installation environmental office.

For more information call the Garrison Environmental Office, storm water program manager at 955-8501. (Garrison release)

## Flag Day marks 231st birthday of national symbol

### Flag

continued from page 4

for "The Star-Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key in 1814.

The flag that inspired Key "still energizes and emboldens the American spirit today," Drolet said. "As our nation faces the challenges of a new era, Old Glory reminds us that liberty can prevail over oppression."

He said Flag Day is a day to "remember those in uniform whose courage and sacrifice inspire us here at home. We also remember the rich history of our oldest national symbol and reflect on our duty to carry our heritage of freedom into the future."

Flying in places like on the moon, atop Mt. Everest and in Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, Drolet said the "flag is how America signs her name."

"The flag serves as an undaunted source of inspiration for all of us. It gives us a unique identity and a sense of belonging with this glorious land ... Today our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, proudly fight the Global War on Terrorism while serving under that very same flag that countless generations have served and loved. Let us thank God today for a nation that is free, through the blood of patriots who loved Old Glory and the freedom she represents."

Also during the Flag Day ceremony, the Air Defense Artillery Association presented a \$10,000 donation to the Veterans Memorial fund, Spencer read a proclamation in honor of Flag Day, the Veterans Museum and 19th Alabama Re-Enactors exhibited pieces of military history and the Alabama National Guard 151st Band played several patriotic pieces, including "American Soldier."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**SHARING TRADITION—** Seven-month-old Andy Wu poses in his patriotic stroller with his dad, Alabama National Guard Lt. Jimmy Wu of the 279th Army Fuel Support Brigade, in front of military hardware following the Flag Day ceremony program at Veterans Memorial Park.

# AMC has new deputy commanding general



Photo by Wayne Scanlon

**CEREMONY-- Gen. Benjamin Griffin, Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger salute as the national anthem is played by the AMC band during Dunwoody's welcome ceremony June 17 at AMC headquarters**

By **MELISSA BOHAN**  
*Army Materiel Command*

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — On a crisp and sunny morning June 17, the Army Materiel Command honored and welcomed its new deputy commanding general during a ceremony at AMC headquarters here.

Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody is AMC's 43rd DCG and the first woman to hold the position, following Lt. Gen. William Mortensen who retired June 16.

Dunwoody was most recently the deputy chief of staff of the Army, G-4 and has also commanded the Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee, Va., and the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. She has also commanded the 407th Supply and Transportation Battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Support Command, Fort

Drum, N.Y.; and the 1st Corps Support Command (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.

Dunwoody says she is excited to be a part of the AMC family and is eager to get started in her new position. "I'll be hitting the ground running and I know you'll be there running right along with me."

She recently returned from a trip to Southwest Asia with AMC's commander Gen. Benjamin Griffin, where she saw AMC work firsthand.

"I can't tell you how completely impressed I was with the energy and commitment of every AMC employee I met." She also noted that the employees' depth of knowledge, professionalism and genuine focus on the war fighter impressed her.

"AMC has established an incredible reputation throughout the Army," she said. "When folks see the AMC patch, they know they will get the help they need. War fighters truly know and appreciate the capability AMC brings to the table. They will never go to war without us."

# Marines

continued from page 2

question that was asked of each drill instructor candidate was, “Do you believe in God?” I will always be proud of having been a Marine.

“Punishment” — or extra “motivation” — in the corps of 1968 took several forms. The first form, that any blind psychologist could see, was directed toward recruit physical conditioning. That might be push-ups, squat-thrusts, up-and-on-shoulders-arms (lifting the rifle in front of and over your head), or runs. Another was motivational. That might involve the physical conditioning, physical conditioning with a twist such as duck-walking with a loaded footlocker over your head, assuming a squatting condition with your back to a wall and arms out in front, or just flat punishment (sticks and stones). Legal approaches to recruit motivational problems were rare.

**M**y first experience with the “physical” came as I got off the bus at San Diego. A 6-foot-6 drill instructor started throwing us off a bus in the middle of the night, cursing, shoving and punching us as he went. He then had us put our feet on yellow footprints on a grinder (road) and marched us off in the dead of night to get 40-cent hair cuts. The moles and warts were cut for free. We were then marched off to a room, stripped, issued underwear, we mailed our stuff home, and were left setting with our heads in a box for the remainder of the night. Some other recruits who would later make our platoon were left at attention on the stairs. Others had showed up a day earlier and had two nights at attention and were worked all day cleaning up the area in between.

After being without sleep that first night, we were kicked and shoved out of our boxes. We were very susceptible to verbal abuse, mild physical pain, and loud sounds the next day. In other words, we were lambs at the slaughter. They did not really mistreat us, just softened us up. There was some light slapping, and shoving to make us remember. We were issued a duffel bag, fatigue hat, three sets of utilities (BDUs), tennis shoes and field jacket. We were ordered to get dressed, put on our field jackets and to fall out in a formation with the excess gear stuffed in the duffel bag. We drew more gear later. We looked awful with our tennis shoes, utilities, bald heads and day’s growth of beard. The drill instructors shoved us on the way to eat and draw gear — more gear such as boots, shaving gear and rifles. There was no talking except the orders of the drill instructors as the recruits scrambled to comply. They did not really crack down on us until we had seen a doctor and were identified as fit for duty. When we finally did hit the hay at about 11 p.m. the next day, we were shot.

At 4:30 the next morning, we were awakened with a trash can getting thrown into the Quonset hut (a metal building with a concrete floor) and getting thrown

out of our bunks on the concrete floor. From that day on, we were required to be dressed and have our bunks made in the dark. We had to be ready to run when the D.I. screamed “Platoon (number), on the road!” from his hut across the street at 4:30. If we had a heater in the hut, we had to have a fire watch which decreased our sleep time and then we got guard occasionally. There was no alarm clock, but I found we could train ourselves to awake if we looked at a wrist watch and concentrated on the time.

As an aside, I was the 13th recruit alphabetically in my platoon. We saw a dentist as part of our medical inspection. I never will forget the dental tech speaking to his co-worker when my turn came. He said, “Here is one who has seen the dentist before.” In other words, the 12 guys before me had never been to the dentist. Some of those recruits were given an incredible amount of dental work at different times. One even had his jaw broken in the process.

That first morning, training began on the way to chow. It was freezing when we were formed up as a platoon outside. We did not have gloves yet. I put my hands in my pockets. One of the drill instructors walked up from a blind side and kicked my pocket with my hand inside it — not really hard, but enough to get my attention. He told me, “Don’t put your hands in your pockets again.” I got the point. Had I been told not to do something, the “reminder” would have been more severe. Many people got many “lessons” but I personally was never abused. Oh, I had little slaps, shoves and such, but nothing serious. I never got as much as a bruise. That being said we did have one D.I. that had an alcohol problem. He was later relieved for brutality. What was interesting about this D.I. was that we did not perform well when he was in charge because we were scared of him. That made things worse for us. We respected the other drill instructors and responded to their commands in a much more positive way.

I got to see “serious.” I suppose that every platoon have one guy that wants to buck the system and the corps set upon him with a vengeance to prove that the corps hierarchy was the big dog. These individuals were “examples,” and if one D.I. could not do it four or five could. A little blood goes a long ways in getting a point across and no one, I mean no one, wanted to be the second example. Numerous “examples” were made in other areas of discipline toward the corps. Within a very short time, recruits were giving their full attention to doing whatever the drill instructors wanted to their very best. I won’t go into too many details, but we were like frogs in heated water. Should anyone ask, the first sentence recruits were taught to say was, “The private was not struck by the drill instructor, sir.” It is a good thing that this motivation was directed toward positive, professional things. Other cultures turn out monsters from this type of training.

The Marine Corps would keep a recruit in boot camp for up to a year

before discharging him for not being able to cut it. Besides the normal D.I. motivation, there was peer pressure, Motivation Platoon, and Physical Conditioning Platoon. Peer pressure was usually physical. It would result from someone doing something that got the rest of the platoon punished excessively, lax cleanliness, or just being a jerk. The drill instructors recognized who the weak recruits were from early test and they were sent to physical conditioning platoon before they were subject to this motivation. If someone fell-out of a run, the rest of the platoon would have to run around him until he got back into formation and continued. If he was weak or sick, we would try to drag him along. If he was just a jerk and got the entire platoon punished, he might well be the guest of honor at a blanket party (blanket over head and beaten) or if dirty, guest of a scrub-brush party (held down and scrubbed with scrub brushes by other recruits). To my credit, I never participated in either. It was not the intention of the corps to ever get anyone injured. I did see the results of one blanket-party run-amok once. Several guys were beaten. One guy had his nose broken and the cartilage was sticking out of his nose. The perpetrators were punished by the corps and the rest of us told to stop and report that activity.

**T**oday we have off-sites for motivational training. In 1968 the corps had a special platoon for people who needed a little extra inspiration for a day. Motivation platoon was a place where you filled, dug and filled holes all day as recruits were “physically motivated” (that is a euphemism). Recruits were given one canteen of water and one C-rat for their day of motivation. No one smiled at the end of the day. I never heard of anyone ever being sent back twice. Once again, I managed to duck that problem.

There was physical conditioning platoon. That was just PT forever. Fat guys were often sent here. The corps hated fat. If a recruit was border-line on weight and could do the PT, he was simply told to lose weight and monitored. The recruit had better lose that weight on his own or the drill instructors would “adjust his diet.” That adjustment took the form of a type of starvation of the recruit in the chow line.

When we went through the chow line, we were supposed to side-step down the line with our trays in front of us. When we wanted something, we would stick our trays out. We were supposed to eat everything we got. Fat guys had to put their trays in front of their faces like a blinder and side-step down the line. At the end of the line, they were allowed all the salad (lettuce and carrot mix) with no dressing and one skimmed milk. In addition, once a day, they were allowed one 4-ounce serving of meat in addition to the salad and milk. They could have non-sweetened coffee. At the end of boot camp, some mothers did not recognize their own sons. I had one guy with me who was in boot camp 11 months. He lost well over 100 pounds.

In the course of training, a platoon would pick up or drop recruits for various reasons. Some were injured or got sick and got dropped. When rehabilitated, they would be picked up at some

point in training by another platoon and continue onward.

Smokers were not allowed to smoke anything for three days to encourage them to stop, but without cokes or candy (poggy bait), many as myself actually started. I think we were allowed about three or four cigarettes a day except at rifle range duty in the pits. There we could pretty well smoke as much as we liked. I quit 20 years later.

**I** am always amused about movies on Marines with them shooting the bull and relaxing in boot camp. It never happened. We were on the go for 10 weeks and two weeks range duty. The movie “Full Metal Jacket” almost had it except for one important detail. Recruits were not permitted to use the words “I” and “you.” This was to make us think as Marines. Woe be to the recruit who did not address a D.I. in the appropriate manner — knock three times on the drill instructor’s hut, request permission to enter, do an appropriate right-face, and request permission to speak when there was a problem. Do it wrong and you might never get out of that hut alive.

I will relate one more story out of USMC boot camp. That is water survival training. I swam in high school so I know how to swim and have little fear of water, but many recruits did not know how to swim. ...

The water instruction took place in the winter in an inside pool and high diving board. The instructors asked everyone who could not swim to raise their hand. I never will forget the 6-foot-6 D.I. chuckling as he looked at the non-swimmers, “Ha, Ha! You guys can’t swim?” The non-swimming individuals were taken to the shallow end of the pool and shown one time how to swim. They were then marched back to the deep end and made to jump off the high board into the water. I will never forget seeing those poor boys shake with fear. When they hit the water, a few actually came back to the surface and floated/swam. Some went straight to the bottom. After sufficient bubbles, the “sinkers” were hauled out of the water and taken to the side of the pool. When they finished vomiting, they were walked down to the shallow end, shown again how to swim, and marched back to the high board to repeat the task. Many eventually learned some degree of water survival. Believe it or not, these recruits were lucky. Had it been in the summer, these non-swimmers would have been jumping off a 40-foot tower into the water.

What did all of this prove? If you did what you were supposed to do, how you were supposed to do it, when you were supposed to do it, overcame your fear and faced it, you would probably be O.K. Recruits got a new can-do confidence.

Sir Alexander Crecy who wrote the decisive battles series— “Fifteen Decisive Battles that Shaped the World,” “One Hundred...” — was once asked who were the best soldiers in the world. He replied that for mountain fighters he wanted India Gurkas; for jungle fighters he wanted New Zealanders; the best special forces, Army Rangers; for all around infantry, he wanted United States Marines.

**Name withheld by request**

# Army aviation test mission on rise

Center to finish move from Rucker by 2011

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

The Aviation Technical Test Center tries to ensure that what looks good on paper works well, and safely, in the air.

"We are the Army developmental flight test organization," ATTC's Keith Darrow said. "The primary purpose of developmental testing is that when the Army has some new acquisition program, a new aircraft or a new aircraft system, to ensure that the Army is getting what it's paying for in terms of the performance and the aircraft handling qualities. It also includes the all important overall safety assessments."

Currently, the organization is split between two locations – Redstone Arsenal and Fort Rucker. Darrow said a few employees are scattered across the nation working with manufacturers and other organizations. However, most of ATTC's 425 employees are located at Fort Rucker; and the Redstone segment has about 95. Base Realignment and Closure will see those two segments merging at a Redstone facility yet to be built.

"We will eventually move the entire organization here to Redstone not later than September 2011," Darrow said. "The only thing holding us up from moving today is a shortfall in facilities to accommodate everyone. BRAC has some money fenced in order to build a new flight test complex, the centerpiece of which will be a big, huge new 130,000 square foot hangar facility on the west side of the airfield."

Currently occupying several buildings situated around the Redstone Airfield, ATTC boasts ownership of a couple of every helicopter the Army flies. Some are reliable standbys, like the UH-1 Huey. Some are so new they still have the tags on them.

"This CH-47F model Chinook is a little over a month old. We just picked it up from the factory," Rick Ostlund, operations officer, said. "It's the newest model. It's the heavy-lift aircraft."

---

## Tenants of Redstone Fourth in a series

---

ATTC fulfills several missions. It does a lot of flight testing for new systems. It not only checks to see if the new equipment functions as designed, it also sees how the hardware integrates into the total aircraft. That includes user accessibility, airworthiness and aircraft handling. For the Redstone portion of the organization, digital communications have become very important for ATTC in recent years.

"A growing business for us is interoperability testing and communications testing, particularly with the advent of digital communication devices not only on the aircraft, but also with various ground-based systems," Darrow said. "It's essential that before those things are fielded to the Soldiers fighting wars they are thoroughly tested. Information transferred in a digital fashion from one platform to another must be correct. What the receiver is seeing on their end has to be what the sender intended to communicate."

They also consult with other organizations developing systems for aircraft. Sometimes it is



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

**HUEY LANDS— A UH-1 helicopter out on a test mission returns to the Aviation Technical Test Center.**

as simple as providing a piece of equipment for measuring, and real world form and function. Other times, organizations need a way to test something off the ground. Using ATTC aircraft to perform tests on equipment in the air saves the cost, equipment and safety concerns of trying to test something on a missile for the brief time it would be aloft before striking a target.

"We do captive flight test missions. We use Huey and Black Hawk helicopters, primarily, to carry missile sensors onboard in order to gather test information on those sensors," Darrow said. "The helicopter is not being tested. We're using the aircraft as a means to test the sensor."

When other test centers need a hand, or a helicopter, ATTC provides the support they need. It works closely with its sister organization, Redstone Technical Test Center.

"We support them with some of their ground-based testing on

electromagnetic environmental effects, electromagnetic vulnerability and some in-flight checks for electromagnetic compatibility," Darrow said. "There is actually extensive ground-based testing that RTTC does in order to ensure that the new system interfaces well with the existing systems on the aircraft."

The Fort Rucker site is working closely with new aircraft manufacturers on the early stage assessments of performance and handling qualities.

"The ATTC test pilots and flight test engineers based at Fort Rucker are spending a lot of time at the location (Bell Helicopter in Arlington, Texas) doing the initial flight testing to ensure that the aircraft are performing properly and the handling qualities are suitable (for the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter)," Darrow said.

ATTC also helps in the source selection process. The bulk of the mission at Fort Rucker is testing modifications for Army

aircraft. The BRAC move will allow for the continuation of those missions and further expansion as the Army continues to evolve.

In fact the arrival of ATTC at Redstone reflects the changing role of aviation and the Redstone community to the Army over the years. Ten years ago, only a few liaison officers from the Fort Rucker location were located in other organizations on Redstone. Their numbers grew until a proper office was opened just a few years ago.

"Roughly four years ago we took over some of the flight test related missions that had previously been done by first the Garrison... then by the AMCOM G-3," Darrow said. "At least two or three years ago, we took over that mission and some other missions. It's not been related to BRAC. It has been growth in mission for ATTC that has occurred here at Redstone for us. What started out as a couple liaisons has grown significantly."

# Research center shares ideas with other agencies

*Workers recognized for technology transfer*

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Office of Research & Technology Applications has commended the efforts of AMRDEC employees who, in fiscal 2008, contributed to the transfer of technology between Department of Defense laboratories and research centers and other federal agencies, state and local governments, colleges and universities.

A long-term goal of the government is sustained economic growth. One of the foundations of sustained economic growth is the development and commercialization of new technologies. Technology transfer between the DoD and other government and non-government agencies plays a role in this growth.

"The federal technology transfer programs are intended to make the most of the R&D budget and the expertise of both the government and non-government scientists and engineers; increasing the return on investment of the federal R&D budget



Photo by Frank Simon

**JOB WELL DONE—** Members of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center met to commend their co-workers' efforts in promoting technology transfer. Office of Research & Technology Applications deputy Cindy Wallace, left, flanks honorees Keith Hillard, Dr. Wayne Davenport, Julie Locker, Christina Blankenship, and Dr. Russ Alexander, chief of the Office of Research & Technology Applications.

and helping federal agencies meet mission requirements while enhancing U.S. competitiveness in the world economy," Cindy

Wallace, deputy for the Office of Research & Technology Applications, said.

The efforts of these AMRDEC

employees who established cooperative research and development agreements between the AMRDEC and external agencies

will have direct applications to the AMRDEC mission, enhance Army capabilities, and produce benefits to the private sector.

Overseeing the efforts to bring together these partnerships is the AMRDEC's Office of Research & Technology Applications.

"The mission of the ORTA is to facilitate access of federally-funded R&D efforts by private industry, academia, state and local governments, and non-profit organizations. This is accomplished primarily through marketing, technical outreach, licensing of intellectual property, and cooperative research and development agreements," Wallace said. "CRADAs are legal instruments sanctioned by the Federal Technology Transfer Act of 1986 that allow federal laboratories and R&D centers to conduct collaborative research and development with non-government organizations.

"Under these agreements the federal government cannot provide funding, however it may provide manpower, facilities and equipment to the non-government

See **Center** on page 19

# Cuban refugee finds life's mission as combat medic

*Sgt. Seann glad to be an American Soldier*

By KARI HAWKINS

Staff writer

karihawk@knology.net

Sgt. Joey Seann knows what it's like to face a challenge.

He also knows how to overcome it.

This Cuban-refugee-turned-U.S.-Soldier grew up the son of a non-Communist physician under Communist rule. As a teenager, he survived three days on a homemade raft before being picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard. Later, he got his first taste of freedom in Miami at the same time that his mother was suffering from illnesses that kept them in poverty. At age 21 he joined the Army, where he received his GED, his U.S. citizenship and his training as a combat medic.

And then he faced the biggest challenge in his life – a 15-month deployment to Iraq to serve as a medic on military missions on some of the most dangerous streets of Baghdad.

Today, Seann is stationed at Fox Army Health Center, where he is the training NCO for the center's Soldiers and civilians. He is recuperating from a mild case of post traumatic stress disorder, taking college classes at Calhoun Community College in hopes of being an Army physician's assistant and awaiting the birth of his second child in July.

The struggles Seann, 29, has faced on his way to living his dream of being a U.S. Soldier have shaped and molded this Soldier into a national treasure – a man dedicated to his country, to the Army, to his family, to his medical profession and to what is right.

"There is adventure in going to war," he said. "It can look pretty cool to a guy.

"But it's not cool when you see someone die. All the romanticism in the movies

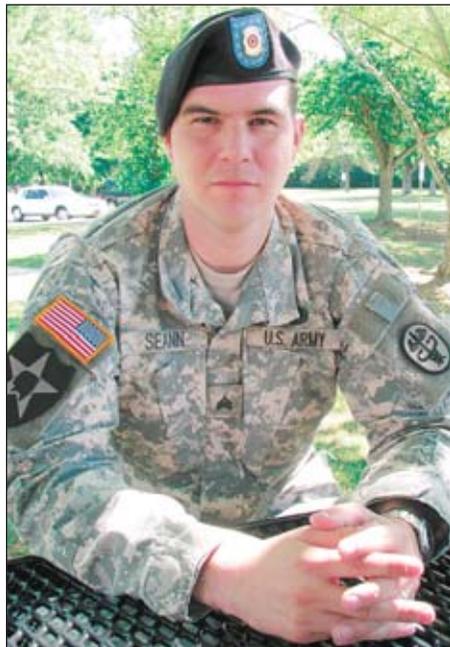


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**ENJOYING ASSIGNMENT AT FOX— Combat medic Sgt. Joey Seann is taking a break from the battlefield during his assignment as the training NCO at Fox Army Health Center. The Soldier, who came to the U.S. as a Cuban refugee, was assigned to Redstone Arsenal after returning from a 15-month deployment in Iraq, where he provided medical treatment to countless wounded and dying Soldiers. While at Fox, Seann is taking college classes to become an Army physician's assistant and is spending time with his young family. He and his wife are expecting their second child in July.**

is nothing like the real deal. But America is the best country. Freedom is here. Opportunity is here. I am glad to be an American Soldier."

Seann's mother was raised by a family

that believed in freedom. She attended a private American school in Cuba before Fidel Castro came into power. She tried to leave the country in 1980 when Seann was 2, but his father wouldn't sign the release papers.

"School and health care in Cuba are free, but there is no freedom of mind," Seann explained. "Education is free, but it is controlled. Everything is controlled.

"My mother was not a member of the Communist party in Cuba. They tried to get me to join the Union of Youth Communists. But I wouldn't. And if you reject Communism you are looked at pretty bad. My mom eventually lost her job and I couldn't go to school anymore."

In 1994, 15-year-old Seann, his mother and three neighbors built a homemade raft out of inner tubes, and then set out to sail to Key West, Fla., U.S.A. Their provisions included a can of processed meat, a couple of boxes of cookies, a 2-liter soda and a few gallons of water.

"It happened at a time when a lot of people were rebelling," Seann recalled. "A lot of people were trying to leave the country. So, it was like, 'OK, go.' In three days and three nights, the current took us 70 miles from Cuba. We were 30 miles from Key West when we got picked up."

Seann and his group were among about 33,000 Cubans who fled to the U.S. in 1994 due to a tight economic situation that had led to the establishment of a rationing system for food, electricity and gasoline, and caused greater discontent among educated and professional Cubans who wanted more political freedom.

During their three days at sea, Seann and his party faced rough waves. On the third day, a big wave brought them face-to-face with several fins in the water.

"It turned out to be a bunch of dolphins," Seann said. "We tried to touch them and play with them in the water."

After being picked up by the Coast Guard, Seann's group traveled by Navy ship back to Cuba to live in the refugee camps at Guantanamo Bay, where nearly 31,000 Cubans were detained until early 1996 when they were permitted to enter the U.S. if they had no criminal history.

"The first month (at the refugee camp) was kind of rough because we were all in together, including the single men and the convicts," Seann said. "Then, they set up a camp for women, children and families, and things got a lot better.

"We stayed in the refugee camp for a year. And, because of the Cuban Adjustment Act, we could immigrate to the U.S. after one year and one day at the refugee camp."

While he was at Guantanamo Bay, Seann decided he would be a U.S. Soldier some day.

"It was because of the MPs," he said. "The military was so nice to us. I couldn't believe they were actually nice."

But, before he could become a Soldier, Seann had to face the challenges of a legal immigrant. In Miami – where he was most impressed by the number of cars on the streets – Seann and his mother lived with relatives. Seann attended high school for a year. But, because of his mother's illness, he dropped out to find work that would support himself and his mother.

"I joined the Army because I wanted to get a GI bill to go to college. I also remembered those Soldiers who were nice to me at Guantanamo Bay," he said.

"The military is tough, but it wasn't any tougher than what I had already been through. It provides plenty of opportunities if you do what you are told to do as a Soldier. It was a good way to get going on a career."

At first, though, Seann was not allowed to follow his dream to be a combat medic. Because there were no openings in the Army's Health Services Specialist program, Seann joined as a supply specialist. Although he enjoyed his work, Seann was determined to follow his dream. He rejoined the Army after his first four-year stint on the condition that he would receive combat medic training.

But that training also meant a tour in Iraq. Seann was stationed with the 2-3 Infantry Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash. That assignment took him to Iraq in June 2006, where the 2-3 Infantry Battalion was attached to an MIT team.

"The first six months we were in Mosul, where I provided medical care on missions and trained Iraqi soldiers on how to treat combat injuries," he said. "We had the area pretty well under control."

But Seann's combat medic training was put to good use during two mass casualty attacks at the military base in Mosul.

"The other nine months we were in Baghdad," he said. "I was a medic for a military team whose mission was to train the Iraqi military. In Baghdad, I was the senior medic for Alpha Company for six months. I replaced the senior medic who was killed. Then, I was the senior medic for the HHC Forward Aid Station."

It was an assignment that tested Seann to his very core.

"I saw a lot of casualties. I saw a lot of carnage, a lot of brutal stuff," he said. "I had the best equipment and the best training the Army could afford. I was very lucky because not every medic gets that. But no one is ever prepared to see someone die."

Seann led a medical team that accompanied the combat brigade team on missions, providing emergency medical treatment and transporting the injured to a



Courtesy photo

## Toastmaster winner

Carolyn "CiCi" Higgins, Florence Toastmaster, has won the District 77 Toastmaster's International speech contest in Huntsville. Competing with speakers from Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida panhandle, her winning speech highlighted areas in her own life where she overcame personal adversity. Like the name of her company "Be Encouraged," she asked the audience to embrace non-traditional views about collaboration that might open their eyes to see more friends than foe. Higgins goes on to compete on a national level later this month in Atlanta, and if successful on to the international competition in Calgary, Canada.

## ■ Combat medic has overcome personal challenges

### Medic

continued from page 12

Combat Support Hospital in an eight-wheeled armored combat vehicle known as a Stryker. On these missions, the team fought against everything the insurgents in Baghdad had to offer – improvised explosive devices, mortars, random gunfire and bombs. He attended to medical crisis for both Soldiers, and Iraqi military and civilians, often putting his own life at risk.

"Your vehicle would take fire and you wouldn't know where it was coming from," he said. "Insurgents don't have the firepower to stand and fight. So, they shoot and run. They hide in mosques. We can't go in the mosques. Only the Iraqi police can, and they never come out with the insurgents.

"They depend on our humanity, on our morals, to fight us. They know we won't shoot a woman or a child. They know we won't blow up a school. And they use that against us."

Even so, Seann is confident the Army will beat down the insurgents.

"We can win against that. I truly believe that," he said. "It's going to take a lot of time and money."

Seann still remembers the des-

peration and fear of trying to provide medical treatment to injured Soldiers and civilians in a war zone. There were anxious moments when grieving Iraqi women would scream and beat their chests nearby as he tended to the wounded. There were IED attacks and random gunfire at their mission convoy vehicles on a daily basis, often just missing Seann's own vehicle. There were days on end when he had to tend to multiple casualties and deal with the deaths of Soldiers who were his friends.

Seann saw Soldiers die instantly from shots to the head. He saw a Soldier burned alive when his truck was blown up. Seann and his fellow Soldiers were forced to watch over the burning truck for 12 hours until an Iraqi fire truck arrived to put out the fire, only to discover the fire truck arrived with no water.

"There was a lot of violence. A lot of good Soldiers died there," he said. "But at the same time, the violence dropped 70 percent while we were there. We had a 24/7 presence in the neighborhoods where we were stationed. We built walls to create safe areas. We made a difference in an area that was an Al Qaida stronghold."

When he could, Seann would provide comfort as well as care to

the Soldiers he treated in the field. "I would tell them 'Hey man, I'm here. I won't let you go. I'm going to help you. I'm going to do my best. We're going to get you to the CASH (Combat Support Hospital).' It was hard, especially when you were working on a young Soldier, a kid, who's not old enough to drink (alcohol) but is old enough to fight in a war."

After the stress of missions that stretched medical and coping skills to their limits, Seann and the other medics were given short breaks away from the battlefield to relax and possibly talk to a chaplain.

"The chain of command would give you some space," he said. "We had awesome leadership."

Now, off the battlefield, Seann is looking forward to future challenges as he works to become an Army physician's assistant. When not working or going to school, he is spending time with his family, including wife Nanette and daughter Sofia (who turns 4 today), and preparing for a newborn in July.

"I love it here. It's the best place they could have put me. It's a good place to heal and to go to school," said Seann, who arrived at his job at Fox Army Health Center in April. "Everyone is very supportive. The whole chain of command is supportive."

# Life-saving surgeries in Boston await Iraqi child

By Sgt. 1st Class STACY NILES

Special to American Forces Press Service

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq** – When she was born, doctors didn't expect her to live a week, but a 1-year-old Iraqi girl is defying the odds.

Noor Majeed overcame her initial prognosis, but without proper care, she still could die.

But surgeons at Children's Hospital in Boston have agreed to donate their services to help her, and a donor in Cambridge, Mass., donated \$100,000 for her medical care. Noor's surgery is scheduled June 30.

Noor was born with "bladder exstrophy," a rare congenital disease in which the bladder protrudes outside the abdominal wall. It occurs once in every 30,000 to 50,000 births, most often in boys. Separation of the pelvic bones also accompanies the condition, which often is associated with other birth defects. Surgery to repair bladder exstrophy usually is performed within the first 48 hours after birth.

The care required to correct bladder exstrophy is unavailable in Iraq. In addition to surgery to repair the bladder, Noor also needs orthopedic surgery on her pelvis and hips, as well as reconstructive and corrective procedures, said Capt.



Courtesy photo

**CHEERFUL PATIENT— Noor Majeed smiles while at the Forward Operating Base Delta medical facility in Iraq, where she received several life-saving procedures. She will undergo reconstructive surgery June 30 in Boston.**

Michael Mullaly, an operating room nurse with 912th Forward Surgical Team. Mul-

laly was attached to 948th FST as an operating room nurse when Noor began treatment in the medical facility here.

Doctors from 948th Forward Surgical Team first saw Noor in February. Without treatment, her ailments could be catastrophic, they said. Both conditions are rare in the United States, and the causes for both are unknown, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Paul Brisson, general and pediatric surgeon with 948th FST.

"When Noor was born ... and when I saw her condition, ... I wished to die," Zainab Najy, Noor's mother, said. "I felt hopeless and helpless, ... and because of the lack of adequate care that can treat her and because of our financial situation, we could not afford to help her. I was expecting her to die at any moment. I even told my mother that I don't want to get attached to her, because I thought she would die soon."

But as days went by, the child's mother continued, Noor kept fighting and stayed alive. "I was hurt all the time as I watched other children walking and playing, ... but Noor can't even sit or walk. My life became filled with depression, sadness and pain," she said.

"I was so sad and depressed," she continued, "but now, I am happy because I feel that Noor will live, and all this is

made possible by the American people ... and the American troops and the medical staff who helped us save Noor's life."

Neseer M. Jemeel, Noor's father, said he was desperate over his daughter's suffering and the fact that he couldn't do anything about it. "The Iraqi doctors could not help her," he said. "That's why we came (to U.S. Army doctors)."

Though he had once lost hope, the child's father said, he's happy now. "I feel safe, because (the Americans) are caring," he said. "They care about children (and) mothers. They know life is valuable, and they are true human beings."

When Noor and her mother arrive in Boston, they will be greeted by a friendly face. Mullaly, an operating room nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Worcester, Mass., plans to meet them when they land.

"It can be overwhelming," Mullaly said of traveling to a new country where you know no one and don't speak the language. "I think a familiar face would make it easier."

Mullaly has seen Noor on five occasions. "I'm pretty vested in this case," he said. "I'm attached to this baby."

*Editor's note: Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Niles serves with the 214th Fires Brigade Public Affairs Office.*

# Army turning garbage into energy in Iraq

By LINDY KYZER

Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** — Getting rid of garbage is a problem anywhere, but particularly at forward operating bases in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pair that with the constant need for fuel and the push for alternative energy sources, and you have the stuff of science fiction — the Tactical Garbage to Energy Refinery, or TGER, which is already turning trash into energy at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Dr. James Valdes, scientific adviser for biotechnology with the U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command, participated in a blogger's roundtable June 17 to discuss how TGER works and how it could be used in the future.

Valdes and his fellow scientists at RDECOM recently sent two prototypes of the TGER to Camp Victory to put these energy-generating trash disposers to the test.

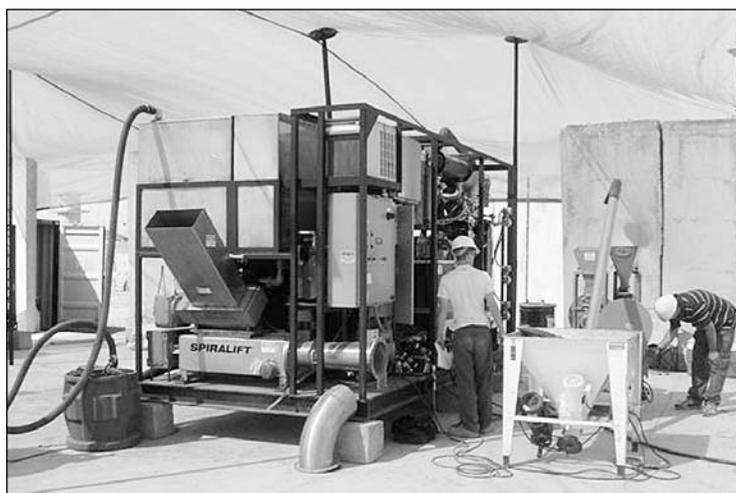


Photo by Jerry Warner

**CREATING ENERGY— Contractors install the Tactical Garbage to Energy Refinery, or TGER, at Camp Victory, Iraq.**

"Our initial idea was that we could generate fuel in theater," said Valdes. He said fuel has historically been the top "logistical nightmare" for a deployed army.

Seeing an opportunity to use biotechnology to solve a real Army problem set Valdes and his

team on the path toward creating a machine that could provide the energy to power the generators and stoves that make up about half of the fuel consumption at most forward operating bases.

"We've got a lot of garbage at various operating bases, and it's

got to go someplace," Valdes said. "So our logic was that at a forward operating base, could we use the garbage to make fuel and thereby get rid of the garbage and help to keep the convoys off the streets? And so that's how TGER got started."

TGER is small enough to fit into a CONEX container, but powerful enough to power a standard 60-kilowatt generator. TGER works by turning the solid trash into fuel pellets which are fed into a down-draft gasifier. The gasifier then heats the pellets, and breaks them down into a synthetic gas composed of simple hydrocarbons that resembles low-grade propane. TGER processes the liquid and food waste into a hydrous ethanol which is blended with the syngas to create usable energy.

It takes TGER just six hours to fully power up, during which time the amount of diesel fed into the machine slowly drops, until the generator is powered by less than one gallon of fuel per hour, as compared to five per

hour without TGER.

"And as one might think, the sort of waste stream that goes into TGER is a mixed waste stream: it's paper; it's plastics; it's ammunition papers; it's food-slop garbage. And so getting a really high-quality fuel source out is kind of a problem," Valdes said. "So we decided instead to design a system that would convert the trash into electrical power."

The 90-day test at Camp Victory will help determine future applications for TGER. With temperatures soaring toward 112 degrees and limited infrastructure at the base, it's a formidable testing environment.

"Once we're through with this 90-day testing time, we have to analyze those data, and then we'll do a clean-sheet engineering design," Valdes said.

One of the potential applications Valdes already sees is the potential for TGER to be used in post-Katrina-type scenarios, where energy is scarce but trash is readily available.

# Alabama A&M alumni association honors two

## AMRDEC workers serving community

Two AMRDEC workers have been honored by Alabama A&M University alumni for their community leadership.

Sharon Boclair, Security and Intelligence Division chief, Center Support Directorate, and Robert Helem, Platform Integration Function chief, Weapons Development and Integration Directorate of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, were recognized by the Huntsville Progressive Chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association.

During the chapter's seventh annual Leadership Awards Program, Boclair and Helem were cited in the Government, Business and Industry category for their achievements, leadership and contributions supporting Alabama A&M University and the Huntsville-Madison County community.

"Receiving this award and honor is very humbling, especially considering some of the past honorees such as Dr. Bill McCorkle, Dr. Paul Ruffin and Mr. Ronnie Chronister," Helem said.

Helem is active in several programs at AMRDEC that have a far-reaching impact on his organization and the students throughout the region.

"For the past several years I have been a mentor in the Student Temporary Employment Program, the Student Engineering Apprentice Program and the Co-op program which has been a learning and rewarding

experience," he said. "The students are from area high schools and universities such as Alabama A&M, Auburn, UAH, Alabama and Mississippi State and they are eager to learn and to do a good job."

Helem points out that there is synergy and mutual benefit achieved by participating in these programs.

"These programs help the AMRDEC build the bridge to the next generation work force. It is rewarding to see a STEP or SEAP or Co-op become a productive AMRDEC employee," he said.

For Boclair, it took some encouragement to take the first step and ever since she has been deeply involved with her community.

"I credit my son Nate Boclair IV, a senior at Alabama A&M, for really getting me involved with the students at A&M and in the community when he volunteered me to speak to his class three years ago," she said. "I have been participating as a speaker in seminars and workshops at the A&M School of Business for that past three years. I enjoy volunteering my time by sharing information about the Security and Intelligence field with the students."

Passing along knowledge, encouraging others and providing opportunities help to build the future and pass the torch to the next generation.

"I have hired several STEP students in my division," Boclair said. "We give them an opportunity to work with other Security and Intelligence specialists. I am most proud of the fact that one of my STEP students, Dominique D. Davis, a senior Business Management major, became the first AMRDEC Security and Intelligence Co-op student from Alabama A&M." (AMRDEC release)



Courtesy photo

**LEADERSHIP CITED**— Sharon Boclair and Robert Helem, both of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, are recognized by the Huntsville Progressive Chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association during its seventh annual Leadership Awards Program on June 14 at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

# Corps of Engineers' workers recognized for service

The Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, recognized seven employees and one team for their service during its Engineer Day celebration June 16. The annual event commemorated the 233rd birthday of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Kristi L. Javins was selected as Administrative Support Employee of the Year for her work as the secretary and principal administrative assistant to the Chief, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate. As the directorate merged with another directorate, Javins was instrumental in making the merge seamless, ensuring organization codes and personnel actions were correct and coordinating with manpower to ensure the Integrated Manning Document correctly identified each employee.

Gregory Vaughn, Chemical Demilita-

tion Directorate, was awarded the Commander's Leadership Award for his leadership as the program manager for a 50-person design-construction team. He demonstrates a thorough understanding of the technical aspects of Military Construction funding and consistently demonstrates innovative approaches in meeting the challenges of funding the right tasks to keep the project on track.

Carol T. Sargent, Management Review Office, accepted the Contracting Professional of the Year award. Sargent is the sole contracting professional assigned to MRO and is therefore responsible for initiating all contracting activities for the MRO mission.

Sandy L. Wood, Engineering Directorate, was named the Employee of the Year. Wood serves in several roles within the Mechanical and Manufacturing Technology Branch that impact the entire cen-

ter. He reviews all products produced by his team, ensuring all quality control requirements are met.

Sharon Belcher, Engineering Directorate, was named the Innovator of the Year for directly improving the quality of the Request for Proposal writing process at Huntsville Center and for the Corps of Engineers. Her efforts enabled a change in the way of doing business and improved RFP overall quality.

Patrick Acosta, Engineering Directorate, garnered the Engineer of the Year award. Acosta is a senior structural engineer in the Structural Branch. His area of expertise is in protective construction to mitigate the effects of accidental explosions.

Dawn Scott, Contracting Directorate, was named Volunteer of the Year for spearheading Huntsville Center's 2007-08 Combined Federal Campaign efforts, resulting

in the center's contribution of \$79,139.65, the second highest amount ever contributed by Huntsville Center to CFC.

The Medical Repair and Renewal Team was awarded the Teamwork Award. Team members included Crystal Bennett Echols, Michael Mollineaux, Sherene Opichka, Mike Hunter, Rex McLaury, Roger Brosemer, Lt. Col. James D'Arienzo, Rob Mackey, Cheryl Renz-Olar, Joseph Serena, Jennifer Cagle, Delores Davis, Gail Wilbur, Shawn Willie, Nancy Wilhite, Paul Daugherty, Althea Rudolph, Donna Parker, Cassandra Mora, Cindy Halbrooks, John Crow, Freddy Steel, Victor Taylor, Steve Feldman and Steve Talley. This team awarded more than \$112 million in medical facility repair and renovation projects in fiscal 2007 for customers and provided construction administration on more than 100 projects valued at approximately \$450 million. (Huntsville Center release)

# Future scientists exhibit their ingenuity

*Engineer society cites science fair winners*

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

A local organization is doing its part to promote science for the next generation.

The Huntsville Post for the Society of American Military Engineers honored regional science fair winners at its monthly luncheon Thursday in the Corps of Engineers cafeteria. Recognized were first through third place winners in both the senior division and junior division from the North Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair held March 12-14 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

"Our post provides the judges for the regional and state science fairs," post president John Rivenburgh said. "And we recognize the regional winners with plaques and savings bonds."

Among the honorees were Joel Tinker and his older brother, Nathan, who attend

Covenant Christian Academy. They are sons of Michael and Regina Tinker of Huntsville.

Joel, 14, a rising ninth-grader, got second place in the junior division for his project titled "A Study of Heat Radiators for Space Craft and Earth Based Systems."

"I enjoy doing science for experiments and things like that," Joel said. "Science is also a way to get college money, scholarships. Science is just fun. It's for like performing experiments and stuff like that."

Nathan, 17, a senior at Covenant Christian, won the senior division with his project titled "A Solar Stirling Solar Power System Utilizing a Thin-Film Concentrator for Lunar Applications."

The other honorees included Deepa Etikala of Bob Jones High and Joel Eichelkraut of Catholic High, second and third place, respectively, in the senior division; and Jordan Ford of Liberty Middle and Nicholas Cook of Hampton Cove Middle, first and third, respectively, in the junior division.

Each honoree received a plaque and a savings bond. The first-place winners

received a \$200 savings bond, second place a \$100 bond and third a \$50 bond.

"Parents and teachers together with great kids produce special things," Rivenburgh said.

He also mentioned the first-place winners from the Alabama State Science and Engineering Fair held April 4 at UAH. They were William Whitney of Mountain Brook High in the senior division and Rachel England of Demopolis Middle in the junior division.

The post presented three scholarship awards to college students. Jeremiah

Haley, who graduated this year from Hazel Green High, received a \$4,000 William Earl Bowers Memorial Scholarship. He will major in electrical engineering at Auburn University.

Jennifer Erin Kennedy, who is finishing her freshman year at UAH with a 4.0 gpa in chemistry, received a \$2,000 scholarship. Roger Betts, a junior in electrical engineering at Alabama A&M University with a 3.6 gpa, received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Sixty-one people attended the luncheon. The post has more than 300 members and 59 corporate members.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**WINNING TINKERS**— Covenant Christian Academy ninth-grader Joel Tinker describes his award-winning science project. At left is his older brother, Nathan, also an award winner.



Courtesy photo

## Florida Tech graduation

Dr. Anthony James Catanese, president of Florida Institute of Technology, speaks May 16 at FIT's spring commencement. This 31st Redstone commencement exercise of 181 graduates represents the largest in the history of Florida Institute of Technology at Redstone Arsenal. Seventeen different master's degrees were awarded. And the three largest in number conferred were the Master of Science in Acquisition and Contract Management, the Master of Science in Management, and the Master of Science in Logistics Management. The Redstone site is led by Dr. Timothy White. There are more than 2,000 alumni residing in the Huntsville area, with more than 50,000 alumni members worldwide.

### Technology transfer tied to economic growth

## Center

continued from page 11

organization while the non-government organization may provide funding, manpower, facilities and equipment to the federal government."

Compared to products developed exclusively by and for the federal government, the technology transfer program enables greater competition and higher volume commercial production efficiencies resulting in lower product costs; establishes an industrial base that is stronger and more responsive to surge to meet the federal government's demands; transitions products from initial concept to fielded system in less time; and increases the opportunity for incorporating leading-edge commercial technology.

"Cooperative research fosters the leveraging of resources and when the laboratory and private-sector party or parties share mutual research interests it creates a 'win-win' situation," Wallace said. "Technology transfer increases the economics of scale and strengthens the national industrial base which strengthens the competitiveness of the U.S. in the global economy."

The following employees were commended for their efforts in promoting technology transfer:

- Frank Blackwell, computer engineer, Virtual Mapping;

- Christina Blankenship, aerospace engineer, Embedded Trainer Systems;

- Joshua Clemons, general engineer, Technology Demonstration for the Universities;

- Wayne Davenport, electronics engineer, Ultra Wideband Imaging;

- Joe Grobmyer, electronics engineer, Eye Safe LADAR;

- Keith Hillard, general engineer, Sensor Technology;

- Tracy Hudson, electronics engineer, Photonic Sensor Components;

- Bill Hughes, mechanical engineer, Weapon Systems;

- Gary Jimmerson, general engineer, Surface Launched Missiles/Warhead Fuses;

- Julie Locker, general engineer, Protection System;

- Thomas Maier, aerospace engineer, Rotorcraft Comprehensive Analysis System;

- Ledwin Mercury, general engineer, Technology Demonstration for the Universities;

- Scot Mobley, electronics engineer, Sensor Technology;

- Mary Ottman, computer engineer, Sensor Technology;

- Richard Sims, electronics engineer, Enhanced Target Recognition. (AMRDEC release)

*Editor's note: For more information about Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, call 313-0895 or 876-8743.*

# Tiger opens arms for troops, families

*AT&T National ready to tee up*

By **TIM HIPPS**  
FMWRC Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. – Tiger Woods' support of U.S. troops will be on worldwide display July 2-6 during the AT&T National at Congressional Country Club.

Tournament host Tiger Woods provided 30,000 free tickets for servicemembers and their families to attend the AT&T National July 2-6 at Congressional Country Club. Several other military perks were announced during AT&T National media day May 27.

Like last year, tournament host Woods has donated 30,000 tickets for servicemembers and their families to attend the AT&T National. Military personnel again will play alongside Tiger in the Earl Woods Memorial Pro-Am on July 2.

For that day, a new twist has been added to this year's event. Nike donated golf equipment to troops in the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Iraq, Germany, Japan, and aboard the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman. The Pentagon Channel will film servicemembers making ceremonial first shots in those locations and the balls will be returned to the States.

Twenty-five children who have a parent serving abroad will join Tiger at Congressional for ceremonial first shots with those same golf balls.

"We feel that the shot and



Photo by Tim Hipps

**HOST WITH MOST— Tournament host Tiger Woods provided 30,000 free tickets for servicemembers and their families to attend the AT&T National July 2-6 at Congressional Country Club. Several other military perks were announced during AT&T National media day May 27.**

these balls are our way of thanking these families for the support that they really provide us," Congressional Country Club president Bret Hart said during AT&T National media day May 27. "We feel it will be a great way really to honor them as well."

Woods seconded that sentiment.

"I think that people don't realize the dedication of our men and women," said Woods, an Army brat who seemingly could not say "thank you" enough to the troops. "I grew up in a military household. I understand. I understand what it takes. I witnessed it. I have been around the guys all my life – have been part of the military from infantrymen to Special Forces. I have been around all that. I know what it takes.

"They don't get enough thanks, and we're here to do that. There are people here who really do miss them, really appreciate what they're doing."

Most Army ITT/ITR offices within a 150-mile radius of Washington have the free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis. The tickets will be limited to two per person each day for play on Wednesday through Friday for active duty, Reserve, National Guard, retired and civilian Department of Defense personnel.

For Saturday and Sunday play, the free tickets will be available only for active duty personnel – and restricted to two per day per person for each day. All tickets must be picked up at an ITT/ITR office. No tickets will be mailed.

Throughout the tournament, children 12-and-younger will be admitted for free when accompanied by a ticket-holding adult (limit two children per adult). Tickets for youths ages 13-17 can be purchased daily for \$15 only at the gate.

For more information about the ticket distribution, e-mail your questions to [militarytickets@attnational.org](mailto:militarytickets@attnational.org).

The AT&T National also will offer military personnel a one-time 10 percent discount at all on-course merchandise locations. A valid U.S. military identification card must be presented at time of purchase. That discount does not apply to purchases made at the Congressional Golf Shop adjacent to the clubhouse.

See **Golf** on page 21



Photo by Tim Hipps

**GOLFING HONOR— AT&T National host Tiger Woods, right, hands his putter to honorary caddie Sgt. Michael Woods of the Army Materiel Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., on the seventh hole of the 2007 Earl Woods Memorial Pro-Am at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. Sgt. Woods then made the 12-foot birdie putt for Tiger, and the gallery went wild. "This is a day I'll remember forever," Sgt. Woods said.**

# 233-year-old Army shows experience, youthful spirit

*Soldiers recognized at birthday dinner*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Staff writer  
karihawk@knology.net

Col. Walt Lorcheim is nearing the end of his service to the Army. Pvt. Ricky Hartwell is just beginning.

Together, they represent the best of the Army — one with experience, the other with youthful spirit.

They showed their solidarity on the evening of the Army's 233rd birthday June 14, with each of them joining forces with Redstone Arsenal's leadership to ceremonially cut two cakes — Hartwell and Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, cut the Army birthday cake with a military saber while Lorcheim and Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of Redstone Arsenal and the Aviation and Missile Command, used a saber to cut a cake in honor of the birthday of the nation's flag.

Both the Army and the U.S. flag share June 14 as a birthday. Hartwell was chosen to cut the Army birthday cake because he is the youngest Soldier on Redstone Arsenal. Lorcheim was chosen to cut the flag cake as the oldest active duty Soldier on post. The cake cutting ceremony was part of the annual Army birthday and flag day dinner hosted by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army at the Officers and Civilians Club.

"We're an Army of one. We're Army strong. But our slogan used to be 'Be All You Can Be,'" Lorcheim told Hartwell prior to the ceremony.

"You can do whatever you want in the U.S. Army. You can be all you can be. The Army will be good to you. You have a lot to look forward to. Hang in there. The Army's a great place."

Lorcheim, who is the chief of Operations and Plans for AMCOM G-3, will be



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**CEREMONIAL CAKE**— Redstone Arsenal's highest ranking Soldier — Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command — is joined by the Arsenal's youngest Soldier — Pvt. Ricky Hartwell — to cut the Army's 233rd birthday cake at a dinner ceremony hosted by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

retiring in August with more than 38 years of service as a Soldier. He will be 60 in September.

"I enjoy what I do. I have fun mentoring young Soldiers," Lorcheim said. "I came to Redstone Arsenal in 1981 with OMEMS (Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School). I've been assigned to every organization in the Huntsville area, except the Corps of Engineers. I've been a company commander, a battalion commander. I've done it all."

Hartwell, 19, from Lake Placid, Fla., joined the Army after two semesters of college. He is a member of Headquarters & Alpha Company, and a student at OMEMS, where he is taking his advanced individual training in combat missile systems repair.

"I always wanted to join since I've been in the ninth-grade," he said. "I just finally got up the nerve to sign the papers."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**HONORING FIRST SERGEANTS**— Members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army pose with this year's winners of the 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Award. The winners are, at center from left, Active Army — 1st Sgt. Paul Grosch; Army Reserve — 1st Sgt. Daryl Owens; and National Guard — 1st Sgt. Johnny Whisenant.

Hartwell plans to make the Army a career. He wants to participate in the Army's Green to Gold program, where enlisted Soldiers can earn a commission as an officer by completing college while on active duty or by leaving the Army temporarily to pursue a college degree.

See **Birthday** on page 22

## ■ World's top golfer shows support for troops

### Golf

continued from page 20

Patrons who purchase tickets on the AT&T National web site can make a donation to one of the following military charities: Fisher House Foundation, Military Officers Association of America Scholarship Fund, National Military Family Association, Our Military Kids or the

Yellow Ribbon Fund.

*Editor's note: After winning the U.S. Open, Tiger Woods revealed June 18 that he has been playing for at least 10 months with a torn ligament in his left knee, and that he suffered a double stress fracture in his left leg two weeks before the open. He said he will have season-ending surgery, knocking him out of the final two majors and the Ryder Cup.*

# Custodial contractor invests in new vehicle fleet

## Safety, efficiency drives decision

The Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation Inc., doing business as Phoenix Service, has performed the postwide custodial contract at Redstone Arsenal for the past seven years under Public Law 92-28, the AbilityOne program. As the contract enters its eighth year, Phoenix has begun replacing the older vehicles used in the contract performance with vehicles designed to be safer, more efficient and more environmentally friendly.

"HRF/Phoenix is committed to our long-term relationship with Garrison/Redstone and we are making a substantial investment in our new fleet to work as

safely and efficiently as possible so that we continue to provide our 12,000 valued customers on Redstone with high quality and cost effective services," HRF/Phoenix president Bryan Dodson said.

Dodson and vice president Tim Stickley conducted a series of meetings with Redstone custodial project management and crew leaders Danny McConnell, Sherry Humphries, Tim Lightford, Shirley Rawls and Willie Reeves to examine the paradigm of custodial vans and their efficiencies and safety. After the meetings, what the group had designed as an "ideal" vehicle was very different.

The first two "test" vehicles were delivered last week and they will be used and tested by

various roving crews over the next six weeks. At the end of that period, the design team will meet again to review what has worked well and what needs to be changed in future purchases.

The new vehicle is a half-ton pickup truck capable of carrying five people with a specially designed bed shell. This new design will allow for larger crews (those saving gas and harmful emissions by reducing travel miles), safer travel (pickup safety ratings are far superior to cargo vans), safer working conditions for the employees due to outside "stand on the ground" access to 90 percent of equipment and materials, and employee comfort. Additionally, Phoenix records indicated the majority of accidents com-

pany vehicles were involved in were minor backing accidents. So the new vehicles have backup camera systems, an audio backup alarm and increased rear glass areas for greater visibility.

For zone managers, the quality control inspectors and project managers, Phoenix also shifted the paradigm — this time from small pickups to small cars.

"What we discovered," said project manager Ric Hastings, "is that we didn't often carry large quantities of supplies in our trucks."

After discussion and feedback from employees, it was decided to replace the small pickups with small hatchback cars that are 50 percent more fuel efficient, safer, carry a substantial number of

supplies and allow for up to five passengers. Phoenix examined the concept of flex fuel and hybrid technology but the number of miles driven each year resulted in a 10-plus year cost recovery for these higher priced vehicles.

"Based on industry data, the best way for us to reduce our environmental footprint was to get our average mpg up with conventional technology," Dodson said. "Our intent is to build on our 97.8 percent customer satisfaction rating with even better work efficiencies, employee safety and satisfaction and environmental responsibility to continue to be a valued partner with the Redstone community as Redstone grows." (*Phoenix Service release*)

## ■ Association celebrates Army's 233rd birthday

### Birthday

continued from page 21

"There's job security in the Army, and you get more respect as an Army Soldier," Hartwell said. "This is a great experience."

Calling it a "great night to celebrate the 233rd birthday of our Army," Campbell, who was the evening's keynote speaker, told a mixed gathering of AUSA members — many who are military retirees — and young Soldiers and Huntsville community leaders that this year's Army birthday brought one specific Soldier to mind.

"I want to talk about a Soldier because that's what the Army is about," he said.

And with that Campbell told his audience about Newton Duke, the Korean War corporal from Gardendale who waited 55 years to receive the Purple Heart he earned for injuries he sustained as a wartime POW.

"He describes everything we find in our warrior ethos," said Campbell, who

presented Duke with the Purple Heart in a ceremony June 7.

"Meeting him might have been the highlight of 35 years in the Army for myself."

Duke's Purple Heart joins a long list of medals he has received for his service. He has also received the POW Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1951, Duke was a member of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, and spent more than 90 days in "very intense combat" with the Chinese deep behind enemy lines.

The Chinese "ended up surrounding the entire company," Campbell said. "Their lieutenant wanted to surrender to save their lives. He was killed. The company was captured and marched 80 miles into China. Corporal Duke was wounded eight times. When they were finally released, Corporal Duke was convinced they could carry the wounded back to the line. They did and they were saved."

Duke spent 27 months as a POW in North Korea from 1951-53. During his captivity, he went from weighing 200 pounds to weighing 120.

"When he returned to Freedom Bridge, he asked somebody to take the flag off a jeep and he draped himself with that flag and thanked God for his freedom," Campbell said. "Today, he still says he would do it again if he had to. He cares for our country ...

"These men survived, came out and, what's most impressive, they say 'Yes, I would do it again.'"

Campbell, who just passed his 35 year anniversary in the Army, said Soldiers like Duke "make all of us in uniform continue to serve. There's camaraderie in the Army. You go through things by leaning on each other.

"Like Newton Duke, I wouldn't change anything. I would start all over again tomorrow if I had to."

Campbell also spoke of the bravery and courage he sees in the young Soldiers of today.

"It takes some courage to step forward when you know six to 12 months after you enlist there's a high probability that you're going to war," he said.

Keith Freitag, vice president of awards and recognition for AUSA, led the evening's program, with included the national anthem sung by retired Sgt. Maj. Gregory Knight; toasts to the president, Army, U.S. flag, Soldiers and fallen comrades; recognition of Cadet Airman 1st Class Noelani Green of the Huntsville High School Air Force JROTC as the future of the military; recognition of the

Dale and Kim Anton family as the AUSA volunteer family of the year for 2008; video presentations by Pete Geren, secretary of the Army, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston; and recognition of corporate sponsors.

Prior to the cutting of the Army birthday cake, Freitag spoke about the creation of the Army in 1775 by the Continental Congress.

Since its formation, he said, "many men and women have borne the title Soldier. In memory of their service we commemorate the 233rd birthday of the United States Army by calling to mind the glory of its long and illustrious history.

"In every battle or skirmish since the birth of our Army, Soldiers have acquitted themselves with the highest distinction. The term 'Soldier' has come to signify military efficiency and soldierly virtue. Today, the Army's 233rd birthday, we recognize its history, traditions and service to the nation."

Also during the evening, the winners of the 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Award were announced. The award was created by AUSA to recognize first sergeants who do the most in support of their Soldiers and the families of their Soldiers. This year's winners are: Active Army — 1st Sgt. Paul Grosch; Army Reserve — 1st Sgt. Daryl Owens; and National Guard — 1st Sgt. Johnny Whisenant.

"This is a great day," Myles said during the program. "This is a great day for our country because it's the birthday of the Army."

# Prevention key to protecting your vision

By JESSICA NORRIS

Chief of optometry, Fox Army Health Center

Here are the top 10 ways to preserve your vision:

**Number 10:** Stop smoking. Did you know that it is true that a person can go blind from smoking? Current smokers are twice as likely to develop macular degeneration than non-smokers, and smoking has been linked to an increase in cataract formation. The good news is that those of you who have quit smoking more than 20 years ago are not likely to develop macular degeneration causing vision loss.

**Number 9:** Maintain good nutrition and not just from eating carrots. While carrots are a good choice as part of a healthy diet, they have not proven to improve vision. Good nutrition, especially involving vitamins C, E, lutein and zeaxanthin, may pre-

vent macular degeneration and delay the onset of cataracts. The recommended daily doses of eye protective vitamins are vitamin C (250 mg/day), vitamin E (100 IU/day) and lutein and zeaxanthin (6 mg per day). Some good food sources are anything green (kale, collard greens, spinach, etc.) and fruits like oranges, strawberries and tomatoes.

**Number 8:** Protect your eyes at work. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health report that about 2,000 workers in the U.S. every day require medical treatment for eye injuries. The major reasons these injuries happen are that workers are not wearing eye protection or wearing the wrong type of eye protection. Your safety glasses should have safety frames with polycarbonate lenses. They should provide full coverage of your eyes.

**Number 7:** Protect your eyes when playing sports. Many parents allow their chil-

dren to wear their "normal" dress glasses to play sports, not knowing the danger. Thousands of children incur sports related injuries every year and most could be prevented simply by wearing sports goggles. The frames in your dress glasses may not withstand an impact and can break and damage the eye. Only sports goggles with polycarbonate lenses should be worn.

**Number 6:** Know what to do in an eye emergency. You are working on your car one Saturday and you splash battery acid in your eye. What do you do? Most people would splash water in their eye to wash it out. Although this is a good answer, most people only wash the eye for 1-2 minutes. At least 15 minutes of flushing the eye is actually needed. Place the eye under a faucet or shower or use a garden hose. Then seek immediate medical attention.

**Number 5:** Monitor your monitor ... computer that is. Many people believe that looking at a computer for long hours can damage their eyes. While complaints of eyestrain and discomfort are common with computer users, these symptoms are not caused by the computer itself. Computer screens do not emit harmful radiation. You can prevent eyestrain by placing the computer screen 20-26 inches away from your eyes and a little bit below eye level. Also, the 20/20/20 rule is helpful. Every 20 minutes look 20 feet away for 20 seconds. This allows your eyes to relax.

**Number 4:** Wear ultraviolet protection. Even small amounts of UV radiation over many years can increase your risk of cataracts and damage the retina. Make sure your sunglasses block 99-100 percent of both UV-A and UV-B radiation. Also, check your reflection in the mirror when wearing sunglasses. If you can see your eyes through your glasses, then they are not dark enough. Don't forget protection for children and teenagers.

**Number 3:** Start early. Children should have an eye exam within the first six months of life to rule out eye diseases or a large prescription. Many eye problems, such as cataracts, can be found in children and must be addressed early to prevent vision loss. Eye screenings at school or at the pediatrician's office are not adequate.

**Number 2:** Monitor your overall health. Systemic diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and thyroid disease can greatly affect your vision. It is extremely important, if you have any of these conditions, that you have your eyes checked yearly.

**Number 1:** Get an eye exam. Every person should have an eye exam at least every two years or sooner if you have a condition that is followed. You should be dilated every two years. This gives your eye doctor the best look into your eyes. There are many ways that we can give our eyes the best chance for a lifetime of good vision. Prevention is the key.

## Hatch Act guidelines rule political activity

*Government workers have do's and don'ts*

The political activity of government employees has been a concern of government officials since the earliest days of the Republic. Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president, was among the first to express concern about this issue.

In response to Jefferson's concern, the heads of the executive departments issued an order which stated that while it is "the right of any officer (federal employee) to give his vote at elections as a qualified citizen ... it is expected that he will not attempt to influence the votes of others nor take part in the business of electioneering, that being deemed inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution ..."

However, despite the concerns of Jefferson and other American statesmen, almost a century and a half elapsed before Congress enacted a comprehensive law regarding the political activities of government employees.

In 1939, Congress approved landmark legislation known as the Hatch Act to limit the political activities of federal employees, employees of the District of Columbia and certain employees of state and local governments. In passing the Hatch Act, Congress determined the partisan activity by federal employees, employees of the District of Columbia government and certain employees of state and local governments must be limited for public institutions to function fairly and effectively. The courts have held that the Hatch Act is not an unconstitutional infringement on employees' First Amendment right to freedom of speech because it specifically provides that employees retain the right to speak out on political subjects and candidates.

In October 1993, legislation which substantially amended the Hatch Act was signed into law. The Hatch Act

Reform Amendments of 1993 permit most federal employees to take an active part in partisan political management and partisan political campaigns. While federal employees are still prohibited from seeking public office in partisan elections, most employees are free to work, while off duty, on the partisan campaigns of candidates of their choice.

They may do the following: be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections; register and vote as they choose; assist in voter registration drives; express opinions about candidates and issues; contribute money to political organizations; attend political fund-raising functions; attend and be active at political rallies and meetings; join and be an active member of a political party or club; sign nominating petitions; campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances; campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections; make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections; distribute campaign literature in partisan elections; and hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention.

Federal employees may not do the following: use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election; solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee; knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency; engage in political activity while on duty; engage in political activity in any government office; engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform; engage in political activity while using a government vehicle; be candidates for public office in partisan elections; and wear political buttons on duty. (AMCOM Legal Office release)

# Rocket Announcements



## Sports & Recreation

### Racing night

Huntsville Speedway will have another Military Appreciation Night on July 3. "This does not include the dependents, sorry," a prepared release said. "Celebrate Fourth of July early with racing and wrecking." Racing starts at 7:30 p.m. The program will include 50 Lap Super Trucks, 25 Lap KBC Development Mini Stock, 20 Lap Williams Drywall Super Stock, 20 Lap Pro Buzz, 15 Lap American Classifieds Buzz, and a 15 Lap X Factor Graphix Hot Shot, along with a fast action boat race. For more information, call the track 882-9191 or visit [www.huntsville-speedway.com](http://www.huntsville-speedway.com).



## Conferences & Meetings

### Town hall

When the Logistics Modernization Program Town Hall with AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles kicks off July 16 at 8 a.m., the LMP Countdown Clock will have struck Day Number 235. The town hall, in Bob Jones Auditorium, will be broadcast on Team Redstone Television Channel 42. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7

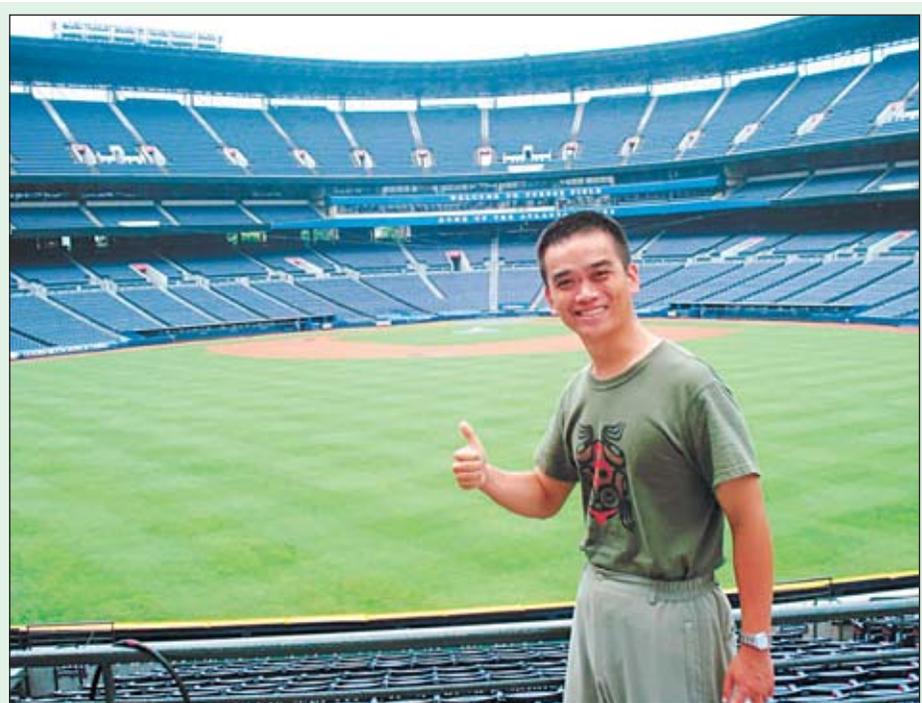
of the auditorium. Badges must be worn by all attending. All AMCOM, PEO-Aviation and PEO-Missiles and Space employees working the LMP transition are encouraged to attend.

### Chapel women

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is taking a summer break. Short classes will be offered in July; and more information will follow. PWOC will kick off its new year Aug. 28 at the newly renovated Bicentennial Chapel. For more information, call Sharon Olshefski 489-0404 or Erica Hobbs 325-3152.

### 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.



Courtesy photo

## Thumbs up

**Capt. Ken-Chen Tsao from Taiwan takes a tour of Turner Field with the International Military Student Office during a Field Studies Program trip to Atlanta on June 14-15. The seven students from Taiwan, India, Greece, Korea and Saudi Arabia also visited CNN, World of Coca-Cola, Stone Mountain Park, Cyclorama and Centennial Olympic Park.**

### Officers association

Under a special "Give Me 10" program, for a limited time, active duty, National Guard and Reserve officers, of all branches of the service, are offered a free one year membership in the Military Officers Association of America. Retired officers are offered a two year membership for the price of one. All new members will receive a MOAA T-shirt and are entered in a drawing for an iPod nano. Drawing will be at the Officers and Civilians Club on July 2. Representatives will be in the lobby of the club each Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to answer questions and process memberships. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

### 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.

### Small business conference

The Missile Defense Agency Office of Small Business Programs will hold its ninth annual small business conference July 21-22 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. The theme for this year's conference is "MDA: Teaming for Global Missile Defense." Cost for the conference is \$75 if registration is received before June 21, and \$100 thereafter. To register and for more information, visit <http://www.mdasmallbusiness.com/conference/>. On-site registration will also be offered on a space-available basis. Participation will be limited to the first 500 registrants. For

questions not answered by the web site, call Robert Sever 955-4409 or Lorena Henderson 955-2885.



## Miscellaneous

### Reserve unit openings

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

### Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi

Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Carl Washington 876-2082. Contractors and other interested people can access [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

### Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. Go to [www.gsaauctions.gov](http://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 Redstone Arsenal, the DoD requires all motorcyclists to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course. There are two programs offered free of charge to

Army personnel and on a space available basis to others authorized access to Redstone Arsenal. For information call Keith Coates at the Garrison Safety Office 876-3383, e-mail [keith.coates@us.army.mil](mailto:keith.coates@us.army.mil) or e-mail MSF instructor Ralph Harris at [93hdstc@bellsouth.net](mailto:93hdstc@bellsouth.net).

### 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.

### 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](mailto:jwk108@yahoo.com) or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

### College recruitment fair

The first Historical Black Colleges Recruitment Fair is July 12-13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mother AME Zion Church, 151-7 West 136th St., Harlem,

# Rocket Announcements

N.Y. Registration fee for the weekend is \$100. For more information call Juan Alexander, director of admissions at Alabama A&M University, 372-5250 or Connie Jones, co-founder of the Sports Ball Program, 852-9941.

### Cancer walk

A three-day walk covering 60 miles for breast cancer will be held Oct. 24-26 in Atlanta. Thousands will come out for the event, whether participating or to show support. Tonya Aldridge and Ginger Cochran have formed a team and are looking for others interested in supporting this cause. There is a registration fee, and a minimum amount per person for fund-raising. For more information, call Aldridge 876-8265 or visit [www.the3day.org](http://www.the3day.org).

### Butler High reunion

The Butler High School Class of 1973 is having a reunion, with a special invitation to the classes of 1972 and 1974, on Sept. 13 at the Beville Conference Center and Hotel on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus. The cost is \$35 per person. Checks should be made out to "BHS 1973 Class Reunion" and mailed to Paula Neely Yerby, 2888 Bob Wade Lane, Huntsville, AL 35749-9160, or Margie Keever Jefferson, 25904 Jay Bee Way, Elkmont, AL 35620. For more information, call 852-4662. The web site is as follows: <http://www.srbutlerhighreunions.com/>.

### Senior health screenings

CASA of Madison County invites seniors to participate in a free health fair July 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the District 3 County Shed, 4273 Highway 72 East in Brownsboro. The screenings will include blood sugar, bone density, blood pressure, vision and hearing. Lunch will be provided by county commissioner Jerry Craig. Free smoke detectors and fire extinguishers will be available to qualifying county residents age 55 and over. Applications will be taken for NOAA weather radios to be distributed by the Madison County Severe Weather Early Warning Project. To qualify you must be low-income seniors 60 and older or low-income homebound (wheelchair or bed-bound). For more information, call Craig's office 776-2475 or CASA of Madison County 533-7775.

### School bus sign-up

Redstone Arsenal bus registration is July 21-25 for school year 2008-09. Registration will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Additionally, students may be registered on Parent/Principal Night, July 24 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711. Sponsors must show military ID. Bus transportation will be provided to Williams Elementary School (grades K-5), Williams Middle

See Announcements on page 26



Courtesy photo

## Music City tribute

Capt. Ken-Chen Tsao from Taiwan and Petty Officer Ioannis Sarantis from Greece visit the Vietnam War Memorial at the Memorial Plaza in downtown Nashville on June 19 with the International Military Student Office. The memorial is a tribute to the citizens of Tennessee who died fighting in the Vietnam War. Students also toured the Tennessee State Capitol Building and the Purity Dairy.

# Rocket Announcements

School (grades 6-8), New Century Technology and Columbia High School (grades 9-12). For more information call Carl Pack, supervisor of bus operations, Northrop Grumman, at 876-3938, or call Ray Boles or James Taylor, Transportation Division, Garrison Directorate of Logistics, at 876-3119.

## Dog park benefit

Huntsville/Madison County Leadership's Connect Class Seven presents "Barking 4 Bucks," a fund-raising event for the city's Dog Spot, on June 29 from 2-5 p.m. at the Downtown Dog Park. From Meridian Street go under the freeway, and turn right on Cleveland. For more information, call Kerri Wellendorf 533-2507, ext. 226.

## EarlyWorks museum

Anyone showing military I.D. this Saturday can visit all three sites of the EarlyWorks Museum Complex for only \$6. The Historic Huntsville Depot will have Civil War guided tours, K-9 presentations, Rescue Dogs, Wild Animal Rescue, and Huntsville Animal Services. Its hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 320 Church St. For information call 535-6525.

## Health education

Celiac disease is a digestive disease that damages the small intestine and interferes with absorption of nutrients from food.

People who have celiac disease cannot tolerate a protein called gluten found in wheat, rye and barley. Gluten is found mainly in foods but may also be found in products we use every day such as stamp and envelope adhesive, medicines and vitamins. You are invited to learn the latest on this disease in a class, provided by a Fox Army Health Center pharmacist, July 10 from noon-1 p.m. in the Wellness Center, first floor at Fox. The class is open to all active duty military and their family members, retired military and their family members and DoD civilians. Class size is limited to 24. Call 955-8888, ext. 1026 to sign up.

## Old School jam

SaborLatino would like to invite you to the "Old School Jam" on Saturday from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. at the American Legion, 2900 Drake Ave., with disc jockey Abe. Cover charge is \$10 per person. You must be 18 to party, 21 to drink. For information call hostess Yvonne 783-5756.

## Chapel reopens

Chapel programs will be resuming at the Bicentennial Chapel, located on Goss Road. There will be no weekly Catholic Mass during the weeks of June 23-27 and July 1-4 as the chapel and staff transition back in. Religious services will resume

Saturday, June 28 with Saturday Evening Mass at 5 p.m. On June 29, Sunday Schools will resume at the Bicentennial Chapel as well as Catholic Mass at 9:15 a.m. and Protestant Service at 11. Child care will remain at the CCD next door to the chapel on Goss Road. For more information, call 842-2964.

## Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives in July include the following: July 3 from 7 a.m. to noon at Sparkman Center. July 10 from 7-noon at building 4488. July 17 from 7-noon at SMDC, building 5220. July 18 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316 and 7-noon at Corps of Engineers. July 24 from 7-noon at building 5400. July 25 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency, 106 Wynn Drive.

## Sleep disorders

Learn the latest from the Crestwood Center for Sleep Disorders health professionals on July 17 from noon-1 p.m. at Fox Army Health Center in the Wellness Center Classroom located on the first floor. "Join us to learn more about common sleep disorders including sleep apnea, obstructive sleep apnea, periodic limb movements, restless leg syndrome, insomnia and available treatment options," a prepared release said. The class is open to all active duty military and their family members, retired military and their family members and DoD civilians. Class size is limited to 24. To sign up call 955-8888, ext. 1026.

## Embry-Riddle classes

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus is now registering for the fall term, Aug. 11 to Oct. 12. Classes offered include Aviation/Aerospace Integrated Logistics; Legal, Ethical, and Regulatory Basis of Management; English Composition; Algebra; and Aircraft Accident Investigation. Instruction is available both in the classroom and through Internet courses. Registration deadline is Aug. 8. Call 876-9763, visit ERAU Huntsville in the Army Education Center, building 3222; see the web site at <http://www.erau.edu/huntsville>; or e-mail [huntsville.center@erau.edu](mailto:huntsville.center@erau.edu).

## Graduate certificate

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Huntsville Campus has added a graduate certificate of completion in Project Management to its offerings at Redstone Arsenal. The courses required for the certificate of completion in Project Management may be taken as a stand-alone program or in conjunction with the Masters of Science in Management under the general management option. For more information, call 876-9763 or e-mail [huntsville.center@erau.edu](mailto:huntsville.center@erau.edu).

## Health center news

Fox Army Health Center will be closed Friday, the Fourth of July. On July 3, the Primary Care Clinic will be open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments.

See **Announcements** on page 28

# Announcements

June 25, 2008 The Redstone Rocket Page 28

The Pharmacy will be open 7:30 - 11:30 a.m and the Tricare Service Center will be open until noon. The Central Appointments telephone line will be answered until 4:30 p.m. The Dental Clinic will be open all day. All other clinics and services will be closed the

entire day for a training holiday.

## Helicopter display

All personnel are invited to visit a UH-72A Lakota display at the Sparkman Center helipad June 30 from 9-11 a.m. For more information, call Matt Rainey 313-2514.

