

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 57 No. 30

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

July 30, 2008

Post profile

Garrison commander steps up to the plate
Page 6



Hail and farewell



35-year career passes quickly
Page 8

Safekeeping



Unit practices for hurricane
Page 10

Over there



Airport opens in south Iraq
Page 12

Win or lose

Serving up volleyball
Page 23



Youngsters enjoy sneak preview

Member of The Wiggles visits children's center

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

With cameras in hand, a few parents started arriving at the Child Development Center the morning of July 22.

They were there for a visit by a member of The Wiggles, the popular children's musical group based in Sydney, Australia. The Wiggles would be performing July 24 in the Von Braun Center for "Pop Go The Wiggles Live."

Sam Moran, the Wiggle who wears the yellow shirt, was visiting the Child Development Center at the request of Col. John Olshefski, the outgoing Garrison commander.

"He's my niece's husband," Olshefski said. "He's a phenomenal singer."

Moran arrived with his wife, Lyn, and Olshefski's wife, Sharon. The Morans reside in Sydney.

Moran apologized to the youngsters for not wearing his yellow shirt this time. He smiled, sang for them and answered their questions.

"I watch every single Wiggle," said one youngster.

"I see you on my TV," another child said.

Moran led the youngsters in the songs made popular on the group's television programs.

"Toot, toot, chuggle, chuggle, big red car. We travel near and we travel far," he sang while signing autographs. "Toot, toot, chuggle, chuggle, big red car. We're gonna ride the whole daylong."

In response to their questions about the missing red car and yellow shirt, he told them the car was getting fixed and the shirt was dirty.

"Well done, everybody. Thanks for singing with me," Moran said before moving on to another preschool room.

His first stop was Preschool 3, a class of 24 youngsters led



Photo by Skip Vaughn

CELEBRITY GUEST— Sam Moran of The Wiggles entertains preschoolers in the Child Development Center on July 22.

by lead teacher Paula Majors and teacher Josephine Curry. The class had voted on which Wiggle would appear – the one wearing the red, yellow, blue or purple shirt. A few youngsters had predicted yellow, but they didn't realize they were correct because the yellow Wiggle arrived out of costume.

"It was great. We enjoyed it," said Curry, who had voted red. "It was really nice. We were looking forward to it."

Elaine Cameron, a contract specialist in the AMCOM Acquisition Center, accompanied her son, Vincent, 4, during the visit.

"I had fun," Vincent said.

The Wiggles were formed in Sydney in 1991. Their original members were Anthony Field, Murray Cook, Greg Page and Jeff Fatt. In 2006, Page was forced to retire from the group due to illness and was replaced by understudy Moran.

Field and Fatt were members of the Australian pop band The Cockroaches in the 1980s and Cook was a member of several bands before meeting Field and Page at Macquarie University, where they were studying to become preschool teachers. A school project led to the recording of their first



Courtesy photo

THE WIGGLES— This popular children's musical group based in Sydney, Australia, performed July 24 in the Von Braun Center for "Pop Go The Wiggles Live."

album and tour in 1991.

As a result of their background, the group combines music and theories of child development in their videos, television programs and live shows. Since their inception, other regular characters – Captain Feathersword, Dorothy the Dinosaur, Henry the Octopus, and Wags the Dog – and a troupe called "The Wiggly dancers" have toured with them and appeared in their CDs, DVDs and television programs.

The group has achieved worldwide success with their children's albums, videos, television series and concert appearances. The Wiggles were named *Business Review Weekly's* top-earning Australian entertainers for three years in a row. They have earned 17 gold, 12 platinum, three double-platinum and 10 multi-platinum awards for sales of more than 17 million DVDs and 4 million CDs.

Editor's note: Background information in this article was obtained from Wikipedia, a free encyclopedia on the Internet.

An open lane random survey

Finish this sentence: 'I really do wish...'

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



Dan O'Boyle
AMCOM/Garrison Public and Congressional Affairs
"That the economy would improve, get balanced and we have a prosperous and peaceful 2009."

Reinaldo Rivera
Phoenix Service

"There were no sicknesses that could be prevented. It's sad to see people that are young and have so much potential getting sick where there's no treatment or remedy. I wish that stuff like that wouldn't happen."



Nicole Massey
AMCOM G-3 Operations
"I wish these gas prices would go down. And I wish the war was over and that our troops could come home."

Pvt. Amy Cadengo
Charlie Company

"I can live up to the expectations of everyone, and prove everyone back home (in Houston, Texas) wrong."



Quote of the week

'Bigotry and hatred are enemies to us all. Grace, mercy and forgiveness will help a man walk tall.'

— John Mellencamp song
'Walk Tall' (2004)

Letters to the Editor

Here's a vote for carpooling

Years ago, Redstone promoted carpools. Why doesn't the command once again promote carpools? With soaring fuel costs, increased road congestion, and agencies moving here because of BRAC, it appears this is a great time to encourage carpools. It is not feasible for everyone to commute by bicycle.

Options to consider are: carpool parking slots at the major buildings on post (i.e., 5400, Von Braun Complex, Sparkman Complex, etc.); and a Carpool/High Occupancy Vehicle lane at Gates 9 and 1. If not a dedicated lane, maybe a lane for peak hours of 7-8 a.m.

The majority of vehicles on post have only one occupant. If the command would consider some perks for those utilizing carpools, I believe it would encourage more individuals to adopt the change. How about the Rocket doing a series of articles on carpooling, alternative fuels, fuel-efficient cars driven on post, encouraging on-post taxis to use hybrid vehicles? I've seen articles on biking on post and Phoenix Industries changing their vehicles.

Perhaps there are individuals on post with more ideas they would like to share. I believe carpooling is something the command needs to encourage once again.

Name withheld by request

Background on playground removal

Why has perfectly good playground equipment been donated to a church when there are playgrounds here in the on-post housing area that are badly in need of repair? This is poor management of the American taxpayers' money and no way to take care of Soldiers' families.

We use to have perfectly good playground equipment, but have been reduced to settling for shoddy equipment that is in disrepair. This playground was behind the houses that were being torn down, but was still being utilized by residents.

Instead of reusing new playground equipment, we have this rundown playground. Why couldn't the government housing office take the time to move this new playground to the housing area where kids in the neighborhood could have used it? This doesn't pass the common sense test.

Bottom line, why was the equipment donated when it could have been used here in the housing area and who

Education fund good cause

I would like to challenge each and every Arsenal employee to consider donating to the Spurlock Education Fund that was set up for Darren Spurlock's children made payable to COLLEGE AMERICA at First Financial Group at 400 Meridian Street, Suite 100, Huntsville, AL 35801.

It is such a tragedy that this gentleman was killed on the Arsenal. It could have been me, or you, or a friend, or co-worker instead. Where would the funds for your children to go to college come from if you were taken in such an accident? Just a thought... I didn't know the gentleman, but I think it is a very good cause.

Kaye Vaughan
AMRDEC/SED

Remembering why we're in Iraq

Editor's note: Nicki Swindle, an item manager, has deployed to Iraq from the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center. She is serving as the public affairs officer for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade in Balad. She wrote the following letter which appeared in her first monthly newsletter, the *AMC Outpost*.

Most Americans do not understand the actual sacrifice that is involved with serving within the theater of operations, nor do they understand exactly how many American civilians and contractors are serving here.

In my travels, which admittedly pale in comparison to many of yours, I have had the opportunity to see so much that has reminded me of how truly blessed we are to be Americans. Too often, we take things for granted or are ungrateful for the blessings that we do have, even here in Iraq. It is not necessarily our faults that we do this, but it is a lack of acknowledgement or information that often causes the ignorance that leads us to this attitude of ungratefulness.

I have only been here two weeks now, and it seems as if I am constantly hearing complaints about this or that — complaints about living quarters, complaints about the uniform, complaints about the heat, complaints about the food, and more complaints. I even heard an individual complain about having to work too late and not being able to meet friends at the pool. As a human, I also admit to occasionally complaining, though as a sage senior NCO told me recently, though we need to stop complaining

See **Playground** on page 9

See **Iraq** on page 9

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: Lamont Parker

Job: Verifying official, ID card section, Military Personnel Division

Where do you call home?
 Ashtabula (north of Cleveland), Ohio

What do you like about your job?
 Meeting different people, dealing with the public on Redstone.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
 Spend time with my family (wife, Cynthia, and their 2-year-old son Israel and 1-year-old daughter Eden).

What are your goals?
 Excel within our organization. Be a good father to my children and husband to my wife.

What's your favorite type of music?
 Hip hop



Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents:

July 18: An individual was stopped coming in Gate 9/Rideout Road the wrong way, and was found to be operating her motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol. She was administered several field sobriety tests and failed. She was arrested and transported to the station, where she refused to complete a breathalyzer test. She was placed into the detention cell until her alcohol level reached an acceptable level.

July 19: An individual was stopped for failing to stop at a stop sign and then was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license. He was issued a citation and released. The vehicle was secured pending being released to a licensed driver.

July 20: An individual was found to be operating his



motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license after being stopped for speeding. He was issued a violation notice and released. The vehicle was secured pending being released to a licensed driver.

July 21: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license after stopping at Gate 10. He was issued a violation notice and released. The vehicle was secured pending being released to a licensed driver.

Traffic accidents reported: four without injury, none with injury.

Violation notices issued: 14 speeding, 7 failure to obey traffic control device, 3 driving with a suspended/canceled/revoked driver's license, 1 following too close, 1 failure to yield right of way, 1 driving under the influence, 3 expired tags.

Army reports seven deaths from mishaps

FORT RUCKER — The Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center provided the following list of accidents Armywide during June 27 through July 3:

- A Soldier died July 8 from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident June 27 in Long County, Ga. He was driving a 2005 Pontiac GTO when he lost control of the vehicle, left the road and the vehicle flipped. He was wearing his seatbelt.
- A Soldier drowned in a swim-

ming accident June 28 near West Point, Ky. He and eight other Soldiers were jumping from a railroad bridge and swimming in the river below.

- A Soldier was killed in a vehicle accident June 29 in Killeen, Texas. He was driving a 2003 Cadillac DeVille when he was struck head-on by a 2005 Ford Mustang traveling the wrong direction. He was not wearing a seatbelt.
- Three Soldiers drowned in a

RG-31 Mine Resistant Ambush Pro-

tected vehicle accident June 29 in Afghanistan. The Soldiers were part of a multi-vehicle combat patrol mission when their MRAP rolled into a river. The Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center is investigating the accident.

- A Soldier died July 1 from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident June 30 on Fort Hood, Texas. Another vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed ran a red light and struck the Soldier's vehicle broadside.

Driver pleads not guilty to murder charge

Redstone announces investigation results

A Huntsville woman facing a federal murder charge in a wreck that killed a man on Redstone Arsenal has pleaded not guilty in federal court.

Valorie Kiel Cox, 35, entered the plea during an arraignment hearing before Magistrate Paul Greene in Birmingham, according to published reports. The case has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Lynwood Smith. State charges are also pending.

Authorities say Cox and another woman were fleeing from Huntsville police May 30 when they raced through Gate 1 and crashed into a car, killing 39-year-old Darren Spurlock, a Marshall Space Flight Center employee.

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles announced Friday the results of the investigation into the May 30 incident in which two drug suspects in a vehicle fleeing local authorities unlawfully entered Gate 1 and caused the fatal wreck.

"In a situation like this it is important that we, the Army, thoroughly investigate all matters related to an incident to ensure it does not happen in the future," Myles said. "The Army is stringent in its investigation of itself and holds itself to high standards. We have already embraced some of the lessons learned from this report."

For security reasons, the



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ACCIDENT SCENE— A Huntsville police chase through Gate 1 on Martin Road led to a fatal four-vehicle accident May 30 at the intersection of Martin and Rideout roads.

entire final report cannot be released; however, the key lessons learned and actions taken are noted below. In the final report of the investigation, a number of recommendations were made that Team Redstone leaders began reviewing and implementing immediately.

The investigation confirms that at the time of the incident, security measures at Gate 1 were in place with current Force Protection conditions. These measures allowed for the normal flow of vehicles because the known terrorist/criminal threat at the time didn't justify stricter protective measures.

As a result of the investigation, authorities can confirm that

Redstone was not notified in ample time to implement stricter Force Protection measures at Gate 1. Telephonic notification of the pursuit by the HPD 911 Center to the Redstone 911 Center was made after the suspects' vehicle and HPD undercover chase cars had passed through Gate 1.

Since learning this, Redstone has worked closely with HPD to improve a Memorandum of Agreement as it pertains to pursuing criminal suspects. This work will ensure Redstone officials are doing things in the most effective manner. For example, HPD will notify Redstone 911 Center of any pursuit regardless of the pursuit location.

The Arsenal is also streamlining the communication process between HPD and Redstone's Directorate of Emergency Services. For example, Redstone's 911 Center monitors all Huntsville city emergency communication traffic on an HPD radio. If there is a potential for Redstone involvement, HPD acknowledges the task to positively notify Redstone 911 Center. This was put into place immediately following the incident.

The investigation also proved that the guards at the gates were in compliance with the existing rules of engagement. In this case, deadly force would not have been appropriate because of the lack of information and short response time. To further sharpen the guard's skills, additional training will focus on use of gate security systems and no-notice exercises at each gate.

The investigation identified additional gate requirements. The following are examples of some of the recommended protective measures put into place or planned for imminent implementation:

- Completion of the restructuring of additional concrete barriers outside each gate to slow down incoming traffic.
- Adding improved security measures such as tire shredders at gates until scheduled upgrades are in place.
- Continuing to ensure that each gate has the most up-to-date countermeasures in place through scheduled upgrades.

Before the incident, a series of upgrades had already been scheduled. The upgrades include fortified booths and lanes for better lane control through the gates and Grab-it Net Systems.

- Improving line of sight at each gate. Immediately following the incident, trees were removed to improve the over-watch guard's line of sight at Gate 1. Gate leaders at other gates will also identify potential future improvements so that leadership can take action to remedy them.

Although gate security is key, it's only one element of an overarching force protection strategy. Stopping a terrorist (or anyone without authorization to enter the installation) is not just about securing a gate; it's about understanding the threat to the installation. Arsenal officials partner closely with federal and local organizations that are responsible for combating terrorism.

"Our daily challenge is safely allowing 48,000 cars on and off the installation each day while maintaining the mandated level of security," Myles said. "We will continue to work daily with our partners on Redstone Arsenal and our partners in the community to support Soldiers and civilians everywhere. Through the findings and recommendations of our investigation, we will continue to improve the quality, and maintain the security of our installation to ensure the safety of those who work and live on the Arsenal."

Summit explores renewable energy

ARLINGTON, Va. — Expanding the use of renewable energy sources on Army installations through technology test projects, partnerships, information-sharing, and better coordination among public works divisions — was the focus of a recent energy summit sponsored by the Army Installation Management Command.

Four renewable energy technologies — wind, solar, biomass/waste-to-energy, and geothermal — have been identified by IMCOM as primary options for enabling Army installations to meet more of their energy needs, based on testing under way at several installations.

“This summit represents my specific commitment to expanding renewable energy use by developing economically viable projects at the 22 pilot installations that participated in the Summit,” said Maj. Gen. John A. Macdonald, deputy commanding general of IMCOM and commander of the Family and Morale, Welfare, Recreation Command.

“Achieving this objective will move us closer to IMCOM’s goal of having a renewable energy project on each Army installation in the United States.” (*IMCOM release*)



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

Moving up

The appointment of Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody to four-star general was confirmed July 23 by the U.S. Senate. Dunwoody is the first female to serve as a four-star general in the United States military. She has also been confirmed for assignment as commanding general, Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Lt. Gen. Dunwoody visits Letterkenny

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Shortly after being nominated by President Bush as the Army’s first female four-star general, Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody paid a visit to Letterkenny. She serves as deputy commanding general of the Army Materiel Command.

She received a depot overview presented by depot commander Col. Steven Shapiro before beginning a tour of the depot.

The tour involved a visit to Building 1 for an overview of the depot’s efforts to implement the Logistics Modernization Program by chief of staff Mark Sheffield and LMP’s program manager Nadine Stoler.

After visiting Building 350 to see machining capabilities and the Humvee line, she toured Building 370 to see missile maintenance.

The tour included a ride in a Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicle to Building 52 to see both Letterkenny’s and BAE System’s production facilities and then to Building 51 to see work on Force Provider.

Letterkenny Munitions Center director Ed Averill presented a mission overview of the munitions center during a working lunch. (*Letterkenny release*)

Garrison's new commander steps up to the plate

Massachusetts native rooting for Red Sox

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

Col. Bob Pastorelli was ready to get started with his new job.

The incoming commander of the Garrison sat down with executive assistant Wendy Mitchell

to discuss his schedule. Five days later, on July 29, he would succeed Col. John Olshefski in a ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium. Olshefski retired with 27 years service.

"And do you do PT (physical training) in the mornings?" Mitchell asked.

"We'll see how it works," Pastorelli replied. "Trying to do PT at lunchtime is not going to work."

"It isn't," Mitchell agreed. "Not in this heat."

Welcome to the sunny South, Colonel.

Pastorelli, 45, with 23 years service, was born in Newton, Mass., so – predictably – he is a Boston Red Sox fan. He knows all about sluggers David "Big Papi" Ortiz and Manny Ramirez, closer Jonathan Papelbon and manager Terry Francona.

When asked to assess Boston's chances of winning the World Series again this year, he paused in thought. "More likely than not," he said finally.

Pastorelli also tries to support the local teams wherever he's stationed. Before coming to Redstone, he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., from August 2007 until he graduated June 12.

"I'm honored to have been selected for this most prestigious leadership position and have the opportunity to work with Team Redstone," he said. "I look forward to working with Team Redstone members and building a community of excellence that first and foremost supports our Soldiers, civilians and family members.

"The No. 1 priority is making sure we take care of the Soldier, the war fighter, and their fami-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

NEXT IN LINE— Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli on July 29 succeeded Col. John Olshefski, who retired.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Standing up

Participating in ceremonies July 21 in Bob Jones Auditorium are, from left, Brig. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, William Ruta and Col. Michael Steves. Dellarocco is the program executive officer for missiles and space, officiated as Ruta succeeded Steves as the project manager for Close Combat Weapon Systems. Steves then became project manager for the newly-activated Missile Defense Strategic Capabilities Project Office.

lies because everything relates to them," he said. "We're a nation at war. And part of that – taking care of Soldiers – is taking care of our wounded Soldiers and their families."

He and his wife, the former Anna Lee Na of Korea, have two sons: Min, 23, a Georgia Tech graduate who works in Korea teaching English; and Bobby, who turned 10 on July 25 and will be a fifth-grader at Holy Spirit.

Pastorelli enjoys golfing, traveling, fishing and of course

rooting for the New England teams – the Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins and Patriots.

"I'm honored to be here," he said of his message to the Redstone community. "I'm honored to be your (Garrison) commander. It's an honor to be able to command while our country's at war and being able to support the DoD team. And both Anna and I are looking forward to getting to know and working with the great people of the Team Redstone community."

Veterinarian comes back home to Huntsville

*Praises clients
of post clinic*

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

If you've been to Redstone's veterinary clinic lately, you may have seen a new face. Dr. Stephen Krum joined the clinic as the full-time veterinarian in March.

Krum is not new to the area. In fact, he grew up in Huntsville heading off to attend the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Although he has always had a soft spot for animals, veterinary medicine was not his original field of study.

"I started off in laboratory research. I was a research assistant. You can't do much with a biology degree," he said laughing. "I wasn't very good at it, so it was time to move on."

After graduating from Auburn University's veterinary program and practicing there for a year, Krum took a job in Georgia. He spent a year as a country vet there. When the job at Redstone offered an opportunity to move back to Huntsville, he was happy to come home.

"I have family here. My wife's family is in town," he said. "It was a family move."

In his few months at Redstone, Krum has been pleased to see the level of care owners give their pets here. Every vet hopes for the type of clients he sees, he said.

"We have some of the best clients. We have good pet owners who are willing to do what's necessary and best for their animals," Krum said. "When you speak with colleagues, you always talk about what

the clientele is like in an area. This area is well known for having good clients."

Since his arrival, the clinic has been able to see more patients. Having a full-time doctor has allowed for the availability of more appointments within the same operating hours.

"It effectively doubles the number of appointments available. That's the biggest issue our clients have had — getting in to see a vet," Krum said. "Now that I'm here, it will be more like it was previously when there was a full-time vet."

Krum hopes to see an expansion of surgical services offered by the clinic. Right now, he sees more than just dogs and cats. He welcomes small animals, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, with open arms. He also welcomes some reptiles and exotic animals, but asks that owners call the clinic to verify that he can see their particular kind of pet before bringing them in.

"It's sort of case by case," he said. "I don't see a lot of birds because that tends to be more of a specialty kind of thing. I'll do pretty much anything furry. I'll see snakes as long as they aren't poisonous."

Krum has a few pets of his own at home, as one would expect from someone who spends their days surrounded by animals.

"I'm typically more of a dog lover," he said.

When you add the furry friends of his wife, a veterinarian practicing in Huntsville, the four-legged members of his family become a veritable menagerie.

"We have every kind of pet you can think of," he said laughing. "Horses, cows, dogs and cats."

For more information on clinic hours or to schedule an appointment, call 876-2441.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

DOG DAY AFTERNOON— Dr. Stephen Krum enjoys the sunshine outside the veterinary clinic with Angus, a Saint Bernard.

AMC, USASAC headquarters buildings contract awarded

The Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District has awarded a contract for the construction of the Army Materiel Command and Army Security Assistance Command headquarters buildings at Redstone Arsenal.

The construction contract was awarded

to B.L Harbert International LLC, Birmingham. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendation requires that the headquarters AMC and USASAC moves are completed by Sept. 15, 2011. (AMC release)

Army launches informational site for contributing 'gifts' to Soldiers

WASHINGTON — The "Gifts to Army" web site, launched July 21, is an online resource developed to streamline and process gifts to the Army that benefit Soldiers and their families.

Citizens often ask Soldiers, their family members, and Army civilians how they can support their Army. They want to know how they can help men and women in uniform. This web site will provide the public an online

resource to answer the question: "How can we help?"

The "Gifts to Army" web site provides a central source of information to refer those interested in contributing to and supporting Soldiers and Army families and offers ways for them to express that support, should they choose.

For more information, visit the web site at <http://giftstoarmy.army.mil/>. (Army Public Affairs)

Hail and farewell

Transition chief couldn't picture his retirement

Former post photographer ends his 35-year career

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

Andy Pike couldn't believe this day had arrived.

After 35 years of government service, Pike was retiring. The years had passed too quickly for him.

"I want to do it all over again," said Pike, chief of the transition center in the Military Personnel Division under the Garrison's Directorate of Human Resources. "I wouldn't change a thing. I loved it."

His co-workers, longtime friends from the past and present, and others gathered July 22 — the day before his 62nd birthday — for his retirement luncheon. He officially retires July 31.

"I can't believe it either, man," Pike said. "In 1973 I was saying to myself: 'I have to do 25 years, I'm not going to live that long.'"

He arrived at Redstone in 1973 as a GS-2 clerk typist in what was then Procurement and Production in building 4488. This was during the Vietnam War and the building was filled with acquisition workers buying parts needed for the war fighters.

"I got into the Operation Bootstrap thing. I ended up in photography," said Pike, who became a photographer in 1980 at the Photo Lab. He was the last government chief photographer of the former Missile Command and Redstone.

He was the photographer of choice for Bob Sawada, 80, of Huntsville, who retired in 1994 from the Army Missile Laboratory Propulsion Directorate. Sawada would specially request Pike when he wanted photos of missile test firings.

"He was the best, he was the best," Sawada recalled. "Andy did the best work, the best data for all the missile work that we had."

In 2003 Pike arrived at military personnel division as the transition chief. Installation adjutant general Ronnie McDaniel presented the retirement certificate to Pike

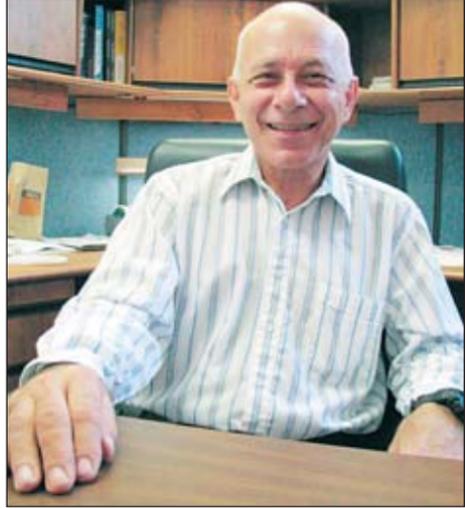


Photo by Skip Vaughn

TIME TO GO— Andy Pike, chief of the transition center in the Military Personnel Division, says he wouldn't change anything about his 35 years of government service.

during the luncheon.

"I've been here about a year now," McDaniel said. "And Andy's done a great job."

Low Spencer, who preceded McDaniel as adjutant general, concurred. "Andy, it's been a really great pleasure working with you," Spencer said.

A Madison resident, Pike plans to restore the old cars he's been collecting through the years and devote more time to the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Longtime friend Carol Hook, who serves with Pike in the Huntsville 1st Coast Guard Auxiliary, laughed as she revealed some little-known information about Pike's past. This included the time he shot himself in the leg while clowning around with some of his college mates in El Paso, Texas. A general officer visited the hospital and mistakenly presented him with a Purple Heart, despite Pike's objections.

Pike served four years in the Navy, according to Hook, who has known him more than 20 years.

"He's a good friend," Hook said. "He's there for you."

■ Some playground equipment donated to church

Playground

continued from page 2

made this decision? This is not how you take care of Soldiers and their families. How are you going to fix this problem for our children?

Melissa Hearon

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for your concern and inquiry about the playgrounds in the family housing areas of our installation. Our primary concern is for the safety of our resident sponsors and their families, especially the children when they are playing outside. It is and never has been our intent to have our residents settle for anything less than the best. If there is shoddy equipment that is in disrepair located anywhere in the family housing area, it should be reported to Redstone Communities. Though the areas are inspected regularly, there may be an area of concern that needs to be brought directly to their attention. Please call Redstone Communities at 430-1517 and report those areas you have described.

"The number of playgrounds/equipment that would remain in the family housing area after privatization was determined several years ago and was based on the number of families residing on the installation. The equipment, which was donated to a local church, was scheduled to be removed two years ago. It was located in an area where the homes are scheduled to be torn down and remained there until all families had moved. The government did not have a say in this decision because the equipment is private property. The agreement between the owners (Hunt Properties) of the equipment and the church provided a service for them both. The church needed the equipment and the owner saved thousands of dollars by avoiding the cost of hiring a contractor to remove it, preparing an area to place it, and the additional costs of having it reinstalled. The money saved from this venture provided more funds for the renovation of the homes our Soldiers and their families reside in.

"There are several playgrounds in the family housing area and we feel that the children have not been greatly impacted by the removal of one."

■ Deployed worker happy to support troops

Iraq

continued from page 2

so much, we must be able to vent. It is my hope that the little I have done was venting, not about what I do not have or about wanting more, but about trying and not being successful due to a situation or event.

Here in Balad, there are so many facilities available to help boost morale, but we often forget that it is not the physical structures or the activities that are most important in boosting morale — it's people and relationships. If we concentrate more on these, we will have a more grateful heart.

Since my recent trip to Mosul with Chaplain Mueller and Sgt. 1st Class Scott, I would like to think that I have become even more grateful for what I have. Though I miss home, my family, my husband, and my children like most of you, I try to remember that I have no reason to complain. I tell people that is not my right. That right belongs to those who man the guard towers around the perimeter or who go on patrol outside the wire. Besides, we volunteered to come over here.

It is easier for some of us than others to remember why we are here due to our personal connection with the military. For some, it is your own prior or continued service. And for others of us, it is that of a family member. Though I have never served in the military, I am basically an Army brat of a Vietnam veteran and DA civilian who served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm and

Operation Iraqi Freedom I, among other remote areas, and the wife of a two-time Iraq veteran (3ID OIF I and III) and active-duty Soldier. I am not naïve enough to believe that everyone came over here like I did, not even knowing or caring, how much money I would make, nor do I want everyone to be like that. There are plenty of stories of individuals who will be able to completely transform their lives with the income they will receive serving here, and my family of six will benefit as well.

Regardless of our primary motivation for coming, we must all remember that the only reason we are here is to support the war fighter. I always tell my children that I expect three things from them — be respectful, be grateful and be happy. We would all be happier if we would be more respectful toward each other and more grateful in general. Next time you are tired of the DFAC (Defense Finance and Accounting Service) or are having a particularly hard day, thank a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine and smile!

I hope that you enjoy this issue of the *AMC Outpost* and that you will send me input for the next one, coming out in mid-August. I value your feedback, and I am always looking for great photos, stories and ideas. I also welcome letters to the editor, as we try to make this your newsletter. 402nd AFSB! With all my heart, I thank you all for your service, both in and out of uniform. May we never forget why we're here.

Nicki Arnold Swindle

Safekeeping

'Operation Lily Pad' aims to save lives in hurricane



Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Malone

HOLDING POINT— Spc. Frankie J. Smith of Blanchard, La., pulls security at a simulated holding point as part of Operation Lily Pad. A Troop, 2nd Battalion, 108th Cavalry ran the exercise to test the capabilities and needs of a personnel collection point in the event of a hurricane.

*Exercise held
in Louisiana*

By Sgt. REBEKAH MALONE
Army News Service

PINEVILLE, La. — The Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted an exercise July 20 aimed at evacuating refugees in the event of a hurricane striking the state.

The exercise, named Operation Lily Pad, was a mock set-up of a personnel collection point, run by A Troop, 2nd Battalion, 108th Cavalry and observed by the 256th IBCT's senior leadership. The intent of the exercise was to outline and check methods to safely transport civilian refugees to the designated safe holding area, and then take them to an evacuee center.

Col. Jonathan T. Ball, commander of the 256th IBCT, said "lily pads" are dry areas

of land that might be surrounded by water. The sites have been pre-selected based on topographical analyst's recommendations and the flooding patterns of hurricane Katrina, he said. Sites include areas such as by-passes and bridges and high areas that have road access into and out of the area.

The sites are not intended to be a long-term holding area, officials said, explaining that the goal is to evacuate refugees within two to six hours of their arrival and get them out of the dangerous flood areas to a safer, more permanent center.

"This is a temporary site. We account for you, match dependents to the adults, track that you have privately owned vehicles, and get you on the first bird (helicopter) out of here," said Capt. Thomas Porter of Natchitoches, La., commander of the exercise.

Porter said that during Hurricane Katrina "you heard the horror story of the 5-year-old

child in Georgia who couldn't find his mother who was in Houston for three months. We tried to develop a system to prevent that."

The 256th IBCT is prepared to run 20 to 30 Lily Pads in the event of a hurricane, each run by 34 Soldiers.

"We have a much better plan than what we had before," Ball said. "Right now, all of our plans are based on real-world, real-life experiences."

"We identified several shortfalls in equipment and identified possible issues with the size of the lily pad in regards to landing helicopters," Ball said. "I think it was a good exercise."

The National Guard has participated in numerous hurricane exercises over the past several months in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Wildlife and Fisheries and numerous other agencies.

TRADOC selects NCO and Soldier of Year

By CARROLL KIM

TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — Sgt. 1st Class Brian Eisch, ROTC instructor at the University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse, was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and Spc. Daniel Horner of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., was named Soldier of the Year at the Training and Doctrine level after three days of rigorous competition.

Five participants competing for the two categories of NCO and Soldier of the Year came from the three major TRADOC commands: the Combined Arms Center, the U.S. Army Accessions Command and the Combined Arms Support Command. This is the first time the U.S. Army Accessions Command made a clean sweep in the contest.

Eisch was caught off-guard when his name was announced. "I didn't know how close we were, but when he said 'Accessions Command,' I said, 'That's me,' and it took me a moment to stand up."

"I was surprised. I wasn't expecting it and didn't know how close we were either in the competition," Horner said.

They arrived at Fort Monroe on July 12, and the competition began on Monday morning, July 14 with the Army Physical Fitness Test.



Photo by Patrick Buffett

HONOREES— Spc. Daniel Horner and Sgt. 1st Class Brian Eisch are presented with the TRADOC Command trophies for their victories at the NCO and Soldier of the Year competition at Fort Monroe, Va.

The APFT took place on Fort Monroe, which sits at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Eisch expressed adapting to the climate as a challenge. "The temperature is probably within 10 degrees of what we have in Wisconsin right now, but the humidity and wind hit you," he said.

"We don't have 30 mile-per-hour winds at Redstone Arsenal," agreed fellow NCO competitor Staff Sgt. Anthony Marvan, Redstone Arsenal's NCO of the Year, who was representing CASCOM.

Horner was also recognized for scoring 300 points, the maximum amount possible for the APFT.

Unmanned aircraft video passes training test

For the experimental test pilots and engineers in the Research Development and Engineering Command, success means applying maturing technologies through a rapid prototyping process.

This brings technological advances to Soldiers, brings teamwork to bear on critical requirements, and brings it all together seamlessly so fellow aviators can conduct their mission above the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., and then the battlefield.

An example is a recent NTC rotation conducted by the Tigersharks of the 3-3 Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2-1 Brigade Combat Team. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jon Lenander, assigned to the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate's Rapid Prototyping Division, participated in integrating the video from unmanned aircraft systems into the unit's AH-64D Apache helicopters for training and evaluation.

Now, after the training, the initial results are in and this is technology that can make a difference in the air and on the ground.

"VUIT-2 integration at NTC was a success," Lt. Col. Jong H. Lee, National Training Center uniformed science and technology officer, said. "This technology will revolutionize manned/unmanned aircraft teaming as well as provide actionable sensor feed to maneuver command-

ers. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jon Lenander from AATD AMRDEC played a pivotal role in this rotation." (*Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center release*)



Army photo by Ronald E. Bowman

TEST PILOTS— Standing atop their developmental AH-64D helicopter are, from left, Lt. Col. Charles Walls IV, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jon Lenander, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Scott Hutcheson, experimental test pilots assigned to the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate who served as project officers for the Video from Unmanned Aerial Systems for Interoperability Teaming-Level II Project.

Najaf Airport provides travel, economic lift

New airport boosts southern provinces

By Staff Sgt. MICHEL SAURET
 Army News Service

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki stepped off the first plane landing in Najaf International Airport and waved to cheering crowds July 20.

The celebration marked the opening of a new airport, which will facilitate travel, boost business opportunities and increase tourism to the third-most-popular destination for Islamic pilgrimages.

“The Najaf airport is a starting point for competition among provinces and local governments to make extraordinary progress toward reconstruction ... We were determined to face the terrorism that was about to destroy Iraq. The strong will of the federal government has fought and defeated it in all of its forms,” Maliki said when he addressed the crowd.

Members of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police maintained control over the mass of media and photographers who came to record the historic event.

Young children laughed and waved Iraqi flags. Men and women posed for pictures, hugging one another, kissing cheek-to-cheek with greetings. Musicians played enchanting melodies, and singers sang with spirit.

The capital of Najaf is considered one of the holiest cities for Shia Islam. The city is renowned as the site of the tomb of Imam Ali Talib, whom Shia consider the prophet Muhammad’s heir. The site is believed to be the third-most-popular destination for Islamic pilgrimages, after the Saudi Arabian cities of Mecca and Medina.

Additionally, the airport will employ hundreds of people from security guards to customer service representatives. The airport will also create new opportunities in the economy for hotels and restaurants, travel agencies, banks, currency exchange, even agricultural processing to feed Najaf’s new visitors. Moreover, the presence of this airport will attract businesses and investors.

“The benefits of this facility will ripple throughout the local, provincial, regional and national economy,” said Angus Simmons, of Reston, Va., team leader for Provincial Reconstruction Team Najaf.

The Najaf PRT helped facilitate construc-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

DEDICATION EVENT— Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki delivers a speech during the inauguration ceremony for the Najaf International Airport July 20.

tion contracts as well as linked the airport with a U.S. transportation adviser who specializes in airport management.

The new airport is part of a multi-billion dollar project led by investment firm Al-Aqeehah, based in Kuwait. The firm plans to build thousands of new homes and hotels in the city.

A total of \$80 million has been committed to the airport’s construction, \$50 million of it already invested in the project.

“I would say the Najaf people and the leadership here at the provincial level have a very national viewpoint on what this airport does for Iraq,” said Col. Jeffery Smith, deputy commanding general, support for Multi-National Division-Center and the 10th Mountain Division.

“About the only other way you could have gotten into this part of the country previously was by vehicle. There’s no train system that comes through here,” Smith said. “So this airport is going to be huge not only for Najaf, but ... it will affect the other major cities in the province of Karbala (and others) north and west of here.”

The airport will help not only the province of Najaf prosper, but also the neighboring Karbala, Babil and Qadasiyah. Before now, the closest airport was centralized in Baghdad, hundreds of miles north of these areas. They too will take advantage of economic plans provided by the new travel.

“I think it’s a positive time – it’s a good time – to open this airport,” Smith concluded.

Afghan security forces hold key to success, general says

Security transition commander points out shortage of trainers

By JIM GARAMONE
 American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Training Afghan security forces is the key to success in the country, but the effort continues to be plagued by a shortage of trainers, the general in charge of that training said July 22.

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone, commander of the Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan, said Afghanistan has “made positive strides in fielding professional security forces that are competent, diverse and capable of providing security,” but that much remains to be done.

Cone spoke to reporters gathered at the Foreign Press Center here in a teleconference from Kabul.

The command is responsible for training Afghan soldiers and police. The Afghan National Army is doing quite well, Cone said, but the police need continued work.

The idea, the general said, is to get the Afghans in the lead.

“I think the objective of CSTC-A would be to allow the Afghans to provide for the defense of Afghanistan,” Cone said. “I think Afghan soldiers see things in Afghanistan when they conduct operations that Westerners do not see, based on cultural and ethnic backgrounds that they understand.”

The command has about 8,000 personnel — 3,000 civilians and about 5,000 military. About 800 members are from coalition countries. The command does not fall under the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force; it is under U.S. Central Command control.

The situation in the country has become more dangerous. The Taliban and other terrorists have launched a number of attacks on Afghan and coalition forces. “That is, of course, of concern to certainly me, because my forces are out in the battle space,” he said.

Still the Afghan military has stepped up, with roughly half of the forces battling the Taliban being Afghan security forces.

“Afghans learn by doing, and in fact, the way you get better at these combat operations is in fact to go out and execute them,” he said. “So as enemy attacks have stepped up, I would argue that this year, the capability of the Afghan army —



Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone

with some 63,000 troops in the field and another 9,000 in training — has really allowed the coalition to have a response for that with the Afghan contribution.”

Police training continues to be a problem, the general said. “Right now the number is about 2,300 police trainers that we are short,” Cone said. “Again, we think that it is a joint responsibility of all of the nations that are contributing here in Afghanistan. We ask for their support.”

Countries from around the world are working with U.S. police trainers, with the majority of the trainers coming from the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands and Germany. There are roughly 79,000 police in Afghanistan, but the quality varies.

The major reform effort has been “focused district development” a program that retrains police forces, district by district, with heavy emphasis on values, constitutional responsibilities and rule of law, Cone said.

Cone praised the efforts of the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Marines, who deployed to Afghanistan in March. The unit is working to train the police.

“Some of the districts that we’ve put police in have not had police in them in years, and in fact, the Marines established that security environment and then they have professional police trainers that work with the Afghans,” he said.

Cone said he is optimistic about the progress of the Afghan security forces. He said any long-term solution in the country depends on Afghans picking up the security mission.

“Much work remains, however, and it’s important that the international community understand and support this critical mission so that we may have a safe and stable Afghanistan,” he said.

New travel charge cards dealt to U.S. workers

Program in transition from BoA to CiTi

The current DoD Government Travel Charge Card program will transition from Bank of America to CiTi on Nov. 30. After Nov. 29, BoA credit card accounts will not be valid for charges. The following are frequently asked questions relevant to the transition.

Question: What is going to change with the new vendor? How about the credit limits?

Answer: Very little, if anything, will change for the cardholders regarding use of the card. Since the new card will also be VISA branded, you'll have the same worldwide charging privileges that you now have. Credit limits will remain the same and the AMCOM agency program coordinators will have the authority to raise limits (as they do today) to meet mission requirements.

Question: What do cardholders have to do to get ready?

Answer: Pay all outstanding undisputed charges prior to Nov. 29. Also, ensure that your mailing address on file with Bank of America is a current address. That is where your new card from CiTi will be sent.

Question: What accounts will transfer to CiTi? Will current BoA cards that are closed due to inactivity be transferred? Will I have to fill out a new application?

Answer: Only open and deactivated accounts will transfer to CiTi. No new application will be required for these accounts. However, closed accounts will not transfer and will require a new application to CiTi.

Question: How and when are the new cards going to be distributed and when will they be sent out? What will I have to do when I get my new card?

Answer: New CiTi cards were to be sent to OCONUS employees July 17. Continental U.S. employee cards will begin shipping Aug. 22 with Alabama and Tennessee employees receiving theirs around Aug. 29. Cards will be shipped in a deactivated state, which means they will not be available for charging. Cardholders will be required to call CiTi to confirm receipt of the card. The card will be activated, by CiTi, for use on Nov. 30.

Question: What happens if I try to use my CiTi card prior to Nov. 30?

Answer: The charge will decline and a report of the attempt will be sent to your

See **Cards** on page 15

Official calls integrated military 'Model of Diversity'

Director of EEO applauds 60 years of progress

By **JOHN J. KRUZEL**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. armed forces have exemplified racial diversity since integrating 60 years ago, but further efforts are necessary to diversify military leadership, a Pentagon official said July 22.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order that led to racial equality among servicemembers. Six decades later, the Defense Department now boasts a diverse work force of roughly 3 million employees.

“The military has been a model for the nation,” Clarence Johnson, DoD’s principal director and director of civilian equal employment opportunity, said in an interview. “Other institutions look at us and see what programs that we’re putting in place.”

Johnson, a former Air Force colonel, said diversity of the services creates a wider talent pool to recruit from, and allows for a more productive and prepared force.

“We find that readiness does not owe any special allegiance to color, to sex, to race,” he said. “From the wide populace



Clarence Johnson

that we serve, we go out and get the best we can.”

In today’s military, minorities make up more than one-third of active duty forces, with blacks comprising more than 17 percent. Black representation in the enlisted forces — about 13 percent — is parallel to the amount of blacks represented in the recruiting-age civilian population overall, according to Defense Department statistics.

Meanwhile, Hispanic representation in the military has grown over the past decade, from about 2 percent to 5 percent among officers overall, and in the enlisted ranks to around 11 percent, Johnson said.

Though the armed forces have made great strides since early integration efforts, a department-sponsored report released this month suggests that major institutional changes may be required to improve diversity among the military’s senior leadership.

The study, published by the nonprofit policy think tank Rand, melds input from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the unified combatant commands, the Navy and Marine Corps and other defense agencies.

One policy recommendation highlighted in the report, titled “Planning for Diversity,” is to include senior levels of the Defense Department in the push for diversity.

“The highest level of DoD leadership, not just from the personnel community, but also from other functional communities, needs to be involved in this effort,” states a report summary available online.

Echoing the Rand findings, Johnson cited the need for greater representation of minorities and women at senior ranks and grades as a challenge facing the Defense Department.

African-Americans now represent 6 percent of all general and flag officers, and 9 percent of officers overall, levels which have increased steadily over the last decade, according to Defense Department statistics.

Johnson suggested the makeup of the military’s senior levels could achieve greater balance if more minorities entered service academies. He added that blacks are less represented than other races in officer occupations — career tracks with the best prospect to rise to senior ranks — with only 20 percent of blacks in tactical operations, while 38 percent of all other races occupy the same fields.

Though not at desired levels, racial diversity among current military leadership is a factor that improves combat readiness, Johnson said.

“The fact that we have a wide variety of race, a wide variety of skill of other diverse characteristics, (means) we then have different types of people making decisions that can impact the mission, and the mission is going to be better for it,” he said.

Johnson said the strength of the Defense Department is its ability to assess itself, and to respond to whatever shortcomings exist.

“I think that the military is going to be strong, because it will continue to be diverse,” he said.

Testing to ensure Soldiers get right stuff

Redstone Technical Test Center verifies aviation, missile systems

By KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY

Staff writer

kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

If a missile or aviation system component is not operating as it should, mission readiness and Soldiers' lives may be compromised. The Redstone Technical Test Center ensures that systems perform as expected.

"Our mission is to plan, conduct, analyze and report on testing of missile and aviation systems, subsystems and components," RTTC associate director Bill Colson said.

While the command they fall under has changed over the years, as has the technology they work with, the Redstone location has remained constant. The organization has called the installation home for half a century.

"We've been at Redstone since the 1950s," Colson said. "We have a legacy that goes back to the early days of the Arsenal."

Their tests cover both hardware and software components of a system. Components can be tested for their individual performance and how well they integrate within a system with other components. There is no component too big or too small for RTTC.

"We test from the smallest components or elements of a system, like a gear, all the way to the full-up missile system or aircraft," Mark Walker, chief of the sustainment and special projects branch of RTTC's test management division, said.

The RTTC tests systems and their components in both laboratory and open-air situations. For the lab portion of their operations, they have nine functional branches. Each serves a specialized function, trying to recreate real-world factors such as extreme heat and vibration.

"We have laboratory capabilities to take a test item and subject it to the vibration and mechanical shock environment that it might see when it's being transported to the field to make sure that's going to work properly," Colson said.

Another lab specializes in electromagnetic effects.

"We immerse aircraft components and full-up aircraft in an electromagnetic environment to make sure they function properly in those situations," Colson said.

In addition to the static labs, RTTC maintains mobile test facilities.

"They go worldwide," Colson said. "We have mobile capabilities that may be



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

COORDINATING PLANS— From left, operation lead Wes Widner and Tom Gilstrap, a contractor with Aerodyne, discuss upcoming tests with RTTC associate director Bill Colson and Mark Walker, chief of the Sustainment and Special Projects Branch of the Test Management Division, in the Mission Operations Coordination Center.

anywhere in the world providing measuring and testing of missiles that are fielded to ensure they are available and ready if they are needed."

Tenants of Redstone *Ninth in a series*

The open-air testing includes firings at the Army test stands and captive flight tests in partnership with the Aviation Technical Test Center. Obviously, conducting outdoor tests on systems and components requires a lot of space. In fact, ATTC uses close to 14,000 acres of the installation. That is about one-third of the total Arsenal area, primarily concentrated on the southern end of the post.

"It's a combination of open-air ranges, which we use to do missile flight testing or the different kinds of sensors that we evaluate," Colson said. "It also includes laboratory space. All this land space that we're operating on Redstone Arsenal really does provide a very critical capability to Team Redstone."

Their test operations vary in size and scope depending upon the equipment being tested. While the number of pieces in testing fluctuates, Walker estimates they have 500 projects going on at some level at any one time.

"We do an average workload of \$100 million-plus," Colson said. "If that helps put a metric on it."

Colson said RTTC works closely with the program offices, contractors, and research and development facilities. Even though there are seven other facilities

under the Developmental Test Command, they are in a unique position because of their Redstone location.

"In the early days of Redstone Arsenal, we were part of the Research and Development community," Colson said. "We're unique in the terms of test capability because of the ability to get involved on a system in the early development phase. It allows us to basically stay with it throughout its life cycle."

The information RTTC supplies helps to eliminate functional or safety issues before a component is fielded. It helps to isolate causes and factors for parts that have failed in the field so that a recurrence can be prevented. It can help establish maintenance and acquisition plans for replacement parts. It can also help with packaging and shipping guidelines for those parts.

■ CiTi getting government travel card program

Cards

continued from page 13

agency program coordinator here at AMCOM.

Question: What about training?

Answer: Training for cardholders will be conducted through a web-based training module.

For a smooth transition between accounts, please pay all outstanding undisputed charges prior to Nov. 29. CiTi will handle all official travel related expenses effective Nov. 30. If you are on travel during the crossover period (Nov.

"Any kind of storage environment these things will see in their lifetime, we can pretty much recreate," Walker said.

While their equipment is specialized and technical, Colson said the most important thing at work at RTTC is the 700 civilians and contractors reporting for work there.

"That is our strength. We have a highly skilled work force dedicated to the mission of making sure we provide the safest and most effective weapons systems possible to the Soldiers in the field," Colson said. "They are all dedicated to making sure that the weapons are safe through our testing and evaluation, and that they have the most effective performance possible. We want to deliver the best capability to the Soldier."

The volume of work has increased significantly for the organization over the years. Keeping up with the workload, while maintaining a fast operational tempo, has been a challenge.

"We're very busy supporting the needs of our Army," Colson said. "It's a challenge to maintain the pace."

RTTC will soon have another big challenge awaiting them. Just like their sister organization, ATTC from Fort Rucker, they will undergo big changes with base realignment and closure, Colson said. In fact, the two organizations will merge to form one test center under one roof on Redstone by the end of fiscal 2011. The new headquarters facility will be built on Martin Road. Both test centers have cooperated extensively with each other over the years. They are looking forward to merging.

"There's going to be a lot of synergy to leverage the two capabilities into a comprehensive test center for both missiles and aviation," Colson said. "As far as Team Redstone is concerned, they will have a comprehensive capability in their back yard. It's exciting."

29-30), you will be using both your BoA card and CiTi card for your travel charges. You will use your BoA card for charges on Nov. 29 and earlier and then use your CiTi charge card on Nov. 30 and later. Cardholders will need to cancel all recurring charges at transition for the Bank of America charge card account and have those charges to go to their new CiTi charge card account.

If you have any questions, you can call the AMCOM agency program coordinator, Sandy Balog, at 842-8012 or e-mail sandy.balog@us.army.mil. (AMCOM G-8 Resource Management release)

Estimate Social Security retirement benefits

Online calculator becomes available

Michael Astrue, commissioner of Social Security, has unveiled a new online calculator that will provide immediate and personalized benefit estimates to help people plan for their retirement.

The Retirement Estimator is located at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

This estimator is tied to a person's actual Social Security earnings record and eliminates the need to manually key in years of earnings information.

"Deciding when to retire is one of the most important and difficult decisions many people face," Astrue said. "The Retirement Estimator greatly improves the information available when trying to decide the right time to retire. It is simple, easy-to-use and will provide highly accurate benefit estimates for those nearing retirement age. For younger workers, it will provide valuable information to help them plan and save for their retirement."

The Retirement Estimator is interactive allowing the user to compare different retirement options. For example, a person can change retirement dates or

expected future earnings. Individuals also can print out up to three different scenarios at one time, in addition to information about their benefits at age 62 (current age if older), full retirement age and age 70.

Best of all, the Retirement Estimator is secure. The only thing it provides online is retirement benefit estimates. It does not show the earnings record information on which the final benefit estimate was calculated, nor does it reveal other personal information.

"The Retirement Estimator is just one of many things we are doing to make more information and services people need available over the Internet," Astrue said. "We recently unveiled a new home page at www.socialsecurity.gov that reduces visual clutter and is easier to navigate. Since its release, we have received many positive comments. In the fall, we will introduce the public to our next initiative: a total overhaul of our online retirement application that will reduce the average filing time from 45 minutes to about 15 minutes. These initiatives will help us better handle the baby boomer wave and make it easier for the public to do business with us online." (*Social Security release*)

Troop sports serves up volleyball

Unit-level teams
getting ready

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

Headquarters & Alpha is the defending post champion as the 2008 volleyball season opens Aug. 5.

There's a possibility the troop league will include civilian teams for the first time, but that depends on their availability. The Civilian Welfare Fund Council has funding for two teams, according to CWF Council sports director Starla Bond.

"The council really wants it to go for this season, but it's a matter of finding teams that want to play," she said.

The fee for each civilian team would be \$150 plus jerseys. Interested team captains should call Bond, who works in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, at 759-1854.

Gaylene Wilson, sports director for Morale Welfare and Recreation, has been talking with CWF Council leaders the past two years about the possibility of bringing in civilian teams. Bond has been the council's sports director about four months.

"I think it'll be a great team effort to get this going," Wilson said. "It's been a vision. It's coming to light."

About seven teams are expected to play in the troop league, including Headquarters & Alpha and last year's runner-up Marines. Games are planned Tuesday and Thursday nights at 6, 6:45 and 7:30 at

Pagano Gym. A coaches' meeting will be held on opening night Aug. 5 at 5:30.

The other troop teams include HHC 59th, Bravo Company, 326th Chemical Company, NCO Academy and possibly Charlie Company, according to Wilson.

"I think Headquarters & Alpha practiced yesterday (July 22), so they're getting ready," she said during a meeting for team representatives July 23.

In the postseason tournament final last Sept. 5, the Gators beat the Marines 25-22, 25-17. Headquarters & Alpha finished 2007 at 11-2, including 3-0 in the tournament.

The Marines finished at 9-5. The Marines had beaten the Gators Aug. 20 in the last week of the 2007 season. But in the tournament, the Gators sent the Marines to the losers bracket Aug. 29.

"The Marines were probably our biggest battle the whole season," 2007 Headquarters & Alpha player/coach Felix Knight said. "We knew it was going to be a tough match. We just came together, stayed with our game plan and prevailed in the end."

Marines representative Trong Nguyen hopes for a different result this year.

"We're going to try to take first, obviously," Nguyen said. "It just really



Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo Jr.

WORLD GAMES— Army Spc. Sarah Lusk successfully blocks against the Canadian women's volleyball team at the Military World Games competition in Hyderabad, India, Oct. 15, 2007. The U.S. team won 3 games to 1.

depends on what talent we have available."

Dustin Kershaw and Chris McNally are returning players for the Marines.

Caleb Campbell's pro football career postponed

Detroit Lions draftee
a second lieutenant

WASHINGTON – Detroit Lions football draftee Caleb Campbell must fulfill his Army obligation first.

The Army recently revised its policy related to Soldier participation in professional sports. The revised Army policy comports with DoD policy and requires a U.S. Military Academy or ROTC graduate to complete at least two years of active duty service in the Army.

Once the officer completes two years of active duty, and subject to certain conditions, he may apply for excess leave or for release from his remaining active duty service obligation to pursue a professional sports activity with potential recruiting or public affairs benefit for the Department.

In 2nd Lt. Caleb Campbell's case, once he completes a minimum of two years of active service in the Army, he may apply for excess leave, for a period not to exceed one year, to pursue a professional sports activity with potential recruiting or public affairs benefit for the Department. In the alternative, upon completion of a minimum of two years active duty service, Campbell may request early release from his remaining

active duty service obligation. If approved for early release, Campbell will be subject to monetary recoupment of educational benefits at a pro-rata share based on the period of his unfulfilled service obligation.

He also will be assigned to a reserve component unit for the remainder of his active duty service obligation and will be subject to immediate, involuntary recall for any reason to complete the period of active duty from which early release was granted.

"Clearly, 2nd Lt. Campbell deserves the well-earned recognition he's received for his outstanding football career at West Point and subsequent selection by the Detroit Lions," the Army said in a prepared release. "He is an outstanding athlete who displayed the dedication, determination and discipline required of a champion. He has the qualities we expect of our leaders, and is the kind of leader our Soldiers deserve."

Campbell, a 6-foot-2, 230-pound safety at Army, was selected by the Lions in the seventh round at 218 overall in this year's NFL draft.

Editor's note: This article was adapted from an Alternate Service Option policy update provided by Department of Army.

Sports & Recreation

Babe Ruth baseball

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the 2008 Fall Season on Aug. 23 and 30 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2009 are invited; and 12-year-old players are eligible to sign up as well under the Local Swing Player Option. Registration forms will be accepted after Aug. 30 on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. A copy of the players' birth certificate is required for all new players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. Contact one of the following park representatives for registration locations and the park where the player is zoned to play: Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, Emile Jones 990-5902; Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, Tim Harrison 544-3180; and Eastern Division, Optimist Park, T. Poe 527-8763.

Ten-Miler lottery

Army Ten-Miler officials announced that 400 race entries will be offered to service-members through a special, online lottery Aug. 11-15. "This is the Army's race and many military personnel didn't know where they would be in October when the

race sold out on April 21," race director Jim Vandak said. "We realize that the 400 military entries will not cover everyone. However, we wanted to do something special for the military and recognize their service to our country." The military lottery will be conducted online at www.armytenmiler.com. To register for the lottery, participants will need to have or use an e-mail address with a .mil extension. The Army Ten-Miler lottery is open to all branches of the armed forces and winners will be randomly selected Aug. 16. The Army Ten-Miler is America's largest 10-mile running event. The Army's annual 10-mile race will take place Sunday, Oct. 5 in Washington, D.C.

Civilian volleyball

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council has funding to sponsor two volleyball teams. Interested team captains should call CWF Council sports director Starla Bond 759-1854.

Bowling benefit

Junior Achievement of Northern Alabama will hold its annual Bowl-A-Thon on Aug. 23 and 24 at Madison Bowling Center, AMF Parkway Lanes, Plamor Lanes and Redstone Lanes. Sixty companies and 1,100 bowlers participated last year. The goal is to sign up 75 companies and 1,500 bowlers this year. To register your team, call the JANA office 533-4661.

Conferences & Meetings

Chapel women

The Protestant Women of the Chapel summer study will meet Thursday at the Bicentennial Chapel fellowship hall. "We will be studying the names of God from a book called 'Lord, I want to know You' by Kay Arthur," a prepared release said. The morning study is from 9:30-11 a.m., the lunch study is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the evening study meets from 6:30-8 p.m. For more Bible study information, call Laura Keegan 489-7686. For child watch care information, call Sharon Olshefski 489-0404.

Sergeants major

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

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.

Officer association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 in the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Rick Tucker, executive director of the Port of Huntsville, which includes Huntsville International Airport, the International Intermodal Center, and the Jetplex Industrial Park. For more information, call retired Col. Danny Burttram 325-1938.

Toastmasters

Anyone interested in improving their speaking ability is invited to attend the Lunar Nooners Toastmasters Club 9783, which meets Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the building 4610 cafeteria. For more information, call Paul Pickett 544-6078.

Computer users

The Huntsville Personal Computer Group will meet Aug. 9 at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave., starting at 9:15 a.m. with the Windows/Internet Special Interest Group. Ron Schmitz, president of HPCUG, will talk about reinvigorating your slowing

computer and answer participant questions. At 10:15 there will be a short business meeting followed by Gene Zajicek, a digital photography instructor, demonstrating the restoration and digitization of old, worn, faded and cracked photographs using easily obtainable software. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 534-4324.

Space society

HAL-5, local chapter of the National Space Society, presents a free public lecture "Microgravity Propellant Transfer in Parabolic Flight" by Mike Brennon on Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library, 915 Monroe St. A social will follow. For more information, call Ronnie Lajoie 509-3833.

Blacks in government

Blacks In Government, Huntsville-Madison Chapter is accepting applications for new members. For more information, call Bee Holloway 721-1593 or Bob Wilson 955-3377.

Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Aug. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. "The History of the 6th U.S. Cavalry — Stoneman's Raid to Brandy Station, 1863," a video documentary, will be presented by Jeffrey Ewing, a Civil War enthusiast and local documentary filmmaker. Visitors are welcome. Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$6.95. Call 890-0890 for more information.

Geospatial conference

The 2008 Rocket City Geospatial Conference, Nov. 18-20 at the Huntsville Marriott, will focus on geographic information system and location-based services applications developed by organizations, local and state governments from Alabama and surrounding regions. The conference should see its attendance expand this year, as the fifth annual Alabama GIS Symposium will be co-located with the event. For more information, visit www.DirectionsMedia.net.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Aug. 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, Personal Growth Center. The speaker is Robert Lott, Garrison BRAC Team leader. For ticket information, call Kim Wright 876-6163 or Lisa Lowery 876-7086.

Miscellaneous

Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B information

systems operators and 42A human resources specialists. For 25B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Master Sgt. Harold Cook 319-8456 or Warrant Officer David Ricketts 955-4026.

Civilian deployment

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

Surplus sales

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

Computer classes

Self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service to assist military spouses in learning or enhancing their

computer skills. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Publisher and Windows XP. All classes are free and are offered Monday through Friday anytime between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Certificates will be given after successful completion. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Motorcycle safety

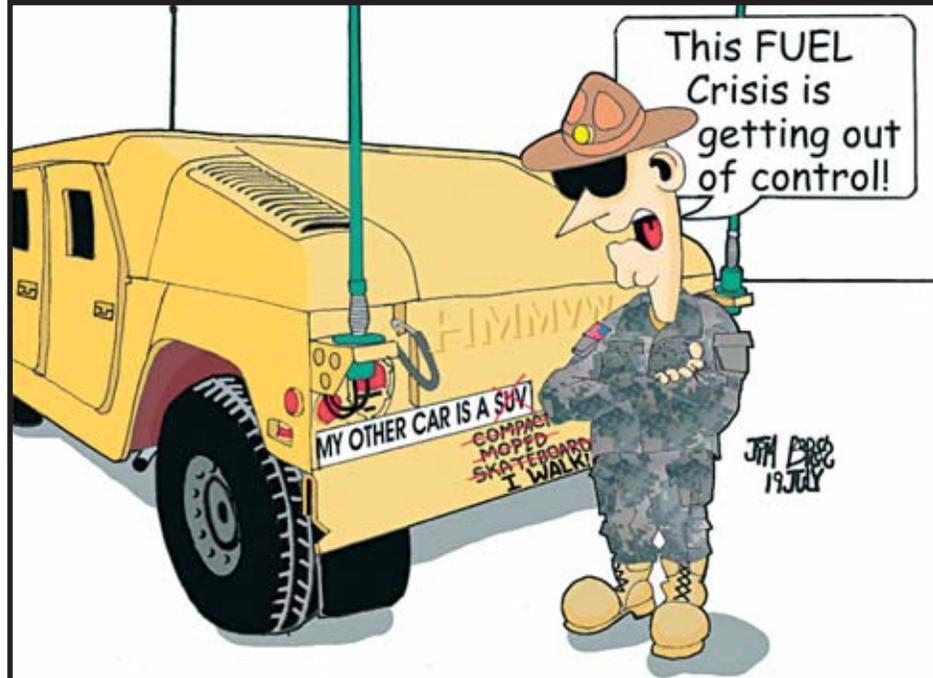
To permanently register a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal, the DoD requires all motorcyclists to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation training course. There are two programs offered free of charge to Army personnel and on a space available basis to others authorized access to Redstone Arsenal. For information call Keith Coates at the Garrison Safety Office 876-3383, e-mail keith.coates@us.army.mil or e-mail MSF instructor Ralph Harris at 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 or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.



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 Bevill 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.srbutler-highreunions.com/>.

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.

Artists wanted

All artists in any medium are invited to participate in Redstone Arsenal's annual Oktoberfest juried art show Sept. 11-14. Submission deadline is Aug. 1. "This is a great opportunity to display and sell your artwork to a very large public audience," a prepared release said. For more informa-

tion and an application, call event coordinator Alison Levson 975-1975. Sponsors include Morale Welfare and Recreation, Huntsville Art League, Art by Alison, and Gina Hurst.

CFC volunteers

The Combined Federal Campaign office is in need of enthusiastic individuals with leadership and organizational abilities to be a part of its 2008 Loaned Executive Program. "The LE program is an excellent vehicle to train dynamic men and women for career and community leadership," a prepared release said. Individuals nominated will be required to attend a four-day workshop in August and be able to volunteer up to 20 hours per week during the campaign. Nominations for participation are now being accepted. For more information, call the CFC office 842-1037.

Acquisition careerists

Quality applicants are being sought to apply for fiscal 2010 project/product manager and acquisition director positions at the GS-14/15 (or pay band equivalent) level. The announcement opened June 25 and will remain open until Sept. 12 and is located on the USAJobs and Human Resources Command web pages. For more information call LaVerne Kidd 313-5039 or your acquisition career manager. You must be an Acquisition Corps member to apply.

Digestion class

Celiac disease is a digestive disorder that damages the small intestine and interferes

See Announcements on page 27

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. Learn the latest information provided by a Fox Army Health Center pharmacist Aug. 7 from noon-1 p.m. in the Wellness Center Classroom on the first floor. 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.

Good night's sleep

Learn the latest information from health professionals at the Crestwood Center for Sleep Disorders in a class Aug. 21 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Fox Army Health Center Wellness Classroom. The class is open to all active 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. 1430.

Scholarship competition

This year's Air, Space and Missile Defense Association (ASMDA) Loretta Spencer College Scholarship Awards competition is under way. Six years ago this scholarship fund was started with a donation of personal funds from Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer. Last year it awarded \$16,000 in four separate scholarships to deserving students. This year it will award five \$4,000 scholarships (\$20,000 total) to deserving members of the ASMDA family. For more information call Tom Newberry, executive vice president of Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation, at 922-9300, ext. 131.

Health center day

Fox Army Health Center clinics, services

and pharmacy at the Tricore Service Center and the Redstone Dental Clinic will close at 11:30 a.m. Friday to allow all personnel to attend the annual Organization Day event. The Appointment Center telephone lines will be answered until 4:30 p.m. The health center is closed on Thursday afternoons, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox does not have an emergency room or emergency medical services. Dial 911 to activate EMS.

Employment opportunity

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, is hiring border patrol agents to protect this nation's borders against terrorism and illegal immigration. Border patrol agents have the initial earning potential of \$36,658 to \$46,542, within the first year of employment, depending on the candidate's education and experience. In addition, border patrol agents are eligible to earn above \$70,000 a year after successful completion of a two-year trial period under the Federal Career Intern Program. CBP will accept applications Aug. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Please preregister at 876-5397.

Book discussion

The MWR Post Library will have a book discussion open to the Redstone community on Aug. 22 from noon to 1 p.m. Join other book enthusiasts for a discussion of "Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follett. People may come and go as needed and are welcome to bring a bag lunch. The library is located at building 3323 on Redeye Road. Call 876-4741 for more information.

Newcomer orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service New-

comers' Orientation on Aug. 5 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone. Civilian employees, contractors and spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

Valley job fair

Tennessee Valley military and civilian Job Fair is Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Calhoun Community College Aerospace Training Center, Decatur Campus, 6250 U.S. Highway 31 North in Tanner. Employers from across the Tennessee Valley will be there. There will be presentations throughout the day on "Tips on Applying for Jobs with the Federal Government." The job fair is presented by the Alabama Career Centers in Decatur, Huntsville and the Shoals Area, along with Calhoun Community College.

Art exhibit

Fast Frame and McKenzie, a Hollywood turned Huntsville artist, have partnered to provide an art exhibit and open house Aug. 9 from noon until 7 p.m. at Fast Frame's location, 1420B Paramount Drive. This wine and cheese reception will allow customers to meet this award winning artist, view her work and get their artwork framed at the same time. McKenzie's art will be displayed from Aug. 2-16 at the same location. Junior Achievement

Rocket Announcements

of Northern Alabama has been selected by the team to receive a portion of the proceeds during this time. For more information about the art exhibit, call Debby Reed 722-4949.

International beer tasting

The Redstone community is invited to the international beer tasting Aug. 8 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Tickets are \$14 for members and \$16 for non-members. Call 830-2582.

Comedy night

Join the Officers and Civilians Club for "Comedy Night" on Aug. 22. The headliner is Tom Foss, special guest Spark Mann and the opener Ken Lewis. Advance tickets are \$8 without dinner and \$16 with dinner. Tickets at the door will be \$12 without dinner and \$20 with dinner. For more information, call 830-2582.

See Announcements on page 28



**Save time,
money and gas!**

**Book and Gift Sale
Sparkman Center Cafeteria
August 5th-6th**

Announcements

Library closed

The MWR and OMEMS Library will be closed until approximately Aug. 6 while the building's entire electrical system is being updated and expanded. Library materials can still be returned using the book-drop container outside the front door. No materials will be considered overdue related to this period, and the staff will attempt to accommodate individual library needs.

Wounded warrior hotline

The Army has established a Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline at 1-800-984-8523. The purpose of the hotline is two-fold: To offer wounded, injured or ill Soldiers and their family members a way to share concerns on the quality of patient care; and to provide senior Army leaders with visibility on medically-related issues so they can properly allocate resources to better serve Soldiers and families. The hotline is an avenue to gather information about medical care as well as suggest ways to improve medical support systems.

Career fair

The Redstone Arsenal "Defense Technology and Intelligence Career Fair" is Aug. 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711 off Patton Road. For more information and to pre-register, visit www.transitioncareers.com.

Train rides

The North Alabama Railroad Museum will have

two train rides in August. The museum will have a 10-mile ride at 10 a.m. Saturday from the historic Chase Depot. Another 10-mile ride is Aug. 16 at 10 a.m. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children under 12. For reservations call the Chase Depot on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 851-6276.

BOSS returns

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) is returning to Redstone Arsenal with its first organizational meeting Aug. 14 at noon in the meeting room at the Dining Facility. This MWR program offers social opportunities, recreational activities and community service projects for Soldiers who are single or unaccompanied, regardless of rank. Soldiers are encouraged to attend the meeting Aug. 14 to provide their input on activities they would like to see offered by Redstone Arsenal's BOSS program. The meeting will be conducted by BOSS president Sgt. 1st Class Winston McElrea with assistance from MWR adviser Brian Marbrey and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey Cooper.

College fair

The second annual College Recruitment Fair is Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dr. Richard Showers Center, 4600 Blue Springs Road. This free event for high school seniors and juniors is presented by the Sports Ball, WDJL Love 1000 and Alabama A&M University Office of Admissions. For more information, call 372-5250 or 852-9941.

