

Redstone Rocket

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February 18, 2009

Getting technical

Portable antenna boosts war effort
Page 10



Around town

Veterans organization holds national meeting
Page 12



Training day



Logistics interns get class space
Page 14

Win or lose

NCO Academy ruler of boards
Page 16



At ease



Ten-Miler team seeks runners
Page 17

Army aviation's enterprise approach

Organizations work together to sustain the war fighter

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

The face of a young Soldier, a gun in his hands and the desert at his back, helped Maj. Gen. James Barclay III make his point at Thursday's luncheon meeting with about 500 aviation industry and military representatives during the 35th annual aviation symposium at the Von Braun Center.

Superimposed around the Soldier in the picture, which was projected on two large screens at the luncheon, were aviation systems that are symbolic of the work performed at the Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, at the Aviation and Missile Command and Program Executive Office for Aviation at Redstone Arsenal, and throughout the Army's aviation industry.

"The most important part of what we do every day is that kid standing in the middle there," said Barclay, commander of USAACE and Fort Rucker, as he pointed to the Soldier.

"When you ask a Soldier what they think about Army aviation you will find out we have a great reputation. We bring a lot to the war fighter. But we have to continue to do that because this kid depends on us."

Barclay's comments were made during the Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium hosted by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America. The theme for the two-day symposium was "Maintaining Aviation Excellence in a Wartime Environment."

Balancing the Army's two overarching missions – one, to support the Army Force Generation (a movement to synchronize Soldiers, equipment, resources and training to ensure a global presence in the long-term combat of terrorism) and, two, to posture for the future – takes all elements of Army aviation working together.

"We are one team, one fight, one future. This is about Army aviation," Barclay said.

While the team of military aviation organizations and aviation industry businesses work for excellence on behalf of the Soldier, he said that same team must look toward preparing for future requirements.

"If we don't posture ourselves and take a hard look at where we need to be within just 10 years, 20 to 25 years, and beyond, then we are already behind the power ball," he said. "Our future is what kind of drives what we are doing today at not just Fort Rucker



File photo

UTILITY HELICOPTER— The Black Hawk is the Army's current and future force utility and medical evacuation helicopter. The Army has more than 1,700 Black Hawks in its fleet, including the UH-60M. The Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker work closely with the Aviation and Missile Command and the Program Executive Office for Aviation to ensure that war fighters have the best possible equipment and training in the Global War On Terrorism. Aviation industry officials – both military and private sector – discussed issues pertaining to "Maintaining Aviation Excellence in a Wartime Environment" during the 35th annual Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium hosted in Huntsville by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America.

but throughout our team and with every aviation leader."

The Army's aviation community must work to support the Training and Doctrine Command as it recruits, trains and educates Soldiers, develops leaders, supports training in units, develops doctrine, establishes standards and builds the future Army. TRADOC is working to meet the demands of a nation at war while simultaneously anticipating future challenges and solutions.

As the Army's center of excellence for aviation, Fort Rucker has a key role in helping TRADOC shape and build the Army of the future, Barclay said.

"Our focus is on training and preparing the war fighter," he said of Fort Rucker and its mission to develop the Army's aviation capabilities through training, doctrine and testing. "We are looking forward to ensure that the units deployed can meet the mission task."

As the Army transforms itself into the Army Force Generation, it is focusing efforts with the enterprise approach.

"Three, four, five years ago, we were talking about an enterprise approach at Army aviation well before the Army came

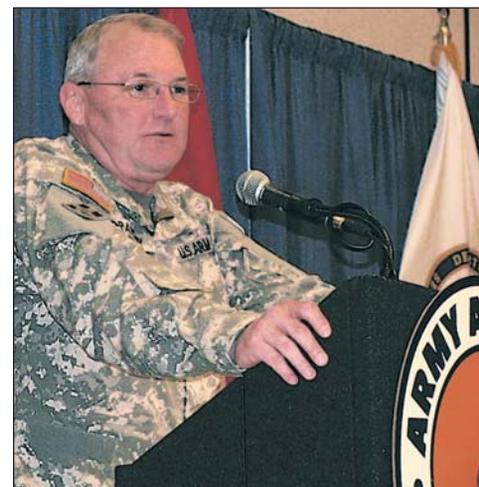


Photo by Kari Hawkins

SPEAKING OF AVIATION— Maj. Gen. James Barclay III, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, speaks to aviation industry and military representatives at Thursday's 35th annual Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium hosted by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America.

See Aviation on page 7

An open lane random survey

Who is your American idol?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@htimes.com



Susan Blankenship
Phoenix Service

"I guess (Barack) Obama because he's become the first African-American president. I never expected that to happen in my lifetime. And I think he's going to do a good job if we can ever get out of this mess that we're in with the economy."

Jan Clemons
Garrison Directorate of Information Management

"Laura Bush because of her dignity and her support of her husband and her love for this country. And the way she handles herself in situations and she's always been supportive of her husband and tried to be a role model for her children. Just her dignity and grace in general."



Pvt. Hayden Sortwell
Charlie Company

"Probably Lou Gehrig, all-time baseball hall of famer. His story was kind of inspiring. He drove me to play baseball - his entire life. Mainly him because he

grew up in adverse conditions and then went on to be so successful."

Pvt. Jimmy Sisum
Charlie Company

"B.B. King, blues singer, because of all he went through, so many changes in his lifetime. He went through a time with adversity between races and he overcame. He's overcome the physical illness of diabetes."



Quote of the week

'How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!'
— Maya Angelou

Letters to the Editor

In support of speed bumps

I would like to respond to the gentlemen who used the excuse "suspension" problems as a reason to remove the speed bumps. From my experience the past three years working on the Arsenal, the only people who would be for removing the speed bumps are those who use that stretch of road as a practice track for NASCAR racing. Those bumps do not prevent anyone from switching lanes unless you are trying to do it right out of the gate; there is plenty of road left to get into the left lane or get into the right lane before you need to turn. For that matter you could just go through the gate in the lane you need to be in to start with. Your suspension only becomes affected if you drive over them too fast. Slow down and not only will you prevent tearing up your suspension but you are keeping the gate guards safe from speeders trying to race to work. Here is a solution: Leave for work earlier and go through a different gate. I am for keeping the speed bumps.

Name withheld by request

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Name: Nickie Buzello

Job: Executive officer for the AMCOM chief of staff

Where do you call home?
Corpus Christi, Texas

What do you like about your job?

It's a developmental position so I'm learning a lot. And I get to see at a high level all the challenges that we face.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

My hobby is stained glass so I enjoy working with stained glass. And I also like to watch movies and cook.

What are your goals?

No matter where I am in my career, my primary goal is to support the war fighter. As far as future goals, one day I aspire to be a Senior Executive Service member.

What's your favorite type of music?

Contemporary easy listening



Post security deserves thanks

It seems like every week I read letters to the editor from Redstone employees complaining about Redstone security. It's a shame that so many folks have already forgotten about 9-11, the Oklahoma bombing, and the terrorist threat we are under (we will get attacked again). I want to thank the guys in the "fox holes" (gate guards). Ya'll are doing a great job!

Larry Brown

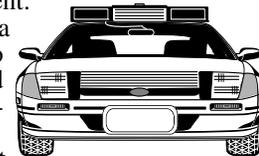
Close Combat Weapon Systems

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Feb. 5-11:

Feb. 5: A subject approached Gate 9 when he was determined to be an illegal alien who had previously been deported. He was released to agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Feb. 6: Someone removed a RC-60 game camera used to monitor wildlife, from an old hunting area. Investigation continues by the game warden.



Feb. 6: When a subject approached Gate 1 to obtain a visitor pass, he was driving with a suspended driver's license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Feb. 7: Someone passed a counterfeit \$100 bill at the Shoppette. Investigation continues by CID and U.S. Secret Service.

Feb. 8: The Redstone Fire Department responded to a report of fire in the housing area. A fire, which started in an outside garbage can, destroyed the can and caused minor damage to the aluminum siding of the quarters.

Feb. 8: A passenger in a car that approached Gate 10 became loud and belligerent when the vehicle was denied access. He exited the car and lunged at security guards in a menacing manner which resulted in a physical confrontation. Redstone Police responded and arrested the subject and transported him to the Police Station where he was tested on the Dreager, resulting in a reading of .214 blood alcohol content. He was issued violation notices for drunk and disorderly conduct and assault of a contract security officer. He was released after his BAC reached an acceptable level.

Feb. 10: Someone stole a victim's bank credit card and illegally obtained \$639, using the card. Investigation continues by DES investigators.

Traffic accidents reported: four without injury (including three deer strikes), none with injury.

Violation notices issued: 20 speeding, 1 driving while suspended, 1 assault, 1 public intoxication, 1 disorderly conduct, 4 no driver's license.

Redstone Rocket

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Appreciating the essence of Black History Month

*Equal opportunity adviser
traces roots of observance*

By Sgt. 1st Class LANCE GREEN

Installation EO adviser

Collard greens, neck bones, Southern fried chicken, chitterlings, baked macaroni, black-eyed peas, hot-water corn bread, sweet potato pie and Kool-Aid. Sound good? Well, these foods have been the stereotypical meal of blacks for many, many years. As a matter of fact, many of the foods have made their way into scores of homes throughout the globe, so why is it mostly associated with one ethnic group? Why is it that often the first thing that comes to mind for Black History Month is food, slavery, the movies "Roots" and "Amistad"? Many ideals are stemmed from people that have been directly or indirectly associated with African-American struggles, descendants of slaves, and those that truly appreciate and acknowledge black history. While there are countless historical pioneers, eras and moments in history to pay homage to in this article, let's bounce around a few known moments in history as a reminder of what Black History Month is.

Commentary

Throughout the various forms of schooling worldwide, Carter G. Woodson has been famed the Father of Black History in 1926 by promoting Negro History Week as the second week in February. The second week in February was selected to embrace President Abraham Lincoln's birthday (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass' accepted birthday (Feb. 14). Carter G. Woodson aspired to acknowledge their contributions as President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to abolish slavery in Southern states and Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave, abolitionist and adviser to President Lincoln.

The eradication of slavery offered blacks the opportunity to serve in the military during the Civil War. While the Civil War was a bookmark for the Emancipation Proclamation, black Soldiers have served in the military ranging from the American Revolution — Continental Army, to today's Global War on Terrorism — U.S. Army. Without the support of black Soldiers and dedicated people to change, the opportunities for the following (just to name a few of many) would have never occurred: President/Commander in Chief Barack Obama; Secretary of State /Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell; Gen. William "Kip" Ward, commanding general of Africa Command; Cathay Williams, first African-American female to enter the Army; and Evelyn Hollis, first African-American female command sergeant major of a combat arms unit.

During African-American History Month, many forms of mass media produce and broadcast programs to help facilitate, educate and bring awareness of black history. Since the production of Alex Haley's "Roots" and Steven Spielberg's "Amistad," both provided a glance of the inhumane treatment of blacks and the ugliness of the slave trade. These depictions of horror and dismay provide the opportunity to sympathize with the fathers, mothers and daughters that were beaten, sold, separated and unheard for centuries.

In the equal opportunity arena, organizations have mandated observance programs that provide education and awareness training to their communities. These efforts help foster an environment where diversity and inclusion are accepted. The atmosphere shares an opportunity for all to grow and learn regardless of socialization. Supporting our communities and attending these events, reminds us we should never forget our nation's history, but support the moments we currently share. With this abbreviated lesson, I submit to all to remember, support, and acknowledge the challenges of African-Americans each month for Black History Month.

Commissary getting set for layout change

Store closes March 17 to redo product flow

The Commissary will be closed March 17 while it undergoes a “reset” as part of the Defense Commissary Agency’s ongoing effort to enhance the shopping experience.

“We hate to inconvenience our customers with the closure, but this is something we’ll all appreciate when it’s done,” store director Robin Daniel said.

The reset is part of an agency-wide program that systematical-

ly changes how products are displayed on shelving throughout a commissary in order to better serve customer shopping patterns. The goal is to give commissaries worldwide a more customer-friendly product flow and a layout that is as consistent as possible from location to location, according to Steve Arland, chief of Defense Commissary Agency’s store reset and planogram team.

“Although we have to take into consideration that no two commissaries are constructed exactly alike, a customer-friendly product flow means dog food

will be next to pet supplies instead of the charcoal, peanut butter is best found next to the jam, and you shouldn’t have to cruise three different aisles to find all your cleaning products,” Arland said. “It’s a simple matter of making the commissary layout more sensible by ‘resetting’ the store.”

DeCA is intent on making the commissary shopping experience faster and easier – making the commissary the place to shop every day, not just on pay day. One of the priorities is to help busy, active-duty shoppers make

a quick run through their commissary and get home quicker.

“The whole idea, in a nutshell, is to get convenience into the shopping experience,” Arland said. Consistency is also part of the reset equation. “Why shouldn’t you be able to go to different commissaries and find basically the same layout?”

“We try not to inconvenience the customers while resetting stores,” Arland said, “but we often have to close the store for a day, sometimes two, in order to tear down the shelving and move it and restock. Our customers

usually like the new layout once they get used to it. Sales increases always follow a store reset and that’s an indication that the user-friendly product flow is a good change.”

To make changes easier for customers to follow, stores have aisle layout maps available as well as generic item locators on their web pages. Store web pages are under the locations link at <http://www.commissaries.com> along with store hours, contact information, store news and special customer service features. *(Commissary release)*

February observance focus: African-American citizenship

DoD outreach event set at Alabama A&M

By GARY SHEFTICK
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The national theme of this year’s African-American History Month observance running through February is “Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas.” The Defense Department’s outreach event is Feb. 25-26 at Alabama A&M University.

In keeping with this theme, the Equal Employment Opportunity website for Department of the Army headquarters features a quiz “Paving the Way to the Presidency.”

EEO officer Beatrice Bernfeld said employees can test their knowledge of African Americans within the electoral sys-

tem by taking the quiz at the following site: <https://secureweb.hqda.pentagon.mil/eeo/main/Index.asp>.

In addition to citizenship, the Department of Defense will emphasize quality education during the month-long observance, according to Jay D. Aronowitz, the acting deputy assistant secretary of the Army for EEO and civil rights.

In a memorandum to Army commands, Aronowitz said the DoD theme for African-American History Month supports Presidential Executive Order 13256, aimed at advancing equal opportunity in higher education. The special DoD theme for the month is “Reaching Out to Youth: A Strategy for Excellence.”

A DoD outreach event is scheduled to take place Feb. 25-26 at Alabama A&M University. As part of the ceremonies, DoD will present African-American His-

tory Month Recognition Awards to selected servicemembers.

The awards will be presented by the Department of Defense Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity to servicemembers who have supported the Global War on Terrorism between February 2006 and January of this year. Nominees must demonstrate role-model qualities and the core values of their service, according to Aronowitz. His memorandum states per diem and travel costs must be paid by the recipients’ units. Award nominations must be submitted through each unit’s chain of command and submitted to the Army’s G-1 EO office.

The EEO Directorate for Army headquarters is sponsoring a special Pentagon tour Thursday focusing on African-American contributions to the Army, both by civilians and Soldiers. The

morning tour will feature the “African-Americans in the Defense of Our Nation” corridor display located in the Pentagon’s second floor A-Ring, near corridor 7.

The roots of African-American History Month stem back to Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson. He founded the “Association for the Study of Negro Life and History,” which began a week-long observance honoring Black History in February 1926.

By the time of Woodson’s death in 1950, the History Week had become a significant observance. Mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations. The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation’s bicentennial, with a proclamation by President Gerald R. Ford. Since then each American president has issued proclamations for the month-long observance.

Sharing the power of positive attitude

National prayer breakfast features pro football great

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**
For the Rocket

In these difficult and dangerous times, one must ask the question, “What is my role in all of this?”

Speaking to a room packed with Redstone senior military leadership, community leaders and Soldiers from the 59th Ordnance Brigade, NFL hall of famer John Stallworth, guest speaker at the National Prayer Breakfast held at the Officers and Civilians Club on Feb. 11, spoke about the power of a positive attitude and how the words that we say can turn disappointments into strengths.

Amanda Tapley, Miss Alabama 2008, was also a guest of honor and sang the national anthem and a rendition of *Nessun Dorma* shortly after the breakfast. *Nessun Dorma*, meaning “None Shall Sleep Tonight,” is one of the operatic songs from Giacomo Puccini’s *Turandot*. Tapley, crowned Miss Alabama on June 7, 2008, is an accomplished pianist and vocalist and currently a pre-med student and piano major at Samford University in Birmingham.

Her personal platform this year, Music for a Cure, has raised money for the Children’s Miracle Network benefiting the Children’s Hospital of Alabama. She also created a CD fundraising project and hosted a concert benefiting

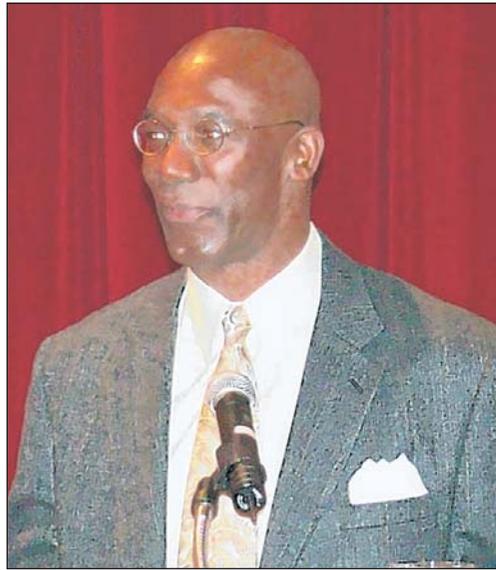


Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

LEGENDARY RECEIVER’S ADVICE— NFL hall of famer John Stallworth speaks during the National Prayer Breakfast on Feb. 11 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

More than 400 tickets were sold or given away for the National Prayer Breakfast. The annual event, celebrated for more than 65 years, has expanded to incorporate members of the Redstone/Huntsville community.

“It strengthens you as a person,” Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli said during his welcome remarks. A time to listen, learn and receive guidance, the breakfast included reading passages from scriptures and prayers for the nation, armed forces and for Soldiers and their families.

Stallworth thanked all the Soldiers and civilians on Redstone who he said are the people that “make our nation safe.”

“We live in a difficult time,” Stallworth said. “We face economic issues we’ve never seen before.” If you’re like me, he continued, these issues leave you with questions such as how do we survive, keep America strong, continue to support our families and all the while, have hope and maintain a positive attitude. More importantly, Stallworth said, “What is my role in all of this?”

“I think the answer comes from all of us individually,” he said, adding that the answers come when we work together.

Think positively in your thoughts, words and actions. “Toxic people are losers,” Stallworth said. They hammer away on things that cannot be done, focusing on the negatives instead of the positives. Instead of focusing on the solution, they focus on the problem. On the other hand, nourishing people are positive – they nourish growth and solutions. Stallworth described positive people as the “energy bandpipes that make you feel encouraged and inspired.”

See **Lessons** on page 7



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

MUSICAL GIFT— Amanda Tapley, Miss Alabama 2008, sings *Nessun Dorma*, meaning “None Shall Sleep Tonight” from Giacomo Puccini’s opera *Turandot*, at the National Prayer Breakfast. “It’s been the experience of a lifetime,” Tapley said of her first visit to Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville.

Lessons

continued from page 6

Great commanders have this trait in common, he said, and it is important for commanders to have a positive attitude. Alluding to an experience he and his Pittsburgh Steelers teammates had years ago, Stallworth recalled a statement that was made about the team — “You are not as good as you want to be” — which had a powerful effect on the team’s perspective. They began to feel the stress of this statement. But in Pittsburgh, they encouraged each other to be positive to win games, Stallworth said. “We accepted that statement as a challenge and won our fourth Super Bowl.”

“The power of life and death is in the words that we say,” Stallworth said. It takes special people to say positive things. Positive attitudes encourage, inspire and enable people to work through the challenges.

“Choose to be positive,” Stallworth said. “Turn disappointments into strengths. It is important to recognize and respect the whole team.”

“I think we are all role models,” he said. He cited his parents who gave him time and attention and taught him how to come of age. “From them I learned to keep the faith.”

We are role models in every respect, Stallworth continued, in the roles we play in our families, in the roles we assume when we wear our uniforms, and in our roles as friends and co-workers. “Choose to be a role model for everything that is good,” he said.

“Enjoy life’s process, not just its rewards,” Stallworth said. “Measure yourself not by what you’ve done, but what you could have done.”

The Blue Note Five, a five-member a cappella group from the Huntsville Police Department, sang a musical prelude and provided breakfast entertainment. Garrison Chaplain James Benson provided the invocation and presented Stallworth and Tapley with a plaque at the end of the breakfast.

Prayer Breakfast Groups were inaugurated in the Senate and House of Representatives since 1942, to discuss their individual spiritual needs and the diverse but uniform dependence of this country on God. In 1953, members of the Senate and House prayer groups and President Eisenhower established the first Presidential Prayer Breakfast to seek divine guidance for the national leadership and to reaffirm faith and dependence on God. In 1970 the name was changed to the National Prayer Breakfast, which is celebrated by military installations worldwide.

Aviation

continued from page 1

up with that idea,” Barclay said. “The Army refers to Army aviation to guide them in an enterprise approach for the rest of the Army.”

The enterprise approach involves sustaining the Army and its 600,000 Soldiers as military operations — including counterinsurgency, humanitarian and large-scale reconstruction operations — are conducted in nearly 80 countries. These missions are conducted with strategic partners during an era of persistent conflict, rapid change and protracted confrontation with terrorist groups and individuals who will use violence to achieve political, religious and other ideological ends.

In the enterprise approach, the Army is a \$230 billion enterprise that is most effective when its efforts are synchronized Armywide. The enterprise approach recognizes that no organization or command, no matter how large, is capable of providing all the services needed to support military objectives. Processes to man, equip, train and sustain the Army enterprise must be done with fiscal responsibility through the efforts of organizations Armywide.

At USAACE, the enterprise approach is incorporated through the partnership it has with AMCOM, PEO-Aviation and the deputy chief of staff of the Army Forces Command, Barclay said.

“We are a leader in doing what’s good for the war fighter,” he said.

Barclay did say one challenge facing

USAACE is the development of training platforms for future aviation systems.

“If we don’t have training platforms we won’t have anyone who can fly all these machines that are great and wonderful,” he said, as he showed his audience a slide depicting the Army’s future joint unmanned aerial systems, multi-role helicopters, theater lift helicopters, cargo aircraft, and intelligence, surveillance and recognition systems. “We don’t have anything on the books for a future training helicopter. We need to look at that.”

Barclay’s comments also included his appreciation to the entire aviation industry for its support of military aviators and aviation systems.

“I want to thank you for your team approach, and for having the perseverance to stick with it and not back away from requirements ... Thanks for what you do every day because without you we couldn’t be as successful as we are,” he said.

A West Point graduate and Scottsboro native, Barclay is the former director of the Joint Center for Operational Analysis-Lessons Learned, U.S. Joint Forces Command, Suffolk, Va. His past assignments include serving in Operation Provide Comfort in Iraq, an effort to protect Iraqi Kurds following their unsuccessful uprising against Saddam Hussein after a U.S.-led coalition ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War; being a part of a U.S.-led effort to restore democracy to Haiti in 1994; and serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His oldest son was injured while deployed with the Army in Afghanistan. His youngest son also serves in the Army.

Bishop Higgins celebrates Confirmation at chapel



Photo by David Macedonia

JOYOUS OCCASION—The recipients of Confirmation for this year at Bicentennial Chapel are, from left, Tyler Paul Gautreaux, Isabel Garcia Schmitt, Ashley Taylor Boyett, Jena Judge Macedonia, Reine-Marie Couverchel, John Joseph Delany, Daniel Patrick Foran, Bishop Richard Higgins, Chaplain (Maj.) Rajmund Kopec, Jacob Michael Van Rassen, Zachary Alan Craver, David Daniel Acevedo, Troy Andrew Atchley, Dimitrius Roy Garcia, Elizabeth Ann Garcia, Andrea Nicole Acevedo and Loyda Haydee Acevedo.

By **DAVID MACEDONIA**
For the Rocket

Bishop Richard Higgins, archdiocese for the military services, conferred Catholic Confirmation to 15 candidates from Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Military Community, on Feb. 4 at Bicentennial Chapel.

The archdiocese for the military services serves military personnel and families at 220 installations in 29 countries, patients in 172 Veterans Affairs hospitals and is responsible for federal employees serving 134 countries. Numerically, this is more than 1.4 million Catholics. They are served by more than 1,000 priests supported by members of the Catholic laity.

Higgins was born Feb. 22, 1944 in Longford, Ireland. He retired from the U.S. Air Force following 30 years of active duty effective Sept. 1, 2004 as a colonel. Higgins is an accomplished aviator and holds an airline transport pilot certificate and several flight instructor certificates. He was ordained to the episcopacy July 3, 2004 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Higgins assumed his present duties Oct. 1, 2004.

Fourth Degree Color Corps Knights from the Knights of Columbus Chapter 4080 performed ceremonial protection for

Higgins during his Confirmation visit. The color corps is the most visible arm of the Knights as they are often seen in parades and other local events wearing their colorful regalia. The Order of the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in the United States in 1882, it is named in honor of Christopher Columbus and dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

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

The recipients of Confirmation for this year include Andrea Nicole Acevedo, David Daniel Acevedo, Loyda Haydee Acevedo, Troy Andrew Atchley, Ashley Taylor Boyett, Reine-Marie Couverchel, Zachary Alan Craver, John Joseph Delany, Daniel Patrick Foran, Elizabeth Ann Garcia, Dimitrius Roy Garcia, Tyler Paul Gautreaux, Jena Judge Macedonia, Isabel Garcia Schmitt and Jacob Michael Van Rassen.

A reception, hosted by Joanne Rice, followed at the Bicentennial Chapel fellowship room.

Health fair draws attention to women's risk factors

*Heart disease
No. 1 killer*

Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine/Health Promotion, in cooperation with area hospitals and organizations, will sponsor a Heart Truth/Red Dress Health Fair on Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to noon in Bob Jones Auditorium.

This event is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health's Heart Truth Campaign and the American Heart Association's Go Red Dress Day.

The purpose is to raise the public's awareness of heart disease in women. The Heart Truth is that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women. In fact, one of four women dies of heart disease. But heart disease can also lead to disability and a significantly decreased quality of life.

Unfortunately, most women don't know the Heart Truth. Although significant progress has been made increasing awareness among women from 34 percent in 2000 to 57 percent in 2006, most women fail to make the connection between risk factors and their personal risk of developing heart disease. The Heart Truth is that women don't take their risk of heart disease seriously — or personally. Women often fail to make the connection between risk factors, such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol, and their own chance of developing heart disease.

The centerpiece of the Heart Truth is the Red Dress which was introduced as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness in 2002. The Red Dress reminds women of the need to protect their heart health, and inspires them to take action. Since heart disease is more likely to strike individuals with diabetes and women who smoke, diabetes testing and smoking cessation are critical components.

Most of the following organizations



THE
heart
TRUTH

will provide free medical assessments, health information and handouts at the health fair and will provide free giveaways or drawings for major gifts and or services.

Students from the Virginia School of Massage, who are learning cutting edge massage techniques, will provide free professional massages throughout the morning in Bob Jones Auditorium. Edward Jones Financial Services will present a \$50 money tree to some lucky winner.

The following organizations are participating and will be in attendance at the health fair: Curves, Head-To-Toe Training, "Just For Women" Magazine, Briggs Chiropractic Clinic, Edward Jones Financial Services, Costco, Pfizer, Redstone Federal Credit Union, MWR Library, Crestwood Medical Center, Bryant Chiropractic Clinic, Seibella Medical Aesthetics Center, Arbonne, Health First Chiropractic, American Red Cross, Wright Medical, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Decatur General Hospital, American Heart Association, Huntsville Hospital, American Cancer Society, Army Community Service, Allergy and Asthma Center, Ruth's Nutrition, Valley Imaging Center, Fox Army Preventive Medicine, Army Substance Abuse Program, Brace-4-It, Regional Spine & Wrist Center, Looney-Jones Event Planning, Virginia School of Massage, Matrix Gym, Natural Awakenings Magazine, Alabama Organ Center, Complete Nutrition, and MWR Sports. (Fox Army Health Center release)

Getting technical

Communication system loses weight, gains readiness

Portable antenna boosts war effort

By **LuANNE FANTASIA**
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Time and communications are critical to operation security in a down-range environment, where the difference of minutes can save Soldiers' lives. A Huntsville company specializing in satellite communications has developed and deployed an ultra-portable communication system that hits the ground running with the war fighter — one that can be on satellite in less than an hour.

"It's a full antenna system that's completely inflatable and portable; supporting first-in, as well as contingency operations," said Paul Gierow, president of GATR Technologies. "It provides high bandwidth for secure and non-secure data, voice and video; and can be ready to transport in as little as 15 minutes. And it packs into two carrying cases that weigh less than 70 pounds each; so the Soldier can literally travel with it as checked baggage on the airplane."

The system's official name is the Deployable Satellite Communication Terminal, but it is generically called "GATR" by those close to the project.

Gierow said the GATR is in limited production but is already sup-

porting Department of Defense requirements in the Army Special Operations Command and in Afghanistan.

"We first deployed the system after Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, and it's been working in Afghanistan now for more than eight months. It's successful in cold and hot climates," Gierow added. "We demonstrated it in Germany in January, and it has withstood the extreme heat and dirt in Afghanistan with no problems."

Roy Priest is the program manager for the GATR. "This system replaces much heavier antennas that currently require as many as 10 cases weighing 100 pounds each," he said.

Priest explained that both the radome housing and the collapsible antenna dish inside are made of a flexible fabric that deflates and rolls up into a backpack. The RF feed mechanism, inflation unit and other accessories to the antenna are easily assembled, disassembled and stored for transport.

"It offers a range of benefits for today and tomorrow's defense," Priest said. "Faster insertion into the environment, reliability, reduced transportation costs and rapid contingency."

The Space and Missile Defense Command/ARSTRAT Technical Center has contract management responsibilities for the product.



ROLL UP— Program manager Roy Priest shows how the GATR's inflatable radome housing and collapsible antenna dish deflate and roll up into a small backpack. The total system is contained and transportable in two small cases that can be checked as normal airline baggage; each weighing less than 70 pounds.

Photo by LuAnne Fantasia

SMDC shares expertise with Lincoln Laboratory

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Technical Center and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Lincoln Laboratory conducted a program review here Feb. 3-4.

“The strategic relationship between the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center and Lincoln Laboratory has been valuable over the years, particularly in the area of radar research and development,” Dr. Rodney Robertson, director of Space and Missile Defense Technical Center, said. “In the government we end up having broad expertise in a number of different areas, and Lincoln Laboratory, especially in the area of missile defense, ends up having real technical expertise in areas where we can take advantage of their accumulated knowledge.”

The two organizations took turns briefing each other on a variety of topics including overviews of their two organizations, space and missile defense programs and technologies, and various program updates. The MIT/LL also briefed programs and efforts parallel to those they work with SMDC.

With a combined audience averaging about 60 persons throughout the program review, often there was lively discussion and questions asked during the briefings. Frequent follow-up questions led to the sessions getting behind schedule, which no one seemed to mind.

Lincoln Laboratory, which has been working on ballistic missile defense with the Army for nearly 50 years, helped set up and establish the Kwajalein Missile Range in the early 1960s and has been involved ever since. The annual program between SMDC and MIT/LL contains key technical efforts for the nation.

“The annual program review provides a complete cost, schedule and technical update of all these efforts to USASMDC,” said Dr Marc Bernstein, MIT/LL division

leader, Air and Missile Defense Technology Division. “This provides a broader view to SMDC leadership than the weekly and monthly reports to the individual program managers.

“These reviews are a very important mechanism for us to gain confidence that we are meeting SMDC requirements for our funded SMDC programs. If course corrections are needed, then appropriate actions are generated. The review also helps apprise us of the Army’s future technical needs. Lincoln Laboratory can then

help SMDC develop technical solutions, where appropriate.”

The annual program review was brought to Huntsville for the first time to allow a larger SMDC audience to attend and thereby look for new opportunities to leverage Lincoln Laboratory technologies and expertise.

Even the weather cooperated to make the visitors welcome with unseasonable (for Alabama) but Massachusetts-like temperatures in the low 30s during the two-day program review. *(SMDC release)*

Tobyhanna Depot earns Shingo medallions for improvements

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Two Shingo medallions were presented to the depot during a ceremony Jan. 28. The bronze Shingo medallions were awarded for dramatic improvements to the AN/TYQ—23 Tactical Air Operations Module and the AN/ASM-189 Maintenance Electronics Shop Van.

Shaun Barker, associate director of the Shingo Prize Office, presented the awards.

“All of you know, better than anyone, the amount of work and dedication that it has taken to get to this point,” he said. “You also know it’s a journey and it never ends; it just gets more challenging.”

Barker expressed his confidence in Tobyhanna’s work force and explained that the depot “has joined an elite group of Shingo medallion recipients.”

“Creating a Lean culture ultimately creates customer value,”

he said, noting that the depot has experienced a Lean Six Sigma savings of \$87 million, 740 lean events and a 73 percent lean participation since 2002.

“Tobyhanna has a very bright future, but only as long as we continue to build on our reputation for quality products and services,” depot deputy commander Frank Zardecki said. “We must sustain our Lean achievements and continue to expand Lean in all of our industrial operations and administrative areas.”

There will be a conference and awards ceremony in May, when all Shingo recipients will be recognized together.

Also announced during the ceremony were the 2009 Shingo candidates: AIM-9 Sidewinder missile, AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder, AN/TSC-154 Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical Terminal (SMART-T), and AN/ASM 146 and 147 teams. *(Tobyhanna Army Depot release)*

Retired general officer leads veterans cause

Military Order of World Wars has 134 chapters nationwide

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer
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Retired Lt. Gen. Robert “Sam” Wetzel carries with him a remembrance of a Purple Heart that was never applied for or awarded.

On the 78-year-old’s forehead there is a small scar, a mark left by an enemy bullet that nicked Wetzel as he led his battalion into battle during the Vietnam War.

“Guys were being killed. They had terrible wounds. This was just a little thing,” Wetzel said of the scar when asked about it. “I didn’t think I deserved a Purple Heart for just a scratch.”

Wetzel’s 34-year Army career included serving in both the Korean and Vietnam wars, and several assignments leading infantry divisions. Today, this West Point graduate is the commander in chief of the Military Order of the World Wars, a patriotic veterans organization of commissioned officers from all armed services that was established in 1919 and is still committed to promoting national security, patriotism, good citizenship and service to country.

Wetzel was among several MOWW members from across the nation who attended the organization’s national 2009 Mid-Winter General Staff Conference hosted by the Huntsville chapter Feb. 10-14 at the Huntsville Space Center Marriott. Huntsville has been one of many stops for Wetzel since he took over as MOWW’s commander in chief in August 2008.

“Since then, I’ve been to Santa Fe, N.M., Tucson and Phoenix, Ariz., Sun City, Fla., Washington, D.C. twice, Baltimore, Md., and to Huntsville for the youth leadership conference,” Wetzel said.

“I’ve also been to College Station, Texas, where we presented former president George H.W. Bush with the Gold Patrick Henry Award and designated him an honorary commander in chief.”

Visiting MOWW’s 134 chapters nationwide is important to Wetzel, whose personal agenda is very much in line with MOWW’s goals.

“When I visit a chapter, I give a speech on national security. I talk about the war on terrorism, the current problems with Iran’s nuclear program and the long range worries about China as the country moves toward being the dominate military power by 2030,” Wetzel said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

GREETINGS— Sam Wetzel, retired lieutenant general who now commands the Military Order of the World Wars, is greeted by MOWW Huntsville chapter commander Rick Makowski during MOWW’s mid-winter general staff conference in Huntsville. Wetzel is visiting MOWW chapters across the nation to encourage the order’s message on national security, patriotism, good citizenship and service to country.

See **Veterans** on page 13

Veterans

continued from page 12

"In each town and city where we have chapters, our members go out and educate the American public, the school children, the clubs like Kiwanis and Rotary, and the media on national security issues. The problem is the American people just don't know what's going on."

Wetzel sees his responsibility to carry the national security message to the public as being even more crucial as the nation changes its priorities under the new administration.

"We have to have a credible military deterrent," he said. "What's happening in the administration today is frightening. The Department of Defense has already been told to take a 10 percent budget cut."

"There are studies being done to cut our force structure and bring everything back to the U.S. and have no influence in the world. If we do that, how will we be able to break or counter the threats of China or Russia or North Korea in the future? We have to increase our end (Soldier) strength of the Army."

Wetzel is proud of MOWW's efforts to instill patriotism and leadership skills in today's youth. The order conducts youth leadership conferences, and works closely with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and JROTC and ROTC programs. Developing the nation's future leaders is one of the order's goals.

"Leaders get results. They set the example. Leaders lead from the front. Leaders inspire people to do what's required of them," Wetzel said. "Everyone has the potential to be a leader."

As a young person, Wetzel didn't know his career path would take him on to be one of the Army's top military leaders. In 1948, he had plans to pursue an engineering degree on scholarship at Purdue University. Instead, an opportunity led him to West Point.

"My father was a lawyer in Clarksburg, W.Va. I used to wait after school in his outer office for a ride home. One day, he came out of his office and asked me 'How'd you like to go to West Point?'" Wetzel recalled.

"Our senator had called him and said his candidate had flunked the physical,

and he needed to know by the next morning if I wanted to go in his place ... On July 1, 1948, I walked into West Point not knowing what was in store for me."

At West Point, Wetzel became friends with (now retired colonel) Ralph Puckett, who was his squad leader in the east barracks.

"He's told me the reason I made general was because he taught me how to spit shine shoes," Wetzel said with a laugh. "I did the best I could while I was there, and I played on the basketball team."

Wetzel's entire military career was with the Army's infantry, with most of his assignments putting him in the field with Soldiers. Upon graduation from West Point in 1952, he was assigned as the commander of an infantry platoon and infantry company in the Korean War. He was then assigned to command a mechanized infantry company in Germany before being assigned in 1968 as a lieutenant colonel to command the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry in the Vietnam War. In 1973, as a colonel,

Wetzel commanded the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo. In 1975, he was promoted to general and sent to Germany, where he commanded the 1st Infantry Division Forward and 3rd Infantry Division. He also served as a member of the Army, Joint and European Command staffs, executive to the Supreme Commander Allied Powers Europe, Gen. Al Haig, in Belgium, and inspector general of U.S. operations in 24 countries for the U.S. European Command.

In 1981, while commander of the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., and the Army's chief of infantry, Wetzel was diagnosed with life-ending melanoma cancer. He was given less than a year to live and offered a full medical disability. He refused, recovered from his bout with cancer and, in 1983, was awarded this third star and returned to the troops in Germany. His last assignments were as deputy commander of U.S. Forces Europe and commander of the 5th (V) U.S. Corps.

Wetzel's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star, two

Legion of Merits, six Air Medals, Joint Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star and many others.

His more than eight years of involvement with MOWW has led him to talk to many young people about West Point and about serving in the military.

"No matter what service, the most important thing for a young Soldier is to listen to their drill sergeant. Do what he says. Obey his orders and be the best Soldier you can be," he said.

His advice for troops in combat is similar.

"If you want to go home in a year, listen to your leadership and always keep track of your battle buddy," he said.

Now, as Wetzel serves as the top Soldier for MOWW, he hopes to continue having a positive impact on both the order and the nation's military.

"I hope the order improves, the order increases its membership and the order stays active in educating the public on the threats to our country and increasing the size of the military," he said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GOLFERS' TRIBUTE— Members of the Military Order of the World Wars present a plaque Feb. 10 to Julie Goodridge in memory of her husband, Lt. Col. Clair Goodridge, and son, Maj. Michael Goodridge, at the Redstone Links. The Huntsville Chapter of MOWW dedicated the golf tournament of its national mid-winter conference to their memory. "This is a special tribute to their life," Julie Goodridge said. "They were both avid golfers and Soldiers." From left are Rick Makowski, retired Lt. Gen. Sam Wetzel and retired Col. Brion Chabot.

Homegrown training arrives for logistics interns



Photo by Kari Hawkins

COURSE REVIEW— Members of an AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center employee team coordinating efforts to bring sessions of the Intern Logistics Studies Program of the Army Logistics Management College from Fort Lee, Va., to Redstone Arsenal go over project milestones in the IMMC classroom in building 3340. The IMMC team members included, from left, Clarence Matthews, Kathy White, intern coordinator Janine Wright and Cindy Janes. They located and equipped two classrooms to be used by IMMC interns to complete their training requirements. Behind them are IMMC interns working on a problem solving activity.

End of travel requirement to Fort Lee seen cutting costs, helping recruitment

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Staff writer

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The AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center is leading the pack in adapting unused office space on Redstone Arsenal to meet present and future employment needs thanks to a group of its employees working with the center's intern program.

Their accomplishment – transforming rooms in buildings 3340 and 3341 into classroom space for the IMMC intern training program — is ushering in a trend Arsenal-wide involving various organizations interested in new and innovative ways to expand their facilities without new construction. As the Arsenal's OMEMS moves to its new headquarters at Fort Lee, Va., and other Army organizations shift their footprint due to BRAC realignments, empty buildings could represent much-needed expansion opportunities for expanding or new Arsenal organizations.

For IMMC, the transformation of a classroom in building 3340 and a breakout room in building 3341 on Little John Road will save the organization

money, and make it easier to recruit and train interns.

“We were wrestling with how do we get more interns through training and how do we make it more cost effective for us,” said Bill Andrews, deputy director for IMMC.

“In the course of those discussions, it was suggested we bring a couple of instructors here instead of sending 25 interns to Fort Lee.”

Traditionally, IMMC interns in supply and maintenance career fields must undergo a 15-week training course known as the Intern Logistics Studies Program offered through the Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee.

“This training is essential,” said Richard Burton, chief of the Programs and Personnel Division in IMMC's Business Management Office.

“We are growing these young people to take part in our organization and be of service. We hire them straight out of college, we bring them into government service through this program and we give them the training they need to allow them to function in these career fields.”

IMMC at Redstone Arsenal sends between 25 and 50 interns for training to Fort Lee every year, and incurs the costs of transportation, housing, per diem expenses and other incidentals due to the training requirement.

See **Interns** on page 15

■ Intern training brings instructors from Fort Lee

Interns

continued from page 14

“At any given time, we have 100 interns on staff in our two-year intern program. We hired 40 some interns each year for the past two years,” said Janine Wright, IMMC intern coordinator.

A cost analysis indicated that IMMC could save \$12,500 per intern by providing training at Redstone Arsenal rather than Fort Lee.

“Besides the money issue, we were also looking at factors that affected the interns, such as separation from their family. Basically, in many cases, the training at Fort Lee was a hardship on interns,” Burton said.

Once senior management decided to pursue a program that provided intern training at Redstone Arsenal and ALMC agreed to provide instructors for the training, the job of locating and equipping classroom space was assigned to a team of IMMC employees that included Wright, Cindy Janes, Kathy White, Clarence Matthews and Tom Murphy.

“To make this work, we had to have a learning environment equivalent to Fort Lee,” Andrews said. “The main thing is it had to be separate from the IMMC working environment because we don’t want interns to be distracted with whatever work they’ve been doing in the office.”

But finding classroom space was not easy.

“Convincing ALMC to provide us with instructors wasn’t a

problem because they are customer oriented,” Wright said. “Six to nine months ago, we started calling around in Huntsville and on the Arsenal to find classroom space. It took awhile to find a building we could use. Space is at a premium.”

Discussions with Garrison representatives and various organizations finally pinpointed the OMEMS buildings on Little John as possible candidates for the IMMC training classrooms.

Although the buildings turned out to be ideal for IMMC requirements, the rooms still needed a lot of work to get them equipped as classrooms for IMMC interns. Modifications to the facility’s structure were needed to move columns and petitions to accommodate eight work stations.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

BREAKOUT SESSION— A group of IMMC interns work together to solve supply and maintenance problems that are similar to the real-world problems they will have to manage as IMMC employees. The breakout room in building 3341 provides additional classroom space for interns to work in groups.

work together on problem solving is in building 3341. In the course of the classroom planning, the IMMC team had to reduce their initial target number of 50 interns per class due to classroom limitations. “There was just nothing that was large enough to accommodate 50 students at one time,” Wright said. “We had to downsize according to what was available, and that was a classroom for 25 students.”

The only thing missing from the new classroom space is the more global perspective of IMMC that interns receive when undergoing instruction at Fort Lee, Andrews said. “At Fort Lee, there is a peer group of interns in the class that are selected Armywide instead of just local,” he said. “There is more diversity in the classroom at Fort Lee because the interns are coming from all over the U.S.”

“For us at Redstone Arsenal, most of our recruitment is done in the Southeast and that’s who will be in the classes offered here. While they may be losing some diversity with training here, they are learning and working with fellow interns, and these interns are employees we want to work for IMMC at Redstone Arsenal for a long, long time.”

Burton said he appreciated the dedicated efforts of Wright, Janes, White, Murphy and Matthew to make the classrooms a reality. “It required a multitude of efforts by a select group to get this done,” he said. “It was a multi-team effort that relied on a whole host of players to integrate

work together on problem solving is in building 3341.

“It definitely was a challenge to get these classrooms up and running,” said Matthews, who oversaw the contractors doing the upgrades. “It was something I hadn’t done before in my work, so it was challenging. We started with a blank slate and built from the ground up.”

While the main classroom is in building 3340, another classroom that provides space for the class to break out into groups and

work together on problem solving is in building 3341.

“It required a multitude of efforts by a select group to get this done,” he said. “It was a multi-team effort that relied on a whole host of players to integrate

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all the processes.”

Currently, IMMC has made arrangements for one class to be offered at the Arsenal training facility this year and in fiscal 2010. By fiscal 2011, plans call for increasing the Arsenal class offering to twice a year.

“Cost savings will really hit home in fiscal year 2011,” Andrews said.

This year’s class of 23 students began Jan. 20 and ends with graduation May 1. Other interns hired during 2009 will have to travel to Fort Lee for training or wait until the 2010 class is offered at the Arsenal.

“ALMC could only provide instructors for one class this year and next year because their instructors are busy teaching other classes at Fort Lee also,” Burton said.

Yet, that doesn’t mean the IMMC classrooms will be left empty between training classes.

“Our intent is to utilize the classroom space throughout the year,” Burton said. “It will be available through IMMC for conferences, meetings, other training and various activities.”

Overall, the move to offering intern training at Redstone Arsenal should help in growing the IMMC intern program, Andrews said.

“We always lost a few recruits when we told them they would have to live at Fort Lee for four or five months for training,” he said. “It hadn’t ever stopped us from getting the number of recruits we wanted, but we just had to look a little harder. Now, with the job and training offered locally, accepting a job with IMMC won’t be a hardship on any of our interns.”

Womack rules boards for NCO Academy

Former high school star
grabs 17 rebounds

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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He seemed to be there every time the basketball clanged off the rim or bounced off the backboard.

Wearing the green No. 44 jersey, he jumped and cradled the ball while others grabbed at air. He captured rebound after rebound on both ends of the floor.

But this was nothing new for NCO Academy forward Brian Womack. He's been a basketball standout since his high school days.

Womack had 11 points and 17 rebounds as the NCO Academy beat Bravo Company 38-31 on Feb. 9 at Pagano Gym.

"We were just playing hard and playing team ball," he said.

Womack starred at Opp High School. He was voted one of the top 10 guards in the state when he graduated in 1987. Womack, at 6-foot-2, then went on to play

at Lurleen B. Wallace Junior College.

Now 39, he arrived Jan. 4 for the Advanced NCO Course. Unfortunately for the Academy team — with the post-season tournament scheduled March 9-19 — he'll leave March 6 for Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Academy, which improved to 3-0, definitely benefited from his presence against Bravo.

Both teams had trouble scoring early but Bravo led 13-9 with five minutes left in the first half. The Bulldogs were up 17-16 at halftime.

The Academy opened the second half with a 4-0 run and went up 31-23 on Scoefield McMillan's driving layup with 9:34 left. Bravo closed within 33-29 but got outscored 5-2 in the final four minutes.

McMillan finished with seven points while player/coach Bernard Gaines had four assists. Asked for the key to the win, Gaines said, "same as always — teamwork."

"We definitely weren't at our best," he said, "but we did enough to get the victory."

Steven May had 20 points and eight

rebounds for Bravo, which fell to 1-4 with its fourth straight loss. Cord Roberts added six rebounds and five steals.

Marines 55, 326th Chemical 42: Jordan Littleray scored 17 points as the Marines improved to 1-2.

Sean Hayes had 13, Sean Newsom 11 and Pernel Jones 10. The Marines led 35-25 at halftime.

"We just moved the ball around, had good outside shooting and good defense," player/coach Newsom said. "Littleray did a real good job at the point guard position. And Jones, he played center for us, he had a good game defensively."

Frank Stafford scored 16 points and Jonathan Wilder 10 for the 326th (2-3).

In games Feb. 11, Marines def. National Guard 48-37; 375th Engineer def. Charlie 44-42; and NCO Academy def. HHC 59th 49-43. On Feb. 12, National Guard def. Bravo 40-37 and Civilian Welfare Fund def. NCO Academy 48-41.

Standings entering this week had: Eastern Conference — NCO Academy (4-1), National Guard (3-3), Charlie (2-2), Marines (2-2), HHC 59th (1-3); Western Conference — Civilian Welfare Fund (6-0), 326th Chemical (2-3), 375th Engineer (1-3) and Bravo (1-5).

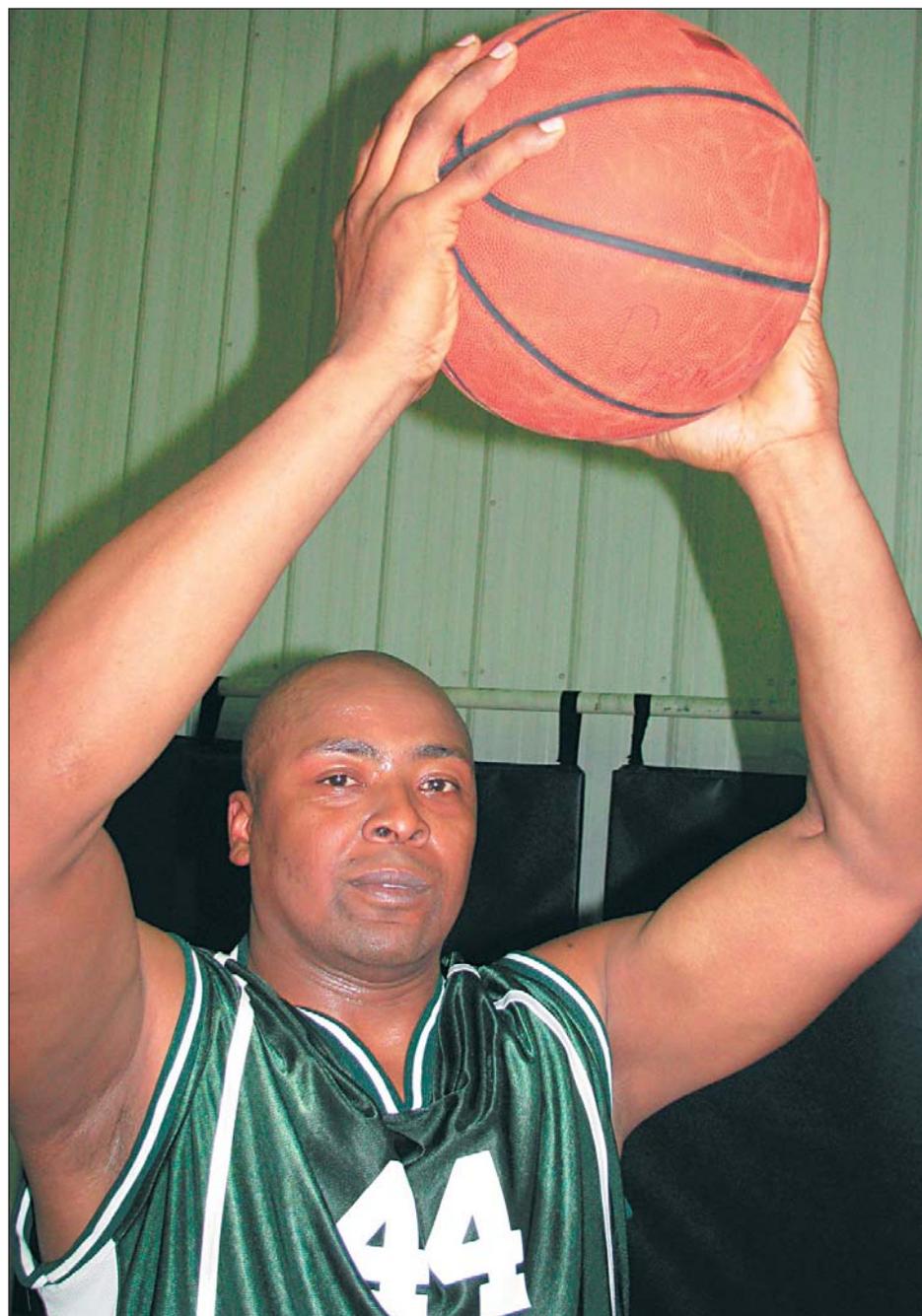


Photo by Skip Vaughn

DOUBLE-DOUBLE— NCO Academy's Brian Womack had 11 points and 17 rebounds in a 38-31 win over Bravo Company on Feb. 9.

Ten-Miler Team calls runners to starting line



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

SECOND TO NONE— Brad Schroeder helps Redstone Team One to first place in the government agency category. He finished in 55 minutes, 36th overall among 18,857 finishers.

Two-time defending champ schedules March 28 tryout

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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If you like to run, here's your chance to be a member of Redstone's winning team.

The Redstone Arsenal Ten-Miler Team, a two-time defending champion at the annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., will hold an open tryout for runners Saturday, March 28 at 7 a.m.

The course begins at the Sparkman Fitness Center, continues south on Patton Road past

Buxton Road to the five-mile point and then back to the fitness center.

"We're looking for the best running talent in the war fighting community that supports Redstone Arsenal," coach Harry Hobbs said.

Redstone's team will have members from the entire post community – including active and retired military, civilians and Army contractors.

The 25th annual Army Ten-Miler is Oct. 4 near the Pentagon.

Defending its title in the government agency category, Redstone Team One took first place for the second year in a row in

the 2008 Army Ten-Miler last October. It was first of 22 government agency teams and seventh of 507 teams overall.

Redstone Team Two placed third overall in the all-comers category. Team Two was third of 42 all-comers teams.

David Riddle, an aerospace engineer with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, led Team One with his time of 50 minutes and 51 seconds, better than his 52:31 in 2007. He finished eighth overall, among 18,857 finishers.

For more information, call assistant coach Skip Vaughn at 876-1500.

International helicopter request met on time

'Impossible' mission completed by team

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
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Foreign Military Sales don't move quickly. The process is lengthy, requiring input from many people and offices. However, workers at AMCOM's Security Assistance Management Directorate, along with cooperating agencies, have gone through the process to transition Chinook helicopters to Canada in one-fourth the regular time.

"It normally takes 36 to 40 months from case implementation to do all the deliveries, production, deployments and get everyone trained up," Fred O'Conner, Cargo Branch chief, said. "We did it in nine."

The request for six model D Chinook helicopters was made in February 2008. While that in itself was not out of the ordinary, the requested time frame was. The request asked that they be delivered by the end of the calendar year.

"I was told, from higher up, it was impossible," Dr. Tom Pieplow, SAMD director, said.



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

SALES MEETING— Fred O'Conner, Vickie Fee and Brandy Goff discuss ongoing Foreign Military Sales associated with Chinook helicopters transitioned to Canada.

Because of the regulations in place for FMS, organization workers could not actually switch into high gear until the case was implemented and funding was secured for the acquisition. That would not be until the fall. They would have six months to prepare what they would need to do the sale, but not actually be able to do it until August.

"We could take no action," Brandy Goff, Attack Systems division chief, said. "We could get things ready because we knew it was going to take place, but we

couldn't go ahead and get contracts or a consolidation point until it was implemented and we had the funds to distribute the funds to the various organizations."

To add another twist to the project, they would also be doing the whole thing in a way they had never done before. The delivery of the helicopters would be fielded in Afghanistan, with helicopters that were already deployed.

"The 101st Airborne had the helicopters," O'Conner said. "They will return to Afghanistan

with the F model Chinooks."

While the task at hand was enough to make anyone cringe, team members instead focused on each step in the process and the cooperation it would take to get things done.

"So many people worked on this. It looked insurmountable," Goff said. "So many people did things that are above and beyond normal to make it happen. We were like that little engine saying 'We think we can, we think we can.'"

And they could. The total team included people from many offices, organizations and commands. Team members prepared the contracts they would need. Team members located the equipment they would need. Every facet of the transaction was painstakingly prepared for.

Just a helicopter would be one thing, but FMS included the equipment needed to maintain and repair the equipment, plus training pilots, mechanics and everyone else who would be using the equipment once it reached its destination.

"There are shop sets, spare parts, tractors to move the aircraft, maintenance stands," Vickie Fee, international program manager in

the Cargo branch, explained. "Everything you need to work on the aircraft."

While the workload was intimidating, Goff said it was also exciting.

"Watching the Antonov aircraft take off at the airport with deliveries was something else," Goff said. "It's the largest carrier in the world. It's pretty amazing."

The hard work of so many paid off. The "keys" were handed over in Afghanistan on Dec. 30. Team members went to make the exchange, giving up a holiday at home with their families to get things done.

"We got to today because of everyone chipping in at all the commands," O'Conner said. "We're just the team at SAMD that worked it."

While the urgency has somewhat cooled now that the deadline has been met, the work goes on. Now team members switch their focus to parts and maintenance equipment for those helicopters in the future. They can relax a little this year, knowing that last year they did the impossible.

"They took something that takes years," Pieplow said. "And they did it in months."

Army National Guard above end strength, despite missing monthly recruiting goal

By Lt. Col. ELLEN KRENKE
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army National Guard missed its recruiting goal for the month of January, but it remains slightly over its congressionally-mandated end strength of 358,200, an Army Guard official confirmed Feb. 10.

“We’re paying a success dividend,” said Lt. Col. Ron Walls, the chief of recruiting and retention for the Army National Guard.

“Our numbers are off the program goal, but that’s OK, because of where we are with our end strength,” he said. “We have never been more whole than we are right now from a readiness perspective.”

The Army Guard signed 4,913 new Soldiers, 88 percent of its goal of 5,577 enlistees for January, according to a Department of Defense news release. The Air National Guard got 896 new Airmen, 127 percent of its goal of 703 enlistees.

A total of 366,009 Soldiers are currently assigned to the

Army Guard, which puts it at 102 percent of its end-strength goal for this fiscal year.

Walls said the Army Guard has been able to drive up end strength through its innovative recruiting programs, such as G-RAP and Active First, and reenlistment rates that have remained steady despite an increasing ops tempo.

“We will focus on where we are,” he said. “And right now we are above in end strength, and our quality marks are stronger than ever and we will use that to our advantage.”

Walls added that the Army Guard’s quality marks have not been this high since 2003.

“We are now fine tuning what we have,” he said.

While going after this quality market, Walls said the Army Guard will continue to “shape our incentives based on funding availability and focus heavily on Soldiers in formations already.”

“They pay the price,” he said. “They are part of a team already, and there are dollars associated with them from a training perspective.”

Keeping trained Soldiers helps with readiness, and “there is goodness in that as well,” Walls said.

In the future, Walls predicted that the Army Guard will continue to provide incentives to a variety of populations from high school students to 40-year-olds.

“We’re looking at that now as far as innovative measures to reach those populations and give them the opportunity to serve in our formations,” he said.

With the nation’s focus shifting to the economy, Walls said the Army Guard must come up with new non-monetary incentive programs to gain accessions.

And because of that, he said the Army Guard will not rest on its laurels.

“The ingenuity of the team that we have here at the Guard Bureau is never ending,” Walls said. “It’s about what we do with what we have right now. And we always have more innovative programs in the hopper.”

Editor’s note: Air Force Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke serves with the National Guard Bureau.



Photo by Merv Brokke

Worthy pact

Dr. William Lewis, director of the Aviation Engineering Directorate at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, signs a letter officially recognizing the Republic of Singapore Air Force as a competent airworthiness authority for RSAF Chinooks and Apaches operating in the United States under Operations Peace Prairie and Peace Vanguard. Looking on are, from left, Col. Francis Cheong, RSAF director of air logistics-engineering; Chief Warrant Officer 5 Bobby McQuaid, Headquarters, Department of the Army, G-4; Dr. William McCorkle, executive director of AMRDEC; and Kevin Rotenberger, associate director for technology, AED. This recognition culminates more than a year of in-depth review of RSAF airworthiness processes. It is the first official recognition of a foreign military airworthiness organization utilizing an evaluation process developed to ensure U.S. Soldiers, civilians and contractors operating foreign aircraft are afforded the same level of safety as on Army aircraft.

Guided-missile cruiser crew nabs pirates

AT SEA ABOARD USS VELLA GULF — The crew of the guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf apprehended seven pirates in the Gulf of Aden on Feb. 11 after responding to a distress call from a nearby merchant vessel.

The event marks the first time Combined Task Force 151, a multinational effort to fight piracy in the region, has apprehended suspected pirates, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command officials said.

At about 3 p.m., the Marshall Islands-flagged motor vessel Polaris sent a dis-

tress call to all ships in the area, reporting that a small skiff containing seven suspected pirates had attempted a forcible boarding of their vessel using a ladder. Polaris crew members removed the ladder before pirates could come aboard, officials said.

Vella Gulf responded immediately and intercepted the skiff and several men on fitting the physical descriptions given by Polaris crew members. A Vella Gulf visit, board, search and seizure team conducted a consensual boarding and

found several weapons.

Polaris met up with Vella Gulf, and the crew provided positive visual identification of the suspected pirates. The suspects were brought onboard Vella Gulf, where they were processed and were being held until their transfer to a temporary holding facility onboard the supply ship USNS Lewis and Clark.

Editor's note: The American Forces Press Service provided this article from a U.S. Naval Forces Central Command news release.

Workers compensation covers on-the-job injury

The Federal Employees Compensation Act is administered by the Office of Workers Compensation Program of the U.S. Department of Labor. It provides benefits to civilian employees of the federal work force for disability due to personal injury sustained while in the per-

formance of duty or for employment-related conditions or disease. The FECA also provides for the payment of benefits to dependents if the injury or disease causes the employee's death.

Here's what you should do if injured at work:

- Report the injury to your supervisor right away and obtain medical treatment at the Occupational Medicine Facility as necessary.

- Complete a written report (Form CA-1 or CA-2) with your supervisor, and submit it to the Injury Compensation Office within 48 hours.

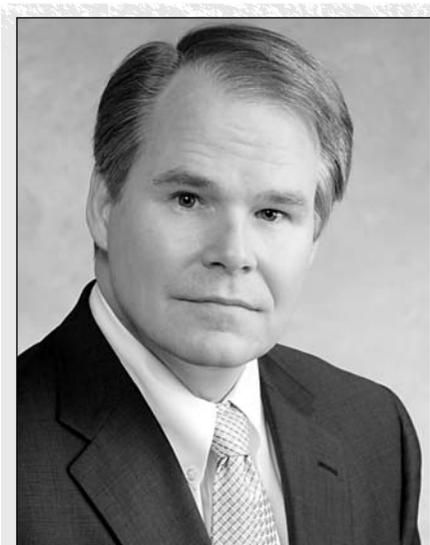
- If a traumatic injury has occurred and further medical treatment is needed

beyond the Occupational Medicine Facility, obtain authorization (Form CA-16) from the Occupational Medicine staff for treatment by a physician of your choice.

- If a traumatic injury has occurred, furnish the supervisor with medical evidence of any disability within 10 calendar days of your absence.

- If an occupational condition or disease develops over a period of time, complete a CA-2 with your supervisor, and submit it to the Injury Compensation Office by appointment.

For more information on workers compensation, call 842-8850. (*Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release*)



Courtesy photo

Marshall official

Kim E. Whitson has been appointed deputy director of the Office of Procurement at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

Commissaries join with DoD to promote financial fitness

By KEVIN L. ROBINSON

DeCA public affairs specialist

FORT LEE, Va. — Navy service member Karen Amador Lesetmoe described herself as someone who had gotten in over her head in debt.

Between credit card debt, a car loan and a low-paying job that made shopping for a food a constant challenge, the single mom needed a new direction.

So she went on a diet — financially that is. "I decided I'd had enough of living paycheck to paycheck and worrying about money all the time," said Lesetmoe, whose testimony to get out of debt is posted with others on <http://www.MilitarySaves.org>. "When I paid off my credit cards, I didn't relax and

fall back into my old spending habit, I was on a mission to save money. I opened a savings account and started putting all the money I would have spent on my debt into my savings."

Lesetmoe's story of financial distress is all too real for many people in uniform and their families. To help reinforce its message for the military community to be financially fit, DoD has proclaimed Military Saves Week, Feb. 22 through March 1.

The Defense Commissary Agency has joined other DoD agencies and installation financial institutions to echo the benefits of reducing debt and building wealth.

"We are going to participate," Redstone store director Robin Daniel said. "We have advertising materials coming in (this week)."



New Army program aims to protect against suicide

Mandatory training planned to counter 'deadly secret'

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
karihawk@knology.net

Nothing in his job with the Garrison's Employee Assistance Program pulls at Richard Lewis' heart strings as much as the instructional program he does on suicide awareness, prevention and intervention.

And now it looks like his role as a suicide awareness educator is going to be more intense and frequent as the Army works to prevent suicide deaths among its Soldiers and, consequently, throughout its civilian work force. Lewis hopes a new Armywide suicide education program will make a difference for Redstone Arsenal Soldiers and civilians, and their families.

"It's a three-phase approach to suicide awareness training that is mandatory for all Department of the Army civilians and Soldiers," Lewis said. "The training must be taken by all employees of the Garrison and its tenant organizations. Every Soldier, every DA civilian at Redstone Arsenal must receive this training."

The Army's 2008 data shows there were 142 suicides in the active Army, up from 115 in 2007. It was the fourth year in a row that the Army has seen an increase in suicides.

Suicide awareness, prevention and intervention training will occur in three phases over the next several months at Redstone Arsenal and throughout the Army. Lewis will soon schedule meetings with DA employees and announce them in the *Rocket* and through various other communications. Organizations can also call Lewis at 842-9897 or Ruby Turner at 842-9895 to schedule training. The Arsenal's chaplain's office and Fox Army Health Center's Behavioral Medicine can also provide counselors to conduct training.

"The training must be done with support people in a facilitated training session because there are concerns regarding potential harm that can be done to people

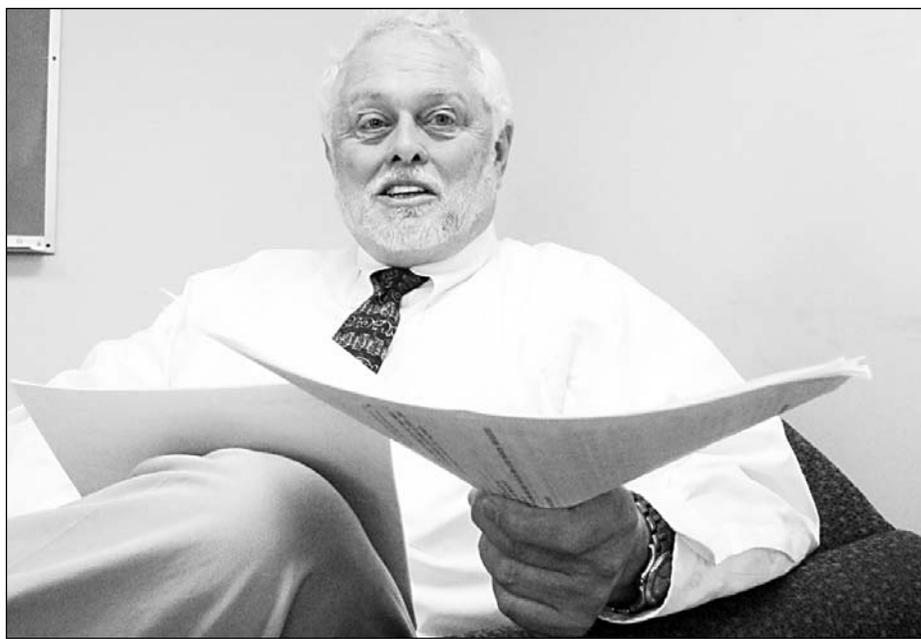


Photo by Kari Hawkins

TRAINING REQUIREMENT— Richard Lewis of the Garrison's Employee Assistance Program will be scheduling mandatory suicide awareness, prevention and intervention training for all Soldiers and Army civilians at Redstone Arsenal. The required training must start immediately as the Army works to prevent further increases in its Soldier suicide rate.

contemplating suicide or to people who may know someone contemplating suicide," Lewis said.

"The training is designed to make people more aware of suicide, and counselors or instructors are needed to address questions that could arise from the training program. If there is any type of negative reaction to the training, we want to be able to provide intervention. Sometimes training itself will indicate a response and that response will indicate a need."

Suicide is not only an Army problem. It is a problem that randomly affects Americans every day, and that rate of suicide is growing nationwide. A six-year analysis by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that the U.S. suicide rate rose to 11 per 100,000 people in 2005, from 10.5 per 100,000 in 1999, an increase of just under 5 percent. The report found that virtually all of the

increase was attributable to a nearly 16 percent jump in suicides among people ages 40 to 64, a group not commonly seen as high-risk. The rate for that age group rose to 15.6 per 100,000 in 2005, from 13.5 per 100,000 in 1999.

"Statistically, the chance of being a victim of suicide in America is greater than being a victim of a homicide," Lewis said. "But the media doesn't maintain awareness of suicide as they do of homicide."

Suicides are often not publicized because of concerns for privacy by the victim's family and because suicides don't involve the criminal court system, which is the case in homicides.

"People do want to protect the privacy of a victim of suicide and of the victim's family. For that reason, suicide is viewed as a deadly secret," Lewis said.

It is hoped the Army's new push of sui-

cide awareness, prevention and intervention will remove some of the shroud of secrecy. The first phase of the Army's new training requirement is titled "Beyond the Front" and includes a video and materials. Training in the first phase must be completed within the next month.

Phase two of the training, which will continue through July 15, involves a video titled "Shoulder to Shoulder" and additional information. Phase three involves sustainment of suicide awareness, prevention and intervention training, and is ongoing throughout the other two phases.

There are three goals for the required training.

"We want to help people be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of someone contemplating suicide," Lewis said. "We want to give them resources for intervention so they know what to do if they have a friend or family members exhibiting those signs and symptoms.

"Second, we want to encourage or enhance the general well-being of Soldiers and DA civilians both physically and mentally so that suicide does not become an option. And, third, we want to mitigate the stigma involved in seeking mental health care or behavioral health services. Even though there isn't a stigma at the DA level, there is still stigma sometimes at the local level."

Lewis does provide instruction and resources concerning suicide awareness, prevention and intervention year-round, with a concentration of training offered in September when the nation recognizes National Suicide Awareness Day. The new Army program will further enhance that work.

"Suicide is an issue for everyone," he said. "We need to raise the shroud of darkness so people are aware. If people know the signs and symptoms, and they know how they can help someone, they will be more inclined to do something about the threat of suicide.

"In the Army, this affects civilians working with Soldiers, civilians working with civilians and Soldiers working with civilians. This is really a holistic approach Armywide to give attention to a deadly secret."

Tec-Masters awarded contract

Tec-Masters Inc. has been awarded contracts with the Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in both the "Full and Open Lot" and the "Small Business Lot." This is the second STRI Omnibus Contract.

STOC II is a multiple-award, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract and serves as an efficient contracting vehicle to quickly get simulation and training products and services into the hands of U.S. and coalition servicemembers.

Tec-Masters has successfully worked in the defense industry for more than 20 years, including seven years of proven STOC performance. Contract management will take place in Orlando, Fla., supported by Huntsville and Lawton, Okla.

"We're proud to be partnered with PEO STRI to support our war fighter," Dr. Marvin Carroll, president of Tec-Masters, said. "We continue our commitment to unsurpassed dedication, quality and reliability." (*Tec-Masters Inc. release*)

Coast Guard Auxiliary answers call to service

WASHINGTON — President Obama has called the nation to service. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary have been answering that call for nearly 70 years.

Auxiliarists have answered America's call following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the aftermaths of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. Most recently the Auxiliary, America's volunteer guardians, were on the waterways in the Capital region in support of the presidential inauguration.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed volunteer component of the

U.S. Coast Guard created by an Act of Congress in 1939. The Auxiliary supports the Coast Guard in nearly all of the service's missions.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is a perfect fit for those American's looking to answer the president's call to service. Membership is open to U.S. citizens, at least 17 years old, and able to pass a basic background check. There is no upper age limits or height/weight restrictions, although for operational activities, members must be physically able to perform certain tasks. (*Coast Guard Auxiliary release*)

Groups focus on installation service

Quarterly meetings surface issues, needs

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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The best way to find out how services and facilities are working for the people who use them is to just ask them. The new installation Customer Management Services office is using focus groups as part of its mission to give people the best experience possible at Redstone Arsenal.

“We sit down and listen to them,” Steve McFadden, installation customer service officer, said. “They then develop that in their own words into a workable issue.”

Modeled after the Army Family Action Plan, the groups are assembled quarterly to discuss issues on Redstone and their possible solutions. Where AFAP encompasses all things Army, Community First groups deal with things pertinent to the post itself.

Each group is limited to a specific category. McFadden said there is a teen group, a family group, a single Soldier group, a married Soldier group, a surviving spouse group, a retiree group, a veteran group and a civilian group.

“We get completely different views and issues from each group,” he said.



Photo by Steve McFadden

SHARING IDEAS— Military family members gather to discuss issues at a Community First focus group.

The group meetings are scheduled quarterly, with two or three groups meeting each quarter. Once issues and possible solutions are identified, McFadden takes those directly to the organization or office that they would fall under for working.

“My job is to gather the information so that the system works,” he said. “We take that info to the service provider so that they can work it.”

The first two groups have already had

their first meeting. The teen group met Jan. 14, 21 and 22. Because of their age, their meeting was spaced over several days. Despite their youth, group members had some mature discussions about what they want out of the services geared toward them on post. The top three issues from the teen group were computer access for homework at the youth center, transportation for activities and a fire escape for the music studio within the youth center.

“Their issues were very well thought out,” McFadden said. “Some were kind of common sense, but some the staff hadn’t even thought about.”

The family group met Jan. 29. Their top issues were a handicap accessible playground and appointment availability at Fox Army Health Center.

Issues brought up by both groups are already being worked. A delegate from each group will be present at a meeting March 26 with Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli and his Steering Council. They will brief him on the issues raised before the appropriate office discusses what is being done about them.

“It saves us some meeting time and prevents any miscommunication about what is being done,” McFadden explained.

Using Community First to work installation issues not only yields speedy results, he said, it also frees up time for AFAP delegates to focus on larger things.

“People need more than once a year to get their issues out there,” he said. “These issues are important, but they are smaller.”

Plans are being made for Soldier, civilian and retiree focus groups to meet in April. Participation is on a volunteer basis, with 8 to 12 people in each group. For more information, or to volunteer, call McFadden at 876-3294 or e-mail rsacms@conus.army.mil.

Sports & Recreation

Braves baseball trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring its annual Baseball Bus Trip to Atlanta for the St. Louis Cardinals vs. Atlanta Braves games. Like last year, the game series is scheduled during the week. The stadium reservations are for the April 28-29 games. The CWFC bus will depart Redstone Arsenal at 11 a.m. April 28 and return to Redstone Arsenal on April 30. The group will be staying at the Embassy Suites-Galleria in Atlanta. The cost for this event is \$280 per person, based on double occupancy. This includes bus transportation, hotel room, tickets to both games, plus lunch and beverages on the bus. To make your reservations, e-mail Charles Urban at charles.urban@conus.army.mil. A non-refundable deposit of \$140 per person must be received by March 2. For more information, call Urban 955-7662.

America's boating

America's Boating Class is Feb. 21 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Whitesburg Baptist Recreation Center on Whitesburg Drive. Instructors with years of on-the-water experience will teach you about boating, share their boating experience, and answer your questions. The optional book is \$25 which can be shared by family. A closed book exam is held at the sec-

ond class. Attendance is required at both Saturday morning sessions. Class meets Vessel Authorization required by Alabama and Tennessee Public Safety. To register call Chris Whitacre 882-6909. The Huntsville Power Squadron is a non-profit organization.

Golf fund-raiser

The Security Assistance Management Directorate is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on April 24 at the Redstone Links to benefit the Tennessee Valley Honor Flight. For more information, call Gena Scofield 975-6952 or e-mail gena.scofield@us.army.mil.

Youth baseball

CYSS Little League Baseball registration is under way through March 2. Boys and girls ages 5-12 are invited. The fee is \$55. For more information, call 313-3699 or 876-3704 or log onto www.redstonemwr.com.

Youth lacrosse

In partnership with Huntsville Lacrosse Association, Redstone Arsenal's Child, Youth and School Services is offering lacrosse for boys and girls ages 6 to high school. Fees range from \$185-\$270 per player. Players will have to purchase additional equipment. Players registering through CYSS will be on a Redstone Arsenal team if there are enough registrants. If not, players will be placed on Huntsville teams. For more information, call 313-3699.

Bass tournament

The Army Aviation Association of America's Spring Bob Vlasic Classic Bass Tournament is March 27-28 at the Elk River Group Lodge, Joe Wheeler State Park. For more information, e-mail thomas.geoffroy@us.army.mil.

Conferences & Meetings

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 842-7910.

Bible studies

Protestant Women of the Chapel holds Bible study classes every Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Childwatch is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first-served basis for the 9:30 study. PWOC also provides adult supervision for home-schooled children at the chapel for the 9:30 study. "The lunchtime Bible study meets from 11:30-12:30 so take an hour off from your busy workday to release, refresh and regroup while learning of the healing power of God's word," a prepared release said. For more information, call Laura Keegan 489-7686 or Sharon Olshefski 489-0404. The contact for the lunchtime group is Mattie L. Jones 828-9890 or 508-7744.

Women's day conference

Birmingham International Center presents the third annual International Women's Day Conference on March 5 at the Harbert Center in Birmingham. Featured speakers include Tanya Blank, author of "Army Wives," the book that inspired the Lifetime television series drama that People Magazine ranked in its Top 10 list of best TV shows in 2007. Registration is \$50, \$30 for luncheon only, \$20 for students/senior citizens or military, and \$500 for a table of eight. Register online at www.bic-al.org or call (205) 252-7652.

Fleet Reserve

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 278 will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 28 at noon at Greenbrier Barbecue on I-565, Exit 3. For more information, call Bill Marriott 974-3763 or Jim Sutton 650-5748.

Executive women

The Huntsville Chapter of Executive Women International invites girls in grades 8-12 to attend the Executive Women of Tomorrow Conference on Sat-

urday at ADTRAN Inc. in Huntsville. The theme is "Outfitting Your Career Toolkit." Proceeds benefit the EWI Huntsville Chapter Scholarship fund. For more information, call Donna Corbett 890-3101 or visit www.ewihsv.org.

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.

Admin professionals

The International Association of Administrative Professionals invites all civilians and contractors in any type of admin field to attend its meeting held every third Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. For more information, call Hillary Marshall 313-1349.

Toastmasters

Anyone interested in improving their public 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.

Government professionals

The Society of Government Meeting Professionals invites you to join the Rocket City-Alabama Chapter. "SGMP is the only organization dedicated to improving the knowledge and expertise of any individual involved in planning and managing government meetings through education, training and industry relationships," a prepared release said. It will meet Feb. 24 at Holiday Inn Research Park. Social starts at 5:30 p.m. and the program at 6. The meeting fee is \$10 government planner, \$20 supplier member and \$35 non-member. RSVP by 5 p.m. today to Katie Smith 551-2237. For more information, call Marie Arighi 551-2379.

Blacks in government

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government, under the leadership of president Mary Peoples, will hold its annual "Black History Soul Food Potluck Program" on Friday at 6 p.m. at District 6 County Commissioner's Office, 3210 Hi-Lo Circle. The guest speaker is Juanita Sales Lee, president of the Federal Bar Association. Everyone is welcome. There will be food, games and entertainment. To RSVP or for more information, call Kelly Brinson 842-8907 or Wendy Dickerson 876-9143.

Networking luncheon

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government will hold a Networking Luncheon Event on Thursday at 11:15 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club in the Soldatenstube Room. "Come early to use the buffet line for lunch," a prepared release said. "Join us to meet and greet BRAC relocated and/or newly assigned employees to Redstone. This is a great opportunity to meet others in your



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Maintenance support

Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles speaks to American Helicopter Society international members Feb. 10 at the Von Braun Center during the Condition Based Maintenance Specialists' Meeting. Myles emphasized the need to manage the health and condition of Army aircraft. CBM is a set of maintenance processes and capabilities derived from real-time assessment whose goal is to perform maintenance only when needed. "Proactive maintenance, not reactive," Myles said of CBM. Its objectives include decreasing the maintenance burden on the Soldier, increasing platform availability and readiness, enhancing safety, and reducing costs of operations and support.

career field to obtain career related information." For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275 or Kelly Brinson 842-8907.

Test/evaluation association

The Rocket City Chapter of International Test and Evaluation Association will meet March 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Westar Corporation (QinetiQ), 890 Explorer Boulevard, Building 2, Saturn Conference Room. Guest speaker is Keith Darrow, deputy commander of Army Aviation Technical Test Center. RSVP with James Knoch 876-2550.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 a.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. Guest speaker is Jessica Merritt with Wiregrass Hospice. The informal monthly breakfast is Feb. 28 at 8 a.m. at Madison Square Holiday Inn.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection monthly luncheon is Feb. 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. Mary Kay Beard of Birmingham will speak on "How She Was Set Free While Serving a Prison Sentence." For reservations call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339 by Thursday.

Young professionals

AIAA Young Professionals luncheon is Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jacobs Conference Center, Galileo Conference Room, first floor. Scott Pollard, director of advanced technology division for bd Systems, an SAIC company, is the scheduled speaker. Cost is \$5.

Trade association

North Alabama International Trade Association presents the 2009 NAITA Defense Trade Series, co-sponsored by the Alabama International Trade Center. The Australia Defense Industry Briefing is Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Westar Aerospace & Defense Group-QinetiQ North America. "NAITA kicks off the 2009 NAITA Defense Trade Series with a detailed program on working with one of our closest allies," a prepared release said. "The Australia-U.S. relationship is strong, especially when it comes to defense." Registration is \$25 for NAITA members and \$40 for potential members. Online registration is available at www.naita.org. For reservations or more information, call NAITA at 532-3505 or e-mail naita@naita.org. The association's annual meeting on the State of the Global Economy is noon Feb. 24 at the Embassy Suites Hotel downtown.

Artful conference

The Alabama Clay Conference will present a panel discussion and a workshop for local artists on March 14 and 15 at the Von Braun Center. On March 14 from 2-4 p.m., the conference will present "Connecting Artists with Architects, Designers, Builders and Clients," a panel discussion

with design and building experts who will talk about how artists can assist in creating innovative interiors and beautiful workplace environments. The panel will include ceramic artist Angelica Pozo, known for her large-scale community and public art projects, and moderator Toni Sike, founder of "Guild Sourcebooks," a leading source of artists who do commissioned work for architectural and interior space. On March 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the conference will host several workshops on "Presenting and Marketing Your Art - For Artists in Any Medium." The workshops are: Photographing Your Art by Maria Spies, Photoshop, Zapplixcaiton and Web Site Resources by Walt Schumacher and Marketing, Business Basics and Networking by Alissa Murnane and Gina Hurst. The panel discussion is free to the public. The workshop fee for non-conference attendees is \$20 with registration beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, visit <http://www.alclayconference.org/workshops.html>.

Autism support group

Making Connections Autism Spectrum Disorder Support Group will have a family outing Feb. 28 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Southeast YMCA, 1000 Weatherly Road. RSVP is required for this free swimming event. Send an e-mail to Jenny Morris, with the number of adults/children and their names attending, at jenny-morris70@yahoo.com.

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. The unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the areas of database management, programming, networking and/or telecommunications. A minimum of a secret clearance is required, and you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SSBI background investigation for upgrade to top secret soon after unit entry. Specialties 74C and 74F have merged into the 25B career group and convert to 25B as well. To schedule an interview, call Sgt 1st Class Scott Ambrose 655-9435 or Chief 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



Courtesy photo

Promotion to Ponder

Redstone Federal Credit Union has named Liz Ponder as vice president for direct retail. She is responsible for the overall management and operations of direct retail, including branch operations, real estate and financial counseling.

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.

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.

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

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/>.

Officer candidates

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking proficient individuals interested in commissioning as Army officers upon completion of Officer Candidate School. If you are a college graduate with a four-year degree or higher from an accredited institution of postsecondary education (college seniors may apply), this is an opportunity for you to become an Army officer. Graduates of OCS are commissioned as second lieutenants. Commissions are available in the active Army and the Reserve. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Maj. Cyrus Russ 539-6511 or 539-6512.

Pilots wanted

The Huntsville Recruiting Company is seeking qualified applicants to apply for Warrant Officer Flight Training School. Applicants must have a high school diploma and age 18-33. Age waivers will be considered. For more information, or to schedule an interview, call Maj. Cyrus Russ 539-6511 or 539-6512.

Cadet program

Join the Army Reserves and enroll in your college ROTC program simultaneously through the Simultaneous Membership Program. Earn anywhere from \$470 to \$1,400 a month as a SMP cadet. As a member of the Army Reserve SMP Cadet Program, you are non-deployable, you have an opportunity to pursue the degree of your choice and you can assure yourself of a future as a commissioned officer in the active Army or the Reserves. For more information, call your local Army Reserve recruiter 518-3972.

Army training

Do you want to be on the cutting edge of Army training? The 1st Battle Command Training Group offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing your professional management, training and leadership skills. It has immediate openings for sergeant first class through lieutenant colonel - specialty and branch are immaterial - who want to transfer and make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 1st BCTG conducts continental U.S. pre- and post-mobilization computer simulation based Battle Command Staff Training exercises. It trains and validates Army Reserve and National Guard units throughout the Southeast in wartime readiness. It offers CONUS mobilization opportunities training and preparing USAR and ARNG units for deployment. Unit benefits include Fragmented Annual Training, and opportunity to travel throughout the Southeast. It encourages and supports attendance at Army professional development schools. For information call 1st Sgt. Larry King (205) 987-8443 ext. 4410, Capt. John Walker (205) 444-5208 or Lt. Col. Anthony Escott (205) 444-5163.

Interactive feedback

Have you ever gotten "hot" over a situation and you wanted to tell someone? Take it to the source so you can "cool" down with ICE, the Interactive Customer Evaluation web site. You have direct access to all Redstone Arsenal service providers to let them know how they are doing, tell them of shortcomings or offer a pat on the back for a job well done. Log onto the Internet at <http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil>; click on the ICE icon on right; and scroll down and find the service category you wish to rate or scroll to bottom and click "show all" to see the entire list for Redstone Arsenal. For more information, call 876-3294.

School benefit

Janice Mitchell Isbell Academy will hold a fund-raiser for its school Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Dr. Richard Showers Senior Recreation Center. The annual Fashion Show & Dinner tickets are \$25 per person. For tickets and information, call J. Isbell 694-9451.

Library story time

There's a special book place just for children at the FMWR Post Library, and every Wednesday at 10 a.m. interactive stories are read to young children. After story time the children may stay to play in the children's room where Ling Ling the panda sits at the little red table. Children of any age may come – the story time is especially designed for babies and then on up through kindergarten. This is a casual

drop-in small group experience. The books are chosen to match the children present. The aim is to help children fall in love with books and libraries at a very young age. The library is building 3323 on Redeye Road. For more information, call the library 876-4741

Thrift Shop grants

The Redstone Thrift Shop Welfare Committee announces its annual grant program. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28. Requests will be reviewed and awarded in April. For an application, organizations wishing to solicit funds should call Jennifer Kennedy 682-6981 or e-mail jkhunter_1999@hotmail.com.

Warrant officer scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Warrant Officer Association offers the RSAWOA Annual Scholarship Program. RSAWOA will award a minimum of one \$1,000 scholarship. Application packets are due by April 1. Applications will be accepted from the children (natural and adopted), dependent stepchildren under age 21 (seniors in high school or currently enrolled college freshmen), and spouses of members of the active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired military and DoD civilians/contractors in the Tennessee Valley. Completed application packets should be mailed to: RSAWOA Scholarship Program, c/o Richard Storie, 102 Trevor Circle, Toney, AL 35773-9651. For more information, visit www.redstonewarrants.com.

Community grants

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club, which distributes money to non-profit groups each year, is now accepting applications for grants. To receive a copy of the application form, e-mail Demy Robley, OCWC community assistance chair, at puaaloha@bellsouth.net. Forms are also available in the OCWC Southern Exposure Newsletter. All requests must conform to the OCWC Community Assistance Request Form. Deadline for submission is Feb. 28. Requests postmarked or received after the deadline will not be considered. For more information, call Robley 882-6064. OCWC is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

IAAP scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 annual scholarship awards to a local high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information and/or a scholarship application, call Jackie Kenner 876-8131. An application can be found at <http://www.geocities.com/iaaprsa/home.htm>.

ASMC scholarships

The American Society of Military Comptrollers is accepting applications for its 2009 scholarship program. Scholarship applications are due by Feb. 28. The ASMC Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to aid ASMC mem-

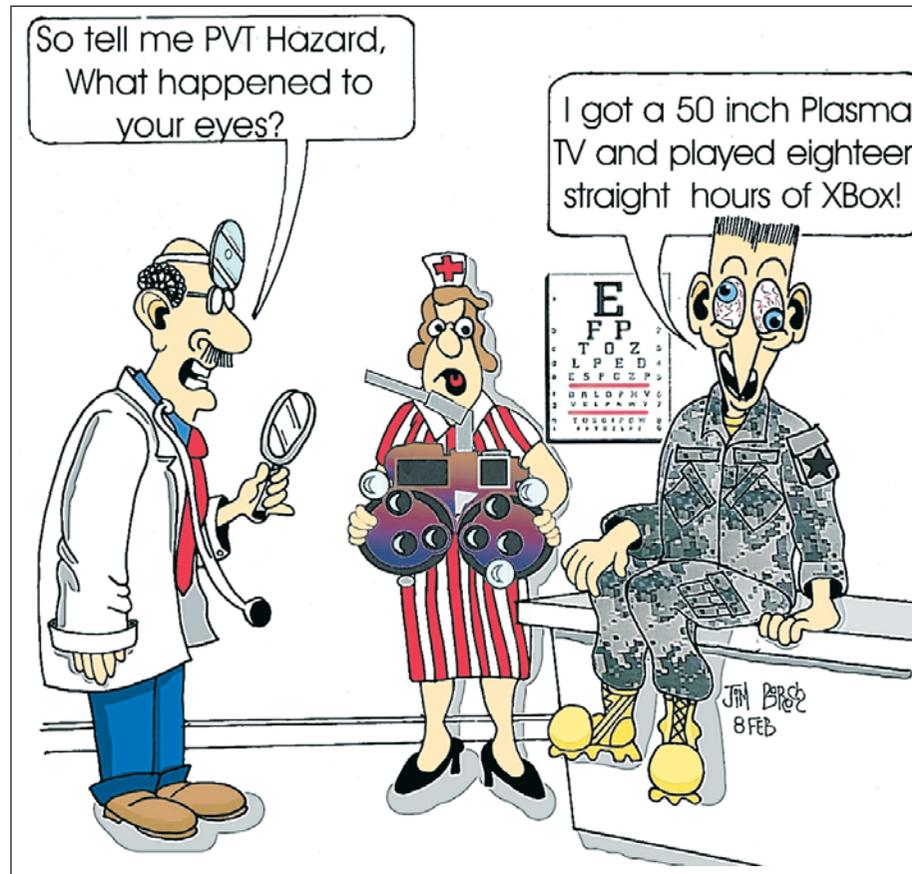


Photo by Steve Grzedzinski

Painting with powder

Brian Kanuik, powder coat technician at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa., uses a new method to apply a primer coat of paint to an antenna mount. The powder coat application introduced in October provides a uniform, durable, high quality finish which is resistant to chipping, corrosion, chemicals, abrasion and ultra violet rays.

bers or their immediate family in continuing their educational endeavors. Applicants must be a current ASMC member or a high school senior, undergraduate or those working on graduate programs (immediately related to an ASMC member). Applicants must have maintained a 3.0 gpa. Applications may be submitted to the following: Judy Smith, chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, building 5300 (third floor), 313-2379; Michelle Cobb, building 5300, 876-8361; Jackie Shaw, building 5300, 876-8932; Debbie O'Neal, building 5400, 876-2671; Dee Kowallik, building 5681, 313-4020; Jessica Dunaway, building 5308, 313-0533; Connie Atchley, 101 Wynn Drive, 313-8254; Cody Swinford, building 5309, 876-3363; Susan Zimmerly, building 5300, 876-5133; Lisa Lowry, building 5400, 876-7086; Dana Wilbanks, building 5400, 876-4283; April East, building 5300, 876-8857; and Cheryl Richmond, G3, 955-0066.

Tax assistance center

The 2008-09 Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is open through April 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday or as needed (appointments only). The center is located in building 3489 at the corner of Ajax Road and Zeus Road. All active duty servicemembers, retirees, their dependents, as well as Reserve and National Guard servicemembers on military orders for 30 or more days and their dependents, are eligible for e-filing of federal and state tax returns. There is no charge for this service. You can schedule an appointment by calling 842-1040.

CFC applications

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations for 2009. Under federal law, the charitable organization must be a current 501(c) (3) organization. The open period for accepting applications is Feb. 23 through April 2. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area. The Tennessee Valley CFC serves charitable agencies in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. A copy of the 2009 CFC package may be acquired by calling the CFC office 876-9143 or by website <http://cfc.redstone.army.mil>.

Professional development

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its annual Mini-Professional Development Institute Training Sessions on March 11 and 12 at Trinity United Methodist Church, New Room Auditorium, on Airport Road. This is a one day training session and the sessions are the same each day. Doors open at 7:30 a.m., and the training begins at 8:30. Deadline to register is March 4. Cost is \$100 for members, and \$125 for non-members. For more information call Cody Swinford 876-3363,

See Announcements on page 28

Debbie O'Neal 876-2671, Dana Wilbanks 876-4283, Theresa McBride 842-9272 and Sandy Balog 842-8012.

Deployed recognition

In appreciation and recognition of Team Redstone's service and sacrifice, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles would like to honor all those who are serving or who have served in deployments in support of Redstone Arsenal operations for OIF/OEF, during the third Team Redstone Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony scheduled April 7 at 1 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. This ceremony will recognize honorees for their deployments from Aug. 11, 2008 to April 7, 2009. Those who were not able to participate in the ceremony held Sept. 18 are also invited to participate in this event. Myles will present letters of recognition to Soldiers, civilians and contractors including immediate family members of the Team Redstone work force who have deployed in support of Redstone Arsenal operations. For more information, call Sofia Bledsoe 842-9828 or Bruce Cline 955-6925.

Heart awareness luncheon

The Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Inc. presents a Go Red Luncheon. This is a Healthy Heart Awareness event will be held March 7 at noon at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. The speaker is Dr. Warren Strickland, medical director of cardiology for Huntsville Hospital. Tickets are \$40 per person and the proceeds will be used to support the CNA/DST Scholarship Fund and the American Heart Association. Make all checks payable to: Delta Sigma Theta/CNA, P.O. Box 39, Madison, AL 35758. For more information, call Judise Lanier 714-1525 or Charlotte Canady 457-2345.

Youth orchestra

The Huntsville Youth Orchestra invites everyone to join it at the Cheeburger Cheeburger Restaurants on Thursday. "While you enjoy your meal, you can also enjoy beautiful live music performed by some of our area's most talented young musicians," a prepared release said. "At various times throughout the day and evening, small groups and soloists from the Youth Orchestra will be playing some of their favorite pieces." On Thursday, Cheeburger Cheeburger is donating a portion of all profits from both of its restaurants to support the Youth Orchestra. Cheeburger Cheeburger's two locations are 5000 Whitesburg Drive in south Huntsville (at the corner of Airport and Whitesburg), and 7 Town Center Drive in northwest Huntsville (just north of 72, in Providence Town Center).

Parent leadership academy

Alabama Network for Children With Disabilities will hold a free Parent Leadership

Academy on Feb. 23-24 and March 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 980 Hughes Road in Madison. This three-part leadership training opportunity is for parents, foster parents and other caregivers of children up to age 21 with special needs. For an application, call Natalie Taylor of Army Community Service 876-5397. For more information, call the Alabama Parent Education Center toll free 1-866-532-7660 or visit www.alabamaparentcenter.com.

Veterans home visits

Redstone Soldiers are visiting Tut Fann State Veterans Home on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. Remaining dates for this year include March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 15. For more information, call Jessica Merritt of Wireglass Hospice 519-8808.

Parent's night out

Sci-Quest will hold its Parent's Night Out on Friday at 6 p.m. Parents drop your children off for three hours and spend a Friday night on your terms. The children will enjoy pizza for dinner, age-appropriate science activities and time with Sci-Quest's hands-on exhibits. The first 30 families registered will also receive a free gift courtesy of Parkway Place Mall. For more information or to make reservations for your children, call 837-0606.

Health fair

Fox Army Health Center Preventive Medicine/Health Promotion, in cooperation with area hospitals and organizations, will sponsor a Heart Truth/Red Dress Health Fair on Feb. 24. This event is being held in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health's Heart Truth Campaign and the American Heart Association's Go Red Dress Day. The Health Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 24 at Bob Jones Auditorium. The purpose of the event is to raise the public's awareness of heart disease in women. "The Heart Truth is that heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women," a release from Fox Army Health Center said. "In fact, one of four women dies of heart disease. But heart disease can also lead to disability and a significantly decreased quality of life."

Service banners

The North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition and the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will host a Blue Star Service Banner presentation on March 6 at 10 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. To register, e-mail Mary Breeden at mary.breeden@conus.army.mil or call ACS at 876-5397. The family representative must be present at the ceremony to receive the banner. You should submit the following information on the servicemember: name, rank, unit assigned to and the

name of the family member who will accept the banner. If you have more than one family member serving, let ACS know how many stars you need on the banner.

Benefit lunch

To support scholarships for young local college leaders, the Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women will sponsor a lunch March 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Carraba's Italian Grill in Parkway Mall. Pam Hudson, CEO at Crestwood Medical Center, will speak on "The Future of Family Health Care." Tickets are \$22. Call Elaine Eyer 881-2254 for more information. Reservations are due by Feb. 28.

Planetarium shows

Von Braun Astronomical Society holds planetarium shows every Saturday night at 7:30 at Von Braun Planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. The theme for February is "Galileo, 400 years of Astronomy."

Youth volunteers

Youngsters ages 11-18 are invited to register for Huntsville volunteer opportunities Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at the Huntsville Public Library, 915 Monroe St. "Bring your parents, bring your friends, sign up as a group," a prepared release said. "All youth volunteers are encouraged to participate and join the largest Youth Volunteer Corps in the state of Alabama." For more information, call 539-7797.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays 9-4, Thursdays 9-5 and the first Saturday of each month from 10-2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. "Dolls, dolls, dolls have invaded our shop," a prepared release said. "Consignor's collection till gone. Lots more goodies, too."

Benefit concert

"A Father's Wish," a benefit concert for the Rick Gray family, will be held Feb. 28 from 2-4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Meridianville. Local musicians donating their time include Christopher-Joel Carter, who recently won first place in the Showmanship Division of the Liberace piano competition in Las Vegas, and Sweet Water, a Southern gospel group from Madison County. For more information, call Carol Whitaker 656-5441.

AER book sale

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief is April 13 through May 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 5300, Sparkman Center, on the first floor in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. As in the past, they accept donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotape. They can receive donations until April 29. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563 to arrange delivery or pickup of those items.

Armed services blood drive

The Armed Services Blood Program will conduct a blood drive Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Redstone Fitness Center in order to provide this much needed product for the Afghanistan and Iraq theaters of operations, to support U.S. Soldiers. Soldiers and civilians from throughout Redstone Arsenal are encouraged to visit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. because the trainees from the 832nd Ordnance Battalion have the 4-8 p.m. period, due to their classroom training time.

Orchid show

The Heart of Dixie Orchid Society will hold its annual orchid show and sale March 21 from noon to 5 p.m. and March 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holiday Inn Research Park, 5903 University Drive. The show is free to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.h-o-d-o-s.org/>.

Salute dinner

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will sponsor the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award Dinner at 7 p.m. March 10 at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. This award and dinner recognizes local Army civilians who have demonstrated exceptional performance as members of the Army team. AUSA will recognize nominees from three groups: Management/Executive Award, Professional/Technical Award, and Supporting Staff Award. These outstanding civilians will be nominated by their commands or agencies in February. The chapter nominee selected from among all of the local nominees will be announced at the dinner and go on to compete for the AUSA Third Region (Southeast) competition later in the summer. The Region winners are recognized nationally at the AUSA Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in October. Plan to support the outstanding civilian nominees by attending the award dinner. Individual ticket cost is \$32; corporate tables of eight are \$256. For reservations, call event coordinator Jerry Hamilton 971-7065 or e-mail albert.hamilton@man-tech.com.

Acquisition careerists

Applications are being accepted through April 30 for the 2009 Senior Service College Fellowship Program-Huntsville which begins July 27. Eligible applicants are Department of the Army civilian Acquisition Corps members who occupy permanent positions in grades GS-14 and 15 or broadband equivalent. Persons interested in applying for the 2009 SSCF Program must respond under this announcement. The official announcement can be accessed at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/active/opfam51/SSCF_09.pdf. Eligible applicants are encouraged to contact their Acquisition Career Manager before submitting an application to ensure application criteria is met. ACM contact information can be found at <http://asc.army.mil/organization/western/default.cfm>.