

Redstone Rocket

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'God reached down and protected me'

Former Army Ranger served in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq

By KARI HAWKINS
Staff writer
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For many people, reaching a mountaintop often brings to mind the beauty of a sunset, the promise of a majestic view and the hope for a better future.

But, for Nate Self, a mountaintop symbolizes two starkly different things – the terror of sudden death at the hands of an enemy, and God's promise to be with His followers through the toughest battles.

A West Point graduate and a former Army Ranger captain, Self was at the top of Takur Ghar Mountain in Afghanistan in 2002 when enemy fire killed seven of his fellow Soldiers in a battle that is now known as the Rescue on Roberts Ridge. But he left that mountain knowing that God was with him and his men during the heat of battle.

"Whenever I see a mountain I am reminded of Bull Hill at West Point and reciting Psalm 121 as we climbed it," he said. "The first verse always stuck with me. Whenever I saw mountains that was God reminding me He was there."

Psalm 121, verse 1 reads: "I will lift up my eye unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

Self spoke about his faith at a luncheon meeting of Young Business Leaders, a faith-based business organization for men, on June 26 at the Huntsville Marriott, and then again at Willowbrook Baptist Church on June 28. He is the author of a book telling about his Ranger experiences, his struggles with post traumatic stress disorder

and his faith. The book is titled "Two Wars: A Hero's Fight on Two Fronts – Abroad and Within."

Self's audience of about 200 at the Young Business Leaders luncheon was silent as they listened intently to his story of war. He told them that the symbolism of mountains came to mind for him on Dec. 31, 2001, as he and his fellow Soldiers flew into Bagram, Afghanistan. In the distance, he could see the mountains of the country and they "reminded me that God was telling me He was there."

Self participated in Bible studies with several other Soldiers while in Afghanistan and he saw the group grow in numbers during the months of their deployment.

"When you are in a combat environment and you hear aircraft going down it makes you start to really think about what would happen if that was you," Self said.

"The group started to grow. We had a daily Bible study that was really cultivating these men's hearts. Some of these men had grown up with God. Others were experiencing Him for the first time. We had a revival. God revived in us something very special."

For about three months, Self and his unit did not see the enemy – a fact that was frustrating for the Soldiers.

"We wore the T-shirts of New York firemen and police

officers (lost on 9/11) under our uniforms," Self said. "We had a really strong connection with them. We wanted to be the arm of justice for our country and for some reason that never happened."

"Part of our mission was to kill or capture Al-Qaeda top leaders. We never had a chance to do it ... We were there to try to affect an end to it and it was really frustrating to not be able to get it done."

On March 3, 2002, a call came in to the platoon that challenged and forever changed the lives of Self and his Soldiers. A Chinook helicopter had gone down on top of Takur Ghar Mountain, which was an Al-Qaeda strong hold. Self's platoon was called in to defend the helicopter and rescue a captured Navy SEAL.

"We were shot down as well," Self said of the two Chinook helicopters he and his platoon were traveling in. "It was like we fell from the sky. We were ambushed on three sides. I had to crawl over the dead bodies of my men to get out of the helicopter."

The Soldiers fought enemy gunfire for 15 hours in a firefight that is known as the highest-altitude battle ever fought by U.S. troops. With the help of reinforcements, the Soldiers eventually killed off the enemy. Five Soldiers from Self's platoon were killed.

"My Soldiers told me 'Sir, we knew it was bad up there when you cursed. You cursed Jesus Christ,'" Self recalled.

"It hurt me to know I cursed that name. But then I realized that wasn't what happened. I didn't curse His name. Instead I had called out His name for help. That was a cry for help. When evil men were crowding around us, I spoke the name of Jesus Christ, calling for help."

God helped Self get through that day as well as many others during Self's military career. God was even there when Self turned his back on his faith.

"We know you don't have to call His name for Him to be there for you," Self said. "He is with you in the midst of death. He is with you in the midst of heartache and betrayal. He is with you in the crumbling of your life. He understands suffering that way."

A few years after Afghanistan, Self served with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq, where he began experiencing nightmares



Photo by Kari Hawkins

RELYING ON GOD— Nate Self, a decorated Ranger who served in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, speaks about the strength his faith has given him in overcoming the effects of post traumatic stress disorder during a luncheon meeting of Young Business Leaders on June 26.

See Ranger on page 3

An open lane random survey

What's your reaction to Michael Jackson's death?

By SKIP VAUGHN
 Rocket editor
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Russell Toone
 University of Tennessee Procurement
 Technical Assistance Center,
 Jackson, Tenn., office

"Just very sad to hear of his demise. I wish that someone had taken more care early. Kind of like Elvis; someone close to him should've seen to help him out before he got too sick."

Donald Lewis
 Recreation assistant

"It was a very sad occasion. He was a good entertainer. And I enjoyed his old music – none of his new music. I enjoyed his old stuff. I was very sad to hear that."



Angie Smith
 Recreation specialist

"I was shocked. There was more going on in his life than I ever dreamed – now that we're learning so much of his personal life. He opened the doors for a lot of other entertainers."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jeff Swindle
 59th Ordnance Brigade S-4 (Supply)

"Not surprised. Although talented, he had a lot of views and traits that I didn't agree with. Unfortunate timing; his death coincided with Farrah Fawcett's and Billy Mays'. Because the media has expended most of their time on Michael Jackson and has basically excluded Farrah Fawcett and Billy Mays, two other influential people. Michael Jackson, the image he had concerning children and his apparent dysfunctional type behavior concerning children which was questionable, it seems to me all that's forgotten now because he passed. He was a very talented entertainer. A lot of the issues concerning children's rights and his behavior toward children overshadowed his talent, in my view, and cannot be forgotten."



Letters to the Editor

Procedure sought for traffic accident reports

I would like the Emergency Services Directorate (or the appropriate entity) to provide the following requested information regarding police report procedures associated with a traffic incident occurring on Redstone Arsenal property:

Is anyone/everyone (driver and passengers) required to file a written statement describing their involvement in a traffic accident/incident that occurs on RSA?

Where are these reports to reside on RSA?

What, if any, are the consequences/penalties for not providing such written statements to the RSA Directorate of Emergency Services?

Jim Keebler
 general engineer

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response from its Directorate of Emergency Services. "As part of an investigation into any incident, traffic accident or other, police officers may ask for statements to be written from anyone who may have information which may be pertinent to the investigation. During the course of an investigation the officer may determine that a statement from some people may not be needed, particularly if everyone's version of what occurred is very similar. However, as a general rule, statements are usually taken from everyone who is directly involved and other persons who may have witnessed the incident."

"There are specific requirements for drivers of vehicles involved in traffic accidents to report the accident to installation

police. Specific details on the requirements can be found in Army Regulation 190-5 Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision in Section II, paragraphs 4-5 and 4-6.

"All reports filed with the Redstone Arsenal Police are considered law enforcement sensitive. They are safeguarded in accordance with appropriate regulations and policies. Only those persons or organizations specifically authorized and who have a need to know are allowed access to official police reports."

"In accordance with AR 190-5 paragraph 4-6d(1), 'Drivers or owners of POVs will be required to submit a written report to the installation law enforcement office within 24 hours of an accident.' Failure to provide this information can result in loss of driving privileges on the installation."

Shooting from hip at recent headlines

I resisted writing this commentary but the writer in me won. After a few minutes of Headline News, whew! I felt much the way I felt when I rode "The Joker" at Fiesta Texas in San Antonio with my son a couple of years ago. Tony loved it. I survived it. The thing takes you backwards and upside down at mach speed. The attendant handed me one of those in-flight photos and I look like something crazed. But, although the news is depressing and it only takes minutes for that little spastic, nervous tic I've developed to kick in, I feel required as a citizen to read it and watch it.

The governor from South Carolina admits to an affair with a woman in Argentina. So? We tolerated a president who couldn't behave, not to mention a (former) mayor of our nation's capital who was re-elected as a convicted felon. How embarrassing was that? Apparently the difference is The Gov' was not only out of his pants in another country, but he was out of communication with his state's leadership. Meanwhile, his wife chooses to be a survivor instead of a victim, so Jenny's taking her four sons and going on vacation.

Michael Jackson died. I feel the same way about that as I felt when John John died — as if I've lost a little brother. I grew up watching them both grow up. Michael Jackson was a phenomenal talent who has been emotionally ill for a long time. Like many Americans, I was always hopeful he would work again.

There are approximately 650 tenured teachers in the New York City school system who have been determined "incompetent and/or toxic to kids," so they're sequestered to a "temporary reassignment center" every day. Some have been banished and stuck in this bizarre system for close to two years, all with full pay. I wondered if the NYC school system would consider— in the interest of another student — giving a fraction of this \$65 million annual cost to a young man, Chauncy, who is president of his high school student body, an honor student, and lives in a homeless shelter with his drug-addict mother in Los Angeles. He aspires to attend Harvard, which costs about \$55,000 a year. That's budget dust for a school system that can afford \$65 million for teachers to play Yatzee and watch television until the last bell rings.

One passenger on January's ill-fated Flight 1549 wants "therapy compensation." Right. Tell that to the hundreds of everyday Americans who are victims of simply living their lives. I'm not a gambling girl, but I would bet this person is one of those passengers who doesn't want to pay the airline a fee for checked baggage. He refuses to acknowledge that airlines suffer inflation, too. You've seen him ... pretending his full-size suitcase is a carry-on and clogging the aisle at boarding

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Getting to know you

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

Name: Rich Lowell

Job: Senior engineer, Systems Simulation and Development Directorate, AMRDEC

Where do you call home?

Pascagoula, Miss.

What do you like about your job?

It's a wonderful working environment. It's a great group of people to work with.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to do anything involved



with my church – anything involved with Southside Baptist Church (in Huntsville). And also I've got three kids so I'm always involved with the kids' activities. (His family includes wife, Lisa, and their daughters Julie, 16, and Caroline, 14, and son, Brent, 11.)

What are your goals?

Enjoy my family every day and retire by age 75. And learn to play golf well.

What's your favorite type of music?

I like all lively music – from classic rock to contemporary Christian.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for June 25 through July 1:

June 25: Someone entered a residence on Walnut Circle and removed assorted coins valued at approximately \$100.

June 26: Someone took a tire and rim from a carport on Magnolia Circle.

June 26: Post Exchange security observed a subject selecting a knife and game movie with a total value of \$48, and then exiting the store without paying. The subject was processed by police and released.

June 26: A Play School children's slide valued at \$80 was taken from a yard on Walnut Circle.

June 27: When police observed a motorist driving in a wrong lane on Goss Road, he was found to be intoxicated. He was issued a violation notice and detained until his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level.

June 28: Someone entered a garage on Dyer Circle and took a skateboard valued at \$70, while the residents were on vacation.

June 30: Someone entered the MWR trailer storage lot and stole both tires and wheels from a boat trailer, leaving it on blocks.

June 30: At Gate 7, a motorist had a suspended driver's license.

He received a violation notice.

July 1: During a safety checkpoint on Goss Road, a motorist failed to stop. As Redstone Police pursued the vehicle, it nearly struck a DES security guard who was attempting to deploy stop sticks. The vehicle then left the roadway, striking a utility pole and damaging several feet of fencing before coming to rest. The driver fled on foot and was later arrested by Huntsville Police at an off-post location. A passenger of the vehicle sustained a minor injury and was transported by ambulance to a hospital and later released. The subject is incarcerated in the Huntsville Metro Jail pending several charges.

July 1: When a motorist entered Mauler Road, he observed that cones had blocked the roadway to allow Soldiers to run physical training. The motorist became involved in an altercation with an NCO and drove around the cones striking the NCO with his vehicle, resulting in no injury. The motorist was charged with assault and reckless endangerment.

Traffic accidents reported: one with injury, three without injury.

Violation notices issued: 7 speeding, 1 driving while intoxicated, 1 driving while suspended, 1 no driver's license, 1 no proof of insurance, 1 expired tag.

Quote of the week

“I once wanted to become an atheist, but I gave up — they have no holidays.”

— Henry Younman
U.S. (Englishborn) comedian (1906-1998)

■ Veteran recounts how faith and family helped him

Ranger

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and bouts of paranoia, and he felt separated from God. It was his third deployment into a war torn country (his first was to Kosovo), and it led to his decision to leave the Army to better care for his family.

“My faith was being crowded out by my fear,” Self said. “That was evil. The only thing to fear is God in a righteous and respectful manner.”

Yet, Self, out of the Army and at home in Texas, continued to struggle with PTSD – even considering suicide – until his wife and family stepped in to stop his downward spiral.

“It was the first time in a year that I got my Bible out of my duffle bag,” he said. “I finally told my wife about my experience of combat. I journaled to her and talked to her. And I found specific answers to my problems in the Bible every day.

“God was alive for me at that point when I needed Him the most. God reached down and put His hand on me and protected me.”

Self worries about Soldiers who don't have supportive families and God to help them through

PTSD issues. He believes the suicide rate among Soldiers has grown because of the lack of support and faith.

“I am completely blessed,” he said. “God saved me from doing physical damage, from myself and from things far worse than me.

“I remember calling out to him on that mountain-top. I cried out to Him. No matter how bad it seems, there is hope. He redeemed me and restored me.”

Self earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star and a Purple Heart during his service for his country.

Self and his wife live in Texas and have four children. Self continues to work with young Soldiers, focusing on professional and leadership development through personal interaction and online professional forums. Besides speaking to business and church groups, he also works with veterans who are suffering from PTSD. He is



Photo by Kari Hawkins

MOMENTS WITH A HERO— Former Ranger Nate Self signs copies of his book, “Two Wars: A Hero's Fight on Two Fronts – Abroad and Within,” for, from left, Chris Olsen, Eric Williams and Jeff Sells following his presentation at a Young Business Leaders luncheon.

leading a project funded by the Army Research Institute to collect the oral accounts of platoon leaders in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Many people are struggling with thoughts of their self-worth. Your identity shouldn't be placed in sports or job or marriage. It should be in Christ alone,” Self said.

“Things of this world are so superficial. Whether you go to church or not, God is real. God is available. He is the ultimate rescuer, the ultimate warrior. He is the only real answer.”

■ Reader shares opinion on today's national news

Headlines

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time as he tries to shove the damned thing into the overhead storage!

Meanwhile, the flight attendant diplomatically announces, “Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot prepare for takeoff until everyone is seated,” blah, blah, blah.

If I were a flight attendant, I wouldn't be so politically correct. “Hey, you with the crate! Sit down and hold it in your lap, but let these people get to their seats,” or something like that. I would quickly be unemployed, but the other passengers might like that.

Is economics required in high school curriculums? If not, it should be. The American public would elect Homer Simpson for president if he promised to lower taxes or not raise them. Yet, we don't want our amenities of life to diminish or go away; we don't want to pay more taxes; we don't want prices to increase; and we expect a pay raise every year. We're insulted with minimum wage, but feel “they done us wrong” when jobs are outsourced to other countries. When the Mexican people sneak over here willing to do those jobs to feed their families and escape a corrupt government, we resent that. Their desire to work is no different than the hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came through Ellis Island around the beginning of the 20th century. The only difference is that America was a developing industrial nation then and needed that low-

cost labor work force. Obviously, we still do.

Guntersville State Park officials regretfully announced they must start charging user fees. A quick review of the (parent organization) Department of Interior's budget and performance portal on the Internet reflects annual fiscal budget cuts. It's fair to say that when the department did receive an increase, it was minimal. Simple economics: when accounts-expendable surpass accounts-receivable, more money has to come from somewhere. Only a few of our 400 national parks have managed to stave off charging user fees through this year.

Just as I reached for the remote to switch to the DIY channel, the newscaster teased, “Stay tuned. ‘Paying young girls to not get pregnant’ after this break.”

OK, don't shoot. I'll just say this and then I'm out of here: Why would we pay young girls to not get pregnant? Why do they not respect themselves and their bodies enough to use protection or abstain? What are we not teaching them? If we're going to pay girls to not get pregnant, we'll need to raise those taxes we talked about and pay the boys, too, because they're both responsible. In today's sex-obsessed world, more and more we should encourage our girls and young women to respect themselves; focus on developing their minds and leadership skills; and learn to play team sports; all of which will benefit them more as they enter the corporate work force than being a single mother.

LuAnne Fantasia

Logistics data processing center does non-stop service

Consolidated division impacts Armywide

By WILL REAVES

Logistics Support Activity

More than 2.5 million transactions processed in and out daily, 24/7 support for the war fighter 365 days a year, system access control of 30,000-plus access requests daily, vital research functions for the logistics community. What critical service center performs all these tasks?

Welcome to the Corps/Theater Automated Data Processing Service Center or CTASC. In a modest office in the Sparkman Center, there lies a vital part of the Army's logistical enterprise.

Collocated to Redstone Arsenal in 2006 from sites as far abroad as Korea and Germany, the LOGSA CTASC provides Armywide end user support for the Standard Army Retail Supply System application – the Army's tactical supply system – supporting supply classes II, III(P), IV, VII

and IX by monitoring the flow of incoming and outgoing data and providing technical assistance with equipment and records.

The CTASC operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and is responsible for all SARSS input and output, daily backups of critical Army logistics data, and the monitoring of all communication links both onsite and off. In addition to responsibilities inherent to the main production site, a robust Disaster Recovery Site is maintained to provide absolute minimum downtime for mission critical operations in the event of catastrophic failure at the main production site.

Put simply, the CTASC is the critical gateway between retail level logistics and national level logistics.

Under direction from DA G-4 in support of the Army's intent to transition to a brigade-centric logistics structure – from 2006 to 2007, 10 individual CTASCs were collocated to Redstone Arsenal: the U.S. Army Reserve Command from Georgia; the XVIII

Airborne Corps (ASC-EAST) from North Carolina; the 321st Theater Materiel Management Center (CENTCOM) from Baton Rouge, La.; the Installation Management Agency (ASC-IMCOM) from Virginia; the III Corps (ASC-WEST) from Texas; U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) from Germany; 8th U.S. Army (EUSA) from Korea; U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) from Hawaii; and both National Guard CTASCs (NGB HQ and NGB TX) from Arkansas.

“The CTASC collocation has been a huge win for the Army, both in terms of efficiency and effectiveness,” Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wade Lovorn, CTASC division chief, said. “While we always strive to get better, we have pulled this cell together and exceeded everyone's expectation.”

This collocation produces large cost savings for the Army in significantly reducing staffing and reducing the production footprint of the operation as a whole. In addition to



Photo by Melody Sandlin

DOING WORK— Members of the Corps/Theater Automated Data Processing Service Center represent a vital part of the Army's logistical enterprise. From left are information technology specialist Scott Cook, system administrator Kenneth Miles and systems analyst Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard French.

See **Service** on page 5



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

Construction site

Redstone officials break ground July 1 for the Travel and Photo Lab buildings to be constructed within the next year on Snooper Road.

Data integrity group gathers for summit

The Logistics Support Activity held the Enterprise Data Integrity Group's 10th summit June 16-18 at the Sparkman Center with the theme "Risk to Integrity."

More than 60 members and guests attended the third quarter fiscal 2009 summit.

"The Risk to integrity summit provided an interactive and multidisciplinary environment for Army logistics data communities to network and discuss innovative and workable solutions to common Data Integrity issues affecting both the current

and future Single Enterprise Data Environments," a prepared release said.

"The EDIG raises data integrity awareness and applies resolution management by using a four-pronged contingency approach through (1) training, (2) enforcement, (3) policy and (4) technical enablers. The EDIG is now one of the Army's largest data collaborative groups which has representation from more than 41 U.S. Army command and support agencies." (*Logistics Support Activity release*)

■ Center processes more than 2.5M transactions daily

Service

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cost savings, the collocation enhances Army modularity and will ease the transition to a Global Combat Support System or GCSS Army – as well as providing an environment to foster rigorous oversight, standardized network and processing operations, and best business practices.

Today a small staff of contractors, Army civilians, and military personal (fewer than 50 people) make up a cohesive, hard-working team of IT professionals striving to serve their customers: materiel managers, financial managers, SARSS operators, and most importantly the Soldier in the field. The size of today's staff represents a savings of more than 80 military spaces which were placed back into the TO&E of the Army.

In the effort to provide the best service to the customers, many initiatives are under way within the CTASC. In the near future, the CTASC will commence major consolidate efforts along command and force structures lines. The nine individual

servers – already consolidated down from 10 servers by combining National Guard operations – will be consolidated into seven servers. This will be accomplished by combining operations in the Pacific from two separate systems to one combined system and consolidating continental U.S. operations down to two systems from the previous three.

This continuing consolidation will result in more efficient operations and an even greater reduction in operating requirements with no adverse effect on service and/or support for the logistics community. In addition to consolidation efforts, a Continuity of Operation Plan exercise is planned for later this year as well as a hardware refresh of CTASC technical assets.

The CTASC continues to strive for excellent customer and technical services now and in the future.

"This team operates with the mindset of Gen. Richard Cody's mantra: 'Do not judge your relevance to the fight by your proximity to the battlefield,'" Logistics Support Activity commander Col. James Rentz said. "This division continues to do great work for Army logistics."

A chaplain's story – from Civil War battlefields to Tobyhanna

Rev. Father Thomas Sherman was son of famed general

By Chaplain (Maj.) TAMMIE CREWS
Tobyhanna public affairs release

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — I recently read an article printed in 1914 about one of the early Tobyhanna chaplains, Rev. Father Thomas Sherman, son of Gen. William T. Sherman of Civil War fame. The article was very brief, simply stating that the chaplain was leaving for New York City on that day, that he had been the chaplain for the Fourth Regiment of the Missouri National Guard, and a veteran of the Spanish-American War. The article also mentioned that Thomas accompanied his father on his Civil War campaigns.

This scanty bit of information piqued my curiosity — I wanted to know more about Rev. Father Thomas Sherman. I was unable to uncover any details of his time at Tobyhanna; however, I did discover some of the details of his life.

Father Tom, as most came to know him, was born Oct. 12, 1856, in San Francisco, Calif. He was the youngest child and second son of Gen. Sherman and Ellen Ewing Sherman (daughter of a U.S. Senator and cabinet secretary and a devout Catholic).

In the summer of 1863, the general and his troops were encamped at Woodburne Plantation on the Big Black River near Bovina, Miss., following the Union victory at Vicksburg. Thinking that it



Courtesy photo

AUTHOR— Chaplain (Maj.) Tammie Crews is the depot chaplain for Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa.

would be a good time to reunite with his wife, Ellen, and their four children, Minnie, 12, Lizzie, 11, Willy, 9, and Tom, 7, he sent for them to join him in the camp. The children by all accounts had a wonderful time in their father's encampment. They all lived in tents and enjoyed the

attention of the Soldiers.

The 13th U.S. Infantry Regiment made Willy an honorary sergeant. They taught him the manual of arms and included him in the guard details and formal parades. Willy loved to pretend that he was a real Soldier and often accompanied his father on inspection tours.

As the family returned home, Willy contracted yellow fever and died. Gen. Sherman blamed himself for his son's death and grieved his loss until his own death in 1891. Tom was the only surviving son and often accompanied his father on his military duties and offered a level of comfort to the general.

As a young man, Tom attended Georgetown College, Yale University and Washington University, and was admitted to the bar as a lawyer in 1878. However, Tom soon changed his mind and entered the priesthood as a Jesuit priest. He taught philosophy at St. Louis University.

Father Tom was able to reconnect with his military roots and live out the convictions of his vocation as citizen, Soldier and priest when he accepted the position of chaplain, Fourth Regiment, in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

Historical accounts say Father Tom was very much like his father in appearance and temperament with snapping blue eyes, firm jaw, quick step and unrelenting determination.

The following extract from his first sermon to the Missouri National Guard as their chaplain on May 16, 1898, was typical of Father Tom, the chaplain who also spent time at Tobyhanna:

"The President of the United States called upon the citizenship of the country to combat with a foreign foe and we, as patriotic, country-loving Americans, are responding to that call. Carping must cease. Order and obedience can only be countenanced. Duty will lead us on many long, hot marches; compel us to wade swamps, stifle hunger, scare parapets, heavy with hostile guns, grapple with death, and perhaps, take many of us to the grave. But we remember our glorious country, and what an exalted name it bears among the nations for the reason of the valor of its sons, and trusting in God we do not shrink but march steadily onward till victory is won."

By the time Father Tom arrived in Tobyhanna, he was suffering from poor health and clinical depression, similar to his father after the death of Willy. After leaving Tobyhanna, Father Tom traveled across Europe and later served a parish in Santa Barbara, Calif., until his health deteriorated too much for him to continue to serve the church.

Four years before his death, Father Tom fought for and received a \$50 per month Army pension based on his service in the Spanish-American War. He lived the last two years of his life with a wealthy niece in New Orleans, La., where he died in 1933 at the age of 76.

This is perhaps trivia from the past, but it is a compelling illustration of the determination of one man to live out the convictions of his life's vocation — which likely touched the lives of people serving at Tobyhanna.

Corpus Christi program lifts future leaders

11 depot workers complete training

By BRIGITTE RODRIGUEZ
Corpus Christi public affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Cultivating the next generation of leaders is an investment the Aviation and Missile Command is serious about, especially when it concerns their depots.

After months of leadership training, 11 Corpus Christi Army Depot civilians graduated from the Leader Investment for Tomorrow program here June 17.

The Aviation and Missile Command recognized today's leaders were retiring without passing on their experience and knowledge.

Designed as a solution, LIFT

employs supervisors, directors and other leaders to train future leaders, from depot-level through higher headquarters personnel.

"This has been a dream of ours at AMCOM," Tim Grey, director of AMCOM G-1 (Human Resources), said.

The first CCAD LIFT class began in January. Meetings were held monthly and focused on building leadership competencies within the group.

Students learned about Army values, leading change, emotional intelligence, leading across the generations, decision making, goal setting, stakeholder management, time management, communications, briefings and ethics.



Courtesy photo

GRADUATION DAY— Graduates of Corpus Christi Army Depot's Leader Investment for Tomorrow program are congratulated.

See Leaders on page 7

Take dog to work day
deemed successful



Courtesy photo

SCHOLARSHIP EVENT— From left are Joseph Newberry, president and CEO of Redstone Federal Credit Union; Jennifer Babb, Kaitlin Mayes, Elinor Crook, Teleisha Corder, Jarquis Rucker, Sara Dye, Leah Brandon, Sophia Lacy; and Charles Ray, chairman of the board of directors at Redstone Federal Credit Union.

Redstone Federal Credit Union has awarded its annual \$2,000 scholarships to 12 student members.

The 2009 recipients are: Jennifer Babb, Calhoun Community College; Leah Brandon, Oakwood University; Lauren Clark, Athens State University; Teleisha Corder, Alabama A&M University; Elinor Crook,

University of Edinburgh; Andrea Kerby, University of Alabama-Huntsville; Sophia Lacy, J.F. Drake State Technical College; Sara Dye, University of Mobile; Shellie Gentle, Berry College; and Kaitlin Mayes, University of Alabama-Birmingham.

The Redstone Federal Credit Union Family Scholarship was awarded to Steffan

Slater, who will be attending Georgia Tech. The Gerald E. Toland Legacy Scholarship was awarded to B. Jarquis Rucker, who is attending Jacksonville State University.

The students were recognized at a dinner at the credit union's Wynn Drive headquarters building. (Redstone Federal Credit Union release)



Courtesy photo

In remembrance

Retired Col. Jack C. Fessenden, former deputy post commander and commander of Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, died of pneumonia June 28 at his daughter's home in Eads, Tenn. He was 84. Fessenden assumed command of RASA in July 1976 and retired from the Army in 1977 after more than 30 years of military service.

■ Corpus Christi makes leadership investment

Leaders

continued from page 6

Lessons include a mix of learning methods such as assessments, collaborative mini-lessons, guest speakers, a staff ride, and a class project designed specifically with Corpus Christi in mind. The course included a three-day visit to Redstone Arsenal to familiarize participants with AMCOM headquarters and Redstone Arsenal.

"This is a good grassroots program that is long overdue and needs to grow," Larry Simone, director of quality assurance at Corpus Christi, said.

Supervisors, work leaders and team members would find the class helpful, said Tammy Stockton, chief of components process support branch and LIFT graduate. "To me, the main purpose was to give us help in finding some of our abilities," she added.

The classroom activities, such as tests and role-playing, and assessments, brought out aspects of Stockton's personality that she didn't even realize existed. "It was a very enlightening class," she said.

Stockton admitted that she met people at Corpus Christi she had never known — not surprising considering the depot has more than 5,000 employees — many of whom she hopes will serve as mentors.

Corpus Christi commander Col. Joe Dunaway spoke at the event, congratulating the graduates on their hard work and dedication.

He stressed the value of lifelong learning and how everybody — supervisors and subordinates — should continually strive for leadership skills.

"What matters most," said Dunaway, "is what you get out of the experience; not the certificate."

"This is an outstanding group and outstanding organization," Grey said. "We are ready to take this to the next level."

Graduates were David Askew, Kelley Cobb Jr., Julian Costales, Jack East, Marc Gonzalez, Keith Martin, Patrick Maxwell, Homero Silva, Tamara Stockton, Franklin Tumer and Deborah Uhlenhaker.

While these graduates didn't don caps and gowns or take pictures with their family, it was still a milestone in their careers and future endeavors.

Therapy Partners Inc., a not-for-profit organization that provides therapy animals in medical, educational and other appropriate settings, held its second annual "Take Your Dog to Work Day" on June 26 at the various workplaces of people who had signed up.

Take Your Dog to Work Day had 76 humans and 23 dogs participating. The largest number of entries came from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney with 26 people and 10 dogs on site. Next was Redstone Federal Credit Union with seven people and photos of eight dogs, and in third place was Evans Watts Henshaw with two dogs on site. Twenty participants were also lucky winners of the prizes contributed by 15 local businesses and donors.

"This has been the best day ever," said Celeste Freeman of Evans Watts Henshaw, winner of a gift certificate from Rosies Cantina. Her miniature schnauzer, Charlie, proudly announced all who came to visit their office. Slate, a Great Dane owned by Russ Henshaw, provided backup by silently watching.

Therapy Partners made a new friend in Huntsville Police Department's Randy Connell, also a participant in TYDWD, when he met Katie many months ago at a City Council meeting. Katie, a golden retriever, was receiving a resolution honoring her for receiving Delta Society Pet Partner Therapy Team of the Year Award.

"I became a believer when Katie came to the Council meeting," Connell said. "The entire room changed. It calmed down. I couldn't stand it (Katie visiting) every day because it would be too much like heaven."

Additional companies who had employees participating with photos of dogs or dogs in residence included Adtran; Asbury Counseling Center; Bob's Pawn Shop; Broadway Group; Custom Chip Connections; DCMA; District Attorney's Office; Dynetics; Fox Health Care; Huntsville Hospital; Hurricane Valley Ornamentals; Melvin, Bibb, Pinson, Segars CPA; Oak Tree Financial; and Secure Destruction Service. (Therapy Partners Inc. release)

Son of former Redstone commander visits post

Mike Shinkle's father led ARGMA 1958-60

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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He wore a sports shirt, a friendly smile and a visitor badge. But he wasn't a typical visitor to Redstone Arsenal.

Mike Shinkle, 66, of Phoenix, Ariz., spent some of his childhood at Redstone in the 1950s. A decade later, he returned as a Soldier student at the Ordnance Guided Missile School. June 29 marked his first time back at Redstone since 1965.

"And it's changed a little," Shinkle quipped. "It's really grown. They still have some of the things I remember, and a lot of them are gone – like my old house is gone."

He was one of three children – a son and two daughters – of Maj. Gen. John Shinkle,

who commanded the Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency from 1958-60. His father, who left to become commander of White Sands Missile Range, N.M., was retired when he died in Phoenix in 1965 and is buried at West Point, N.Y.

Mike Shinkle attended class at OGMS in 1964-65. "I came here as a private and left as an E-4 (specialist)," he said. He left for Germany then attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. He stayed at Benning as an instructor at the Infantry School, went to Fort Bragg, N.C., for special warfare school and then went to Vietnam as an adviser. He was in Vietnam from 1969-70.

Shinkle left the Army as a first lieutenant in 1970 after more than five years service. He is retired from General Dynamics in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he worked as an electrical engineer.

Shinkle and his wife, Bev-

erley, were escorted June 29 by Mary Compton, who retired in January from the Program Executive Office for Aviation. The Shinkles have three grown sons.

"It's still pretty at 'Squirrel Hill,'" Shinkle said, referring to the former site of his Redstone home. "It's always been a nice area. And the city's grown. When I first came here, the city was about 40,000 (people)."

John Shinkle was a brigadier general when he served as the first commander of ARGMA, which existed from April 1, 1958 until Dec. 11, 1961. His successor was Brig. Gen. John Zierdt. ARGMA and the Army Ballistic Missile Agency were abolished in December 1961 and their functions and people were merged with the then Army Ordnance Missile Command, according to the Aviation and Missile Command's Historical Office website.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

REMEMBERING HIS DAD— Redstone visitor Mike Shinkle shows a picture of his father, the late Maj. Gen. John Shinkle, on a wall in the hallway of the Sparkman Center.

At
ease

RV campground has growing mission

Expanded facility invites travelers

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Retired Sgt. 1st Class Carl and Elsie Perkins from Phenix City have used the RV campground several times and probably will again.

“It’s a beautiful RV park,” Elsie, 62, a vendor at the Post Exchange, said. “And if it wasn’t beautiful and good, we wouldn’t come back.”

She was among the onlookers July 1 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly expanded campground, located off Spartan Drive near the housing area behind Vincent Road. Twenty-eight campsites were added to the original 14 for a total of 42. Cable television is provided to all sites; and there is a laundry facility complete with a covered common area.

The Southeast Region for the Installation Management Command funded the \$750,000 expansion. Redstone Arsenal submitted the request in 2007; and the

region selected it as a smart project for redistribution of funds.

“We now have the best RV campground in the Army, period. Bar none,” Mark Germonprez, business operations officer for the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said.

“This takes a vision,” Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli said. “And it takes a lot of great hard work and people who want to put it together.”

Additional projects at the site include a pet park (\$35,000) and a 60-by-60-foot pavilion (about \$100,000) scheduled this fiscal year through capital purchase minor construction.

Outdoor Recreation manages this campground and a smaller campground at the Easter Posey recreation area on the Tennessee River.

“This is more geared toward full-time travelers,” Outdoor Recreation business manager Tom Pyburn said. “The pads are 65-by-24 (feet). They’re huge, so it’ll hold the biggest rigs on the road. They’ve got full hookups and cable service. And before the end of the FY, we’ll have WiFi service here, too.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SITE TOUR— Attendees at the ribbon cutting tour the newly-expanded RV campground July 1.

Golden Knights seek candidates

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The U.S. Army Parachute Team known as the Golden Knights is now seeking candidates for its 2009 assessment and selection, which will begin Sept. 8.

Soldiers interested in trying out for the elite parachute team are encouraged to submit applications immediately; deadline for submission is July 24.

To be selected to the team, a Soldier must be on active-duty status, have completed 100 free-fall parachute jumps and have a good military and civilian record. Those requesting a jump waiver should contact the operations section, officials said.

Soldiers submitting their packets for selection will attend a rigorous six-week assessment and selection program of training. Those who successfully complete the six-week training program will be knighted in a special ceremony as an official member of the Golden Knights.

Applications are available at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/goldenknights.
(Army News Service)



AIRBORNE— Members of the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team perform.

Courtesy photo

Sparkman Center switching from swipe cards



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Thanks to veterans

Garrison commander Col. Bob Pastorelli speaks at a fourth annual luncheon which honored 15 local Korean War veterans June 30 at Carraba's restaurant. K.C. Bertling and her husband, Sam, organized and sponsored the event to recognize Korean War veterans who are still living in the Tennessee Valley area. The more than 30 attendees included Korean War veterans, their spouses and Wounded Warrior Soldiers. "Your acts of heroism were phenomenal in winning this war," Pastorelli told the veterans.

The Sparkman Center is changing how its workers gain access after duty hours.

The current system of using swipe cards is antiquated and cannot find repair parts, according to Sparkman Management Office chief Rick Manis. He said the system is equivalent to using a 12-year-old computer.

The new system, which is Defense Department-compliant, uses workers' Common Access Cards or CACs as its key. This eliminates the requirement to carry multiple cards.

Beginning this week with building 5309, officials are enrolling one building at a time to minimize employee effort. The Sparkman Management Office requests that all Sparkman employees enroll their CAC regardless of their after-hours requirement.

The new system requires the user to place his or her card against the reader. There won't be any more swiping to get into the building after hours.

When you are notified that your building is being enrolled, visit the security window in building 5300, room 5151.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FIRST CUSTOMER— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles enrolls his Common Access Card into the new system with assistance from Stephen Duncheskie of the Sparkman Management Office.



Photos by Megan Cotton

Gate 10 traffic

Traffic flow at Patton Road's Gate 10 is one-way inbound (in photo at left) from 4:30-8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, and two-way (in photo at right) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The gate is closed from 6 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and on weekends. In the event of inclement weather, the gate would be temporarily closed until further notice. An announcement will be made to Team Redstone regarding any gate schedule changes. Goss Road's Gate 8 has extended its hours and is now open until midnight seven days a week to accommodate for the increased traffic until Gate 10 upgrades are complete.

Army chaplain, doctor comfort survivors of Metro crash

By SHARON RENEE TAYLOR

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Several Walter Reed Army Medical Center staffers survived the deadliest accident in Washington Metrorail's 33-year history June 22.

Maj. David Bottoms, a Walter Reed chaplain and Col. Thomas Baker, chief of pathology, said they were both riding in the first car of the train that slammed into another stopped train during the rush-hour commute home.

"I was reading and listening to my iPod, and I noticed the front end of the car was buckling and it was coming toward us. It looked like a wave ... it stopped three seats in front of me ... I was praying then," Bottoms said.

Baker stood in the rear of the car. "It was very scary. Oh my God. It was a very surreal event," he said.

"I heard a loud boom, and the first portion of the car (of the stopped train) went up in the air," like a roller coaster, Baker said. "When the dust cleared, I saw the sky and the top of the train that we hit. There was no front of the train, no floor of the train of that one car."

Five cars behind Bottoms and Baker, Arlene Mitchell of Walter Reed's Medical Center Brigade Operations, rode in the last car of the train with two other Walter Reed staffers. Mitchell was not injured in the crash.

Baker suffered a bruised forearm and Bottoms remained unscathed.

Editor's note: Nine people were killed and more than 70 injured June 22 when a train slammed into another train stopped on tracks.

Phoenix Service contributes to playground

Phoenix Service will donate \$2,500 to the Metro Kiwanis Foundation and the City of Huntsville to support the development of the Everybody Can Play playground at Braham Spring Park. The presentation is today at 10 a.m. at Phoenix's administrative offices, 2939 Johnson Road.

"Our organization exists to improve the quality of life for all people with disabilities," Phoenix CEO Bryan Dodson said. "We believe the Everyone Can Play facility will be significant addition to the quality of life for people with disabilities. We are thrilled that our business operations are successful enough to allow us to be a contributor to this substantial community resource."

According to the playground's website, it will be designed for all children and adults, regardless of their ability. It will be located at Braham Spring Park and is expected to include playground equipment that is 100 percent accessible, soft surfaces to cushion falls, and sunshades on equipment.

The City of Huntsville, the Metro Kiwanis Club of Huntsville, other local Kiwanis Clubs, and the Huntsville area Optimist Clubs are providing major support for the project. Other donors include former Huntsville mayor Loretta Spencer, New South Art, Johnson & Associates, Wal-Mart, Currie Systems and Environmental Systems Corporation. *(Phoenix Service release)*

Hot time at the Block Party

Families come out in big way for fun

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Staff writer
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Despite temperatures soaring near 100 degrees, Redstone Arsenal's Block Party drew hundreds of families,

friends and exhibitors who were all in for a great afternoon of free entertainment, fun and food.

From the military hardware on display for kids to climb in and out of to the fun-busting inflatable moon bounces and slides, the Block Party held June 27 on Youth Center Road offered something for kids of all ages. There was also plenty of entertainment and free food provided by several sponsors. Youth Center volunteers painted faces, the Arsenal Fire Department handed out safety materials and fire hats, and the Marine

Corps Detachment supervised the inflatable fun and simulated Sumo wrestling.

The Block Party was organized by Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation. Sponsors for the Block Party were Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, Coca-Cola, Turner Beverage Company, Chick-Fil-A, Papa John's, Knology, Honeybaked Hams, Verizon Wireless, Officer and Civilian Women's Club, and Warrant Officers Association.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

COOLING DOWN— Anthony Keyes, 6, and his brother, Ayden, 2, try to shake off the heat at the Block Party with cherry-flavored Snow Cones. With them is their dad, 1st Sgt. Anthony Keyes Sr. of Headquarters & Alpha Company.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

BOUNCE ON IN— Jordyn Blackwell, 4, jumps around in an inflatable while other kids climb a ladder to jump into the inflatable. Jordyn attended the Block Party with her mom, Aundrea Blackwell. Her dad, Senior Master Sgt. Terrence Blackwell is deployed to Iraq.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

SLIDING ACTION— Justin Algood, 7, takes a fun ride down an inflatable slide. He attended the Block Party with his grandmother, Rosie Algood, who works at the Commissary.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

ALL IN THE KICK— Brooks Schrimsher, 10, a student with Rocket Tae Kwon Do, demonstrates how to kick a block of wood just right so that it cracks in half. Holding the block for him is fellow student Yesenia Compres. Schrimsher is the son of Jon Schrimsher who works for the City of Huntsville. Rocket Tae Kwon Do master Jeffrey Davis offers classes on Redstone Arsenal through FMWR's Skies Unlimited program.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

ARRIVE IN STYLE— Forget walking! Ziomaria Minnigan, 6, enjoys the Block Party from the front seat of her Barbie car. She is the stepdaughter of Pfc. Thomas Padgett of Bravo Company.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

The Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the following list of upcoming events:

Parenting class

Parenting 101 will be taught Thursday at the ChildWise building 1413 on Nike Street. To pre-register call 876-5397.

Golf tournament

B.A.S. (Better Ball Alternate Scramble) Tournament is Saturday with an 8 a.m. start at the Links at Redstone. For more information, call 883-7977.

Bowling instruction

Bowl Like The Pros will be Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Redstone Lanes. The top bowlers include Brian Voss, Wes Malott and Shannon O'Keefe. Pre-register at 876-6634 or call Christal Howard at 876-2073.

Financial class

Financial Matters — Learning About the Stock Market and Investments is July 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338. For more information, call 876-5397. Register online at www.redstonemwr.com.

Youth soccer

CYSS Sports and Fitness Soccer League registration is open until July 31. For more information, call 313-3699.

Dancing lessons

Registration is under way through Aug. 5 for Basic Samba, Mambo and Merengue for \$66 per couple. Classes are Aug. 6 through Sept. 17 at the Diane Campbell Recreation Center, building 3711.

Shoppette Tent Sale pays dividends for Redstone

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Redstone customers stocked up on their holiday spirits last week while at the same time helping to support this post.

The Post Exchange's quarterly Tent Sale at the Shoppette was held June 30 through July 3. Customers purchased their favorite Class Six beverages under a large white tent at what was called the Super Summer Sale.

"These tent sales really help produce more of a dividend for the installation," PX general manager Carl Carpenter said. "Last year we gave Redstone \$1,711,431 to MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation). And these tent sales really help increase the dividend to MWR since the purchases at AAFES support the MWR facilities and quality of life programs on Redstone."

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Homer Howard, 77, of Huntsville, was among the customers Thursday at the busy parking lot. People arrived and departed the tent with their alcohol and beer purchases. A worker wheeled cases of beer from a Budweiser truck.

"If they got something in there you want, it's worth it," Howard said of the tent sale. "I'm not one of these guys that have to have the same brand all the time."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BEVERAGE BUYS— The Shoppette parking lot is busy July 2 with the Super Summer Sale.

Defense commissaries extend gift certificates

Authorized patrons who were deployed or away on temporary duty from March 6 through July 31, 2009, will have more time to redeem their commissary CertifiCheck gift certificates, the Defense Commissary Agency announced.

These customers now have until July 31, 2010 to redeem gift certificates in a military commissary. The 2010 date applies only to individuals who qualify for the deployment and TDY extension.

Units, organizations and other customers who did not deploy or travel on official duty during the period noted must still redeem their commissary gift certificates by July 31, 2009.

To take advantage of the extension, customers who were deployed or on temporary duty for the entire period from March 6 to July 31, 2009, must complete a form and have it signed by a supervisor, certifying that the duty took

place from March 6 to July 31, 2009. The required form can be downloaded from DeCA's website by accessing the following link: <http://www.commissaries.com/CertifiCheckForm.pdf>.

It also will be available in store customer service areas and cash offices. Customers must present the signed form along with the gift certificate to a cashier at the point of purchase. (Defense Commissary Agency release)

Intern program deemed first-year success

Garrison meets goals for fiscal year 2009

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**
Staff writer
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Revitalizing an aging work force is a difficult mission. With the implementation of the Garrison Intern Program in 2009, Redstone is moving toward a smooth transition.

“We have a very successful intern program,” Garrison director of human resources Joe Winston said. “Our work force is on the path of meeting our future manpower requirements. Without it I think we would be way behind the power curve.”

Even though the first interns under the program began rolling in at the start of fiscal year 2009, the work to get them here began long before.

“It falls under the (Installation Management Command) and Garrison program for work force development and work force revitalization,” Winston said. “The push to get new blood, new interns in here, really began in 2007. The big push came this fiscal year to get these hiring actions done.”

Garrison interns

17th and final part of series

In order to recruit some of the best and brightest for the Garrison, representatives have traveled to college campuses. They have made multiple visits to the University of Alabama-Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, Oakwood College, Athens

State University and the University of North Alabama.

“We attended their career fairs and collected resumes,” Theresa Falcetano, supervisory organizational human resources specialist, said. “We brought them back and worked with the CPAC (Civilian Personnel Advisory Center) for the recruiting action to contact the candidates to do the self-assessment. That generated a referral list.”

Currently all the available intern open-

ings have been filled. During the first quarter of the next fiscal year, determinations will be made about possible new positions.

“We’re putting the brakes on for now,” Winston said. “We’ll restart recruitment efforts based upon what our attrition rate is going to be and the projected vacancies for FY 2010 on to 2011.”

The Garrison Intern Program is modeled after the Department of Army intern program. Interns spend roughly four years

in both formal and informal training. While DA interns rotate throughout the entire Army, Garrison interns are rotating throughout the Garrison.

“The rotation program our interns are on is really an enhancement of the Army rotation program that has been there all along,” Winston said. “We want to mature these interns so they become qualified in our functional areas.”

Some of the interns are entering the Garrison program with graduate degrees. The rest will have the opportunity to pursue one while in the program.

“It’s part of the intern program requirement that you pursue a master’s degree,” Winston said. “This intern program provides for expanded education and training.”

They are also getting an education in workplace dynamics. They attend biweekly lunches with speakers to enrich and expand their viewpoints. Quarterly events and meetings put the interns in close contact with Garrison leadership. They are also being paired with a mentor to help guide them on their journey from intern to fully contributing member of Team Redstone, said Glen Reese, organizational resource specialist.

Response within the Garrison to the first crop of interns has been positive. While the program is designed to revitalize the aging work force by adding new people, it has managed to affect some who have been here for years, said Kathy Watkins, lead mentor and senior management consultant for contractor Analytical Services Inc.

“We’ve been getting a lot of good feedback on the interns,” Watkins said. “I think they are revitalizing the existing work force. They have a way of getting people excited about the future.”



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

ON RIGHT PATH— Garrison director of human resources Joe Winston, seated, is joined by other members of the team behind the new Garrison Intern Program. From left are Kathy Watkins, Theresa Falcetano and Glen Reese.

Prolific author expounds on topics of his life

Technical representative finishes 11 books so far

By **KELLEY LANE-SIVLEY**

Staff writer
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Darrel Kaiser is an unassuming sort of guy. His quick smile and jovial nature make him likable, but it is what most people don't know that makes him remarkable. Kaiser is a prolific author.

Kaiser, a senior system technical representative at the IMMC's Cargo Utility Branch of the Readiness Directorate, has 11 books in print. Five deal with the history and genealogy of the German-Russian people of the Volga Colonies in Europe. In fact, that is where his literary foray began.

"I wanted to know about my heritage and my culture," he said. "I started trying to track down information."

During a two-year assignment in Germany as the AMCOM senior system technical representative for aviation, Kaiser decided to make the most of his proximity to his family's roots. He began traveling to the small towns and villages that his ancestors once called home.

"The government sent me there as a LAR (logistics assistance representative)," he said. "I was able to go visit the places my ancestors lived 225 years earlier."

Once he had researched his family origins as far back as possible, he began compiling the data. He decided to turn his findings into a book. It would be his first.

"It took about 10 years of research and writing to make it a reality," he said.

After completing his genealogical reference, he took his research further. To date he has published four more works dealing with the history and struggles of the region and its people. He hopes to one day write a novel about it.

"There are so many stories. Each name represents a story and a family," Kaiser said.

While in Germany, his wife, Betty, purchased an antique sewing machine for her quilting projects. Because of the limited number of technicians qualified to work on the antique machine, Kaiser spoke with company representatives and was able to persuade them to train him to do the work the machine might require.

Thus, he began another passion: the history and mechanics of the sewing machines from the early part of the 20th century. His formal training in sewing machine repair and maintenance has spanned the years. It includes Pfaff, Bernina, Singer and Standard models.

"They allowed me to train with them," he said. "Some let me attend their training schools for free. I am actually a certified Singer technician."

Kaiser has four books published dealing with antique sewing machines. Three outline the history and progression of the

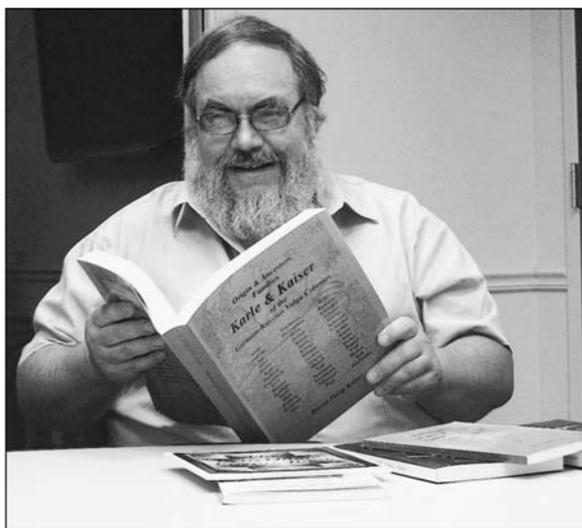


Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

VARIED INTERESTS— Darrel Kaiser, a senior system technical representative at AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, reads from one of his works.

industry and designs, and the last is an illustrated technical manual.

In fact, Kaiser said all of his books are based on the technical manual format of the military. It's where he learned to write.

"I try to write in people language and not technical language," he said. "But I have a technical background. I approach writing in that way."

Kaiser joined the National Guard near his hometown of Fresno, Calif., in 1968, during the Vietnam War. He spent years working on helicopter maintenance full time. After leaving service, he became a member of the civilian work force as a logistics assistance representative for the Missile Command. He traveled the world in support of Army aviation, including two years as the senior instructor for electronics and electrical training at AMCOM's Norbert R. Lutz LAR University in Corpus Christi, Texas.

He said the reason most people are uncomfortable dealing with electronic repair is the highly technical way the field is taught.

"Instruction usually starts with the idea that everyone is going to be designing circuits," he said. "The vast majority of people aren't going to be designing. They just want to do repairs."

To try to translate some of his vast electronic experience into a more practical guide for the average person, Kaiser penned another book: "Basic Electrical Troubleshooting for Everyone." It uses a common sense approach to tracking down common issues.

"It stands to reason that if you walk in a room and the light is off, you should flip the switch first. If that doesn't work, make sure the power is on. Then you change the light bulb," he said. "Everything can be done in that common sense, scientific method."

The true love of Kaiser's life is his wife. Betty's quilts lean more toward art than blanket. In fact, she was a member of

See Author on page 19

Win
or lose

Schumacher nominated for ESPY Best Driver award

Six-time world champion represents Army Top Fuel

By **CHRIS DIRATO**
Army News Service

NORWALK, Ohio — For the third straight year, U.S. Army Top Fuel driver Tony “The Sarge” Schumacher has been nominated for the ESPY Best Driver Award.

The ESPY Awards, which are distributed for excellence in sports performance yearly, were created by ESPN in 1993. From now through Saturday, fans can vote for Schumacher online at www.espys.tv.

The ESPYs will be hosted by Samuel L. Jackson on July 15 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, Calif. The awards show will be televised by ESPN on July 19 at 9 p.m. Eastern time.

“It’s an incredible feeling to be recognized by the ESPY folks for the third consecutive year,” said Schumacher, a six-time world champion. “I’m hopeful we can finally present this award to our Army Strong Soldiers. It’s their dedication, teamwork and passion that inspires the U.S. Army Top Fuel team to be successful.”

Joining the Chicago-area resident on the ESPY Best Driver ballot is NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson and Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton, as well as IRL pilots Helio Castroneves and Scott Dixon.

“That’s a bunch of talented drivers,” Schumacher added. “As in years past, I’m honored to be included in such an elite group.”

No drag racer has ever won the ESPY Best Driver Award. In addition to Schumacher, other NHRA drivers to be nominated over the years included John Force, Tony

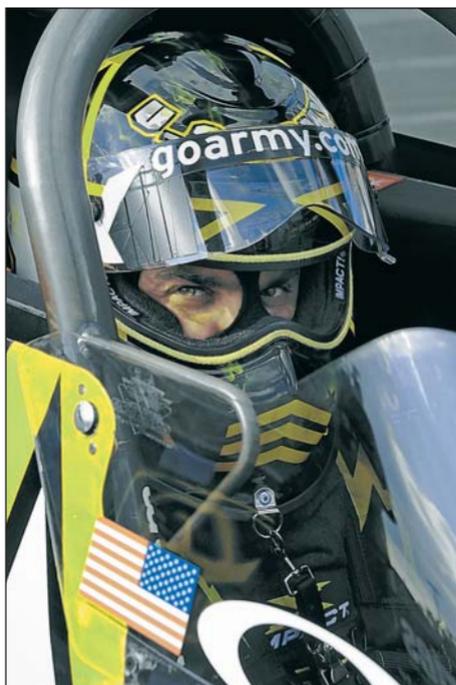


Photo by J.D. Leipold

IN DRIVER'S SEAT— Army Top Fuel driver Tony “The Sarge” Schumacher gets ready to make a run on the dragstrip.

edregon, Greg Anderson and Melanie Troxel.

“Maybe, the third time will be the charm for me,” Schumacher said.

Having won five consecutive world titles, Schumacher held second-place in the Top Fuel standings as the NHRA Full Throttle Drag Racing Series hit the halfway point of the 2009 season.



Tiger Woods honors troops on holiday weekend

World-class golfer hosts memorial tournament

By Master Sgt. CECILIO RICARDO
Army News Service

BETHESDA, Md. — World-class golfer Tiger Woods honored U.S. military servicemembers by hosting the Earl Woods Memorial Pro-Am golf tournament at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., during the Fourth of July weekend.

At the opening ceremony, wounded warriors were treated to a precision performance by the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard Drill Team and Jessica Simpson singing the national anthem.

Continuing the military trib-

ute, the 101st Airborne Division Parachute Demonstration Team's Screaming Eagles descended upon the Club's hole No. 1 in a four-man formation to provide Tiger and two wounded Soldiers the golf balls for the ceremonial first tee off and officially kick off to the third AT&T National.

"It's an honor to be part of this tournament. And the fact that Tiger wants to include us servicemembers in something he feels very emotional about means a lot to me," said Maj. Ken Dwyer, who, along with Staff Sgt. Ramon Padilla and Tiger, simultaneously performed the ceremonial first shot.

The Pro-Am tournament was named after Woods' father, who was a Green Beret with the Spe-

cial Forces in Vietnam. As a military dependent, Tiger has had a healthy understanding of his father's service and a great respect for military members' sacrifices.

"To see what they deal with on a daily basis and what they have to go through because they are putting their lives on the line for us ... Everyone in this room here and everyone should thank all of these servicemembers for what they do," Woods said in a news conference.

As a tribute, AT&T and the Congressional Country Club, which will host the 2011 U.S. Open, made several special provisions for U. S. servicemembers throughout the weekend. Twenty-six active-duty servicemem-

bers representing every branch of the U.S. military were given the chance to act as professional caddies on hole No. 7. They wore special desert-style camo-caddie bibs.

One caddie in particular was more fortunate than others. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Michael Barrett had the opportunity to caddie for two great golfers, Tiger and last year's tournament winner, Anthony Kim.

"It felt great! I should go out and buy a lottery ticket, because the way my luck is going, I might just hit the jackpot," Barrett said. At the end of the 174-yard, par 3 hole, Tiger passed the putter over to Barrett and told him to hit it in.

Unfortunately, Barrett, a 16-year Marine Corps military police officer, couldn't seal the deal. A few minutes later, Tony Romo, quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, who played alongside Tiger during the tournament, offered Barrett a second chance.

But he missed that putt too.

"I know I'm gonna get it from my boys back home because I missed both putts. But it was still a great experience," Barrett said.

In addition to discounts on the course and 30,000 complimentary tickets for military servicemembers and their dependents, a care package tent was set up to encourage spectators to visit and build care packages that will be sent to deployed troops overseas. AT&T is expecting to send out about 5,000 care packages.

Lockhead Martin joined in the tribute by setting up a military pavilion open to all military ticket holders. Military members were provided the VIP experience which included snacks, beverages and a prime viewing area of the par-72 course covering 7,173 yards.

Editor's note: Tiger Woods won the tournament with a 13-under 267 for a one-shot victory over Hunter Mahan.



Photo by Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

OPENING SHOT— From left, Staff Sgt. Ramon Padilla, Tiger Woods and Maj. Ken Dwyer hit the ceremonial first shot at the opening ceremony of the Earl Woods Pro-Am golf tournament at the Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, Md., July 1. Dwyer is an injured Soldier assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group in Fort Bragg, N.C. Padilla is also an injured Soldier, who is assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

■ Kaiser a man of many books on various subjects

Author

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the Georgia Olympic Quilt project; and her design was displayed for five months during the 1996 Olympics. To capture the intricacy and beauty of her work, Kaiser worked in secret to put together another book. "The Betty Quilts Picture Book" showcases his wife's quilts in glorious color. When he presented her with the first copy, she was shocked.

"There were some tears," he said. "She was really surprised and deeply touched."

Kaiser has been working on Army aircraft and equipment for almost 38 years. While he has enjoyed it, he knows that one day in the not-too-distant future he will retire. He looks forward to having the free time to do more writing and perhaps finish one of the books he has already started at home.

"I have the beginnings of probably 10 books," he said. "I write when I have a thought. I write until I get that thought or point out. Then I walk away from it. When I have another thought, I go back."

For more information on Kaiser or his books, visit his website, www.darrelkaiserbooks.com.

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Sports & Recreation

Basketball shootout

North Alabama Hoopster first July Shootout Boys & Girls 10-16 AAU Tournament is July 10-11 at Lauderdale County High School, Rogersville. Entry fee is \$150. The deadline is Saturday. There are discounts for multiple teams. Spectator admission is \$4. Trophies will be awarded for first and second place. For more information call Dewayne Shoulders 874-7221, Otto Nance 394-9976 and Shun Fletcher 777-3775.

Fitness centers

The Wellness Center is closing down for renovation/expansion beginning July 15. It will take approximately nine months to complete. You can visit one of the other facilities: Pagano Gym, building 3474, phone 876-6701 or 876-2943; Redstone Fitness Center, building 3705, phone 313-1201 or 313-1202; and Sparkman Fitness Center, building 5302, phone 313-6091 or 313-6096. Their website is www.redstonemwr.com.

Benefit tournament

Booz Allen Hamilton announces the fifth annual Booz Allen/EarlyWorks charity golf tournament Aug. 28 with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. at the Links at Redstone. All proceeds from this four-person scramble tournament are used to better serve area students at the EarlyWorks Museum Complex. For information or to sign up, call Chris Parsons 426-9577 or visit www.earlyworksgolf.com.

Scholarship golf tourney

PME Education Foundation will hold a Scholarship Golf Tournament on July 24 at 1 p.m. at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. There will be two-person teams. Individual entrance fee is \$75 per player, which includes greens fee and cart. Please register by July 18. For more information, call Tom Patrick 882-0231 or Doris Ellison 852-0485.

Bowling benefit

The 24th annual Junior Achievement Bowl-A-Thon is Aug. 22-23 at all five

local bowling centers (Madison Bowling Center, AMF Parkway Lanes, AMF Pin Palace Lanes, Plamor Lanes and Redstone Lanes). This event is one of JA's largest fund-raisers and is expected to attract approximately 1,000 bowlers this year. Directv is this year's title sponsor. If your company wants to get involved in Bowl-A-Thon or for more information, call the JA office 533-4661 or e-mail at nharagan@janaonline.org.

Golf classic

The 10th annual John Riche Memorial Golf Classic is July 24 at the Links at Redstone. Registration is at 7 a.m. and tee time at 8. The format is Four Man Scramble. Cost is \$100 per player, \$400 per team. For more information call Mirie Westbrook 694-0646, Robert Clark 759-6060 or the 100 Black Men of America business office 536-8050. Register online at www.100ghc.org.

Speedway nights

Military Appreciation Nights at the Huntsville Speedway include July 11, Aug. 1 and Sept. 12. Active duty, reserved and retired military will be admitted free. For more information, visit www.huntsvillespeedway.com.

Basketball camp

J Smith Hoops presents the second annual J Smith All-American Basketball Camp, for ages 6-15, on July 13-16 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Columbia High School. The cost is \$90. For more information, call 1-866-595-4449 or visit www.jsmithhoops.com.



Conferences & Meetings

Sergeants major

The Sergeants 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 associ-

ation is a one-time membership 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.

Federal employees

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

9:30 a.m. with the business meeting at 10. The speaker Randy Hargett will address many aspects of long-term health care, and the pros and cons of insurance designed to provide such coverage. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Huntsville/Redstone Chapter's monthly luncheon meeting is Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. This month's speaker is Bill Stender, chairman of the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial. For ticket information, call Kim Oauttara 876-6163 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

APBI conference

The Aviation and Missile Command with Team Redstone will hold the 2009 Advance Planning Briefings for Industry Conference on Aug. 26-27 in Huntsville. The theme for this year's conference is "Supporting the Warfighter — Collaborating to Achieve Enterprise Success." The conference will provide information on the Army's aviation and missile technology efforts, requirements and potential contract opportunities. The conference will begin with a networking reception with exhibits the evening of Aug. 26 and

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Small business conference

Among the participants at last week's Tennessee Valley Federal Small Business Programs Conference are, from left, Missile Defense Agency's deputy director for advanced technology Dr. Kip Kendrick, small business innovation research coordinator Sloan Armstrong and division chief for innovation Dr. David Burns. The conference, held June 30 to July 2 at the Von Braun Center, was sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association with the theme "Collaborating for Success."

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the conference the next day. The APBI 2009 website and online registration is scheduled to open this week. To contact the conference event manager, call 842-9967 or e-mail redstone-apbi@conus.army.mil.

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.

Blacks in government

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government will sponsor its Professional Development Seminar on July 16 at 8:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club ballroom. Topics of interest will address Leadership, Attitude, Reading Skills, and Job Commitment for Excellence. The keynote speaker for the luncheon plenary session is an Alabama native honored by a congressional act named after her, Lilly Ledbetter. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Equity Act was one of the first bills signed into law by President Barack Obama. Ledbetter will also feature a workshop on the glass ceiling, pay equity and her experience in getting this legislation developed and passed. For information on how to register for the seminar, see your organization training point of contact or call

seminar chairman James Foster 852-2129 or Mary Peoples 955-4275. Luncheon tickets can be purchased separately for \$25 if not attending the conference; call Foster or Peoples for reservations by July 13.

Computer users

The Huntsville PC User Group's Windows/Internet Special Interest Group, conducted by Ron Schmitz, will meet at 9:15 a.m. Saturday at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. At 10:45, member Gayle Fairless will conduct a program on smartphones. For more information, call 534-4324.

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 Alphadella McRae 313-1957.

Toastmaster clubs

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. The Research Park Club 4838 meets Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30 at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30 at building 5301, second floor, in room 1217. For information call Caville Blake 876-7351.

Union election

At its regular union membership meeting July 13 at 5 p.m., AFGE Local 1858 will hold nominations and election of delegates to attend the 38th national convention. The American Federation of Government Employees convention is Aug. 24-28 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nev. In order to be qualified as a delegate or candidate for delegate, an individual must be a member in good standing; be a member for one year of an AFGE Local, immediately preceding the closing of the nomination process; and must not be a member in any labor organization not affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Scheduled speaker Dr. John Marszalek's, Giles distinguished professor emeritus from Mississippi State University, will discuss "Henry W. Halleck, The General Who Refused to Command." Chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$7.95. Visitors are welcome. Call 880-0890 for more information.

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 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 and retirement points for IMA or IRR annual training and other tours, as well as your 15 automatic retirement points for being in the active Reserve. The unit meets at 5:30 p.m. most Tuesdays on Redstone Arsenal. For more information, e-mail Staff Sgt. King jwk108@yahoo.com or visit the web site <http://imad.redstone.army.mil/>.

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 Capt. Stacy Hopwood and 1st Sgt. Brian May 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 Capt. Stacy Hopwood and 1st Sgt. Brian May 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.

Customer service survey

All Redstone personnel are encouraged to provide input and feedback on customer service issues to installation customer service officer Steve McFadden. Personnel may submit their issues via e-mail to rsacms@conus.army.mil, and include the

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following information: issue, date, who the issue affects (Soldiers, family members, civilians, retirees, veterans), recommendation, point of contact name and number (optional). For questions or more information, call McFadden 876-3294 or e-mail steven.ray.mcfadden@us.army.mil.

Motorcycle benefit

Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club will have a fund-raiser poker run Aug. 15 at 9 a.m. at Woody Anderson Ford in Madison to raise money for Tennessee Valley Honor Flight. For more information, call Kevin Newey 509-1036.

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 July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 15. For more information, call Jessica Merritt of Wireglass Hospice 519-8808.

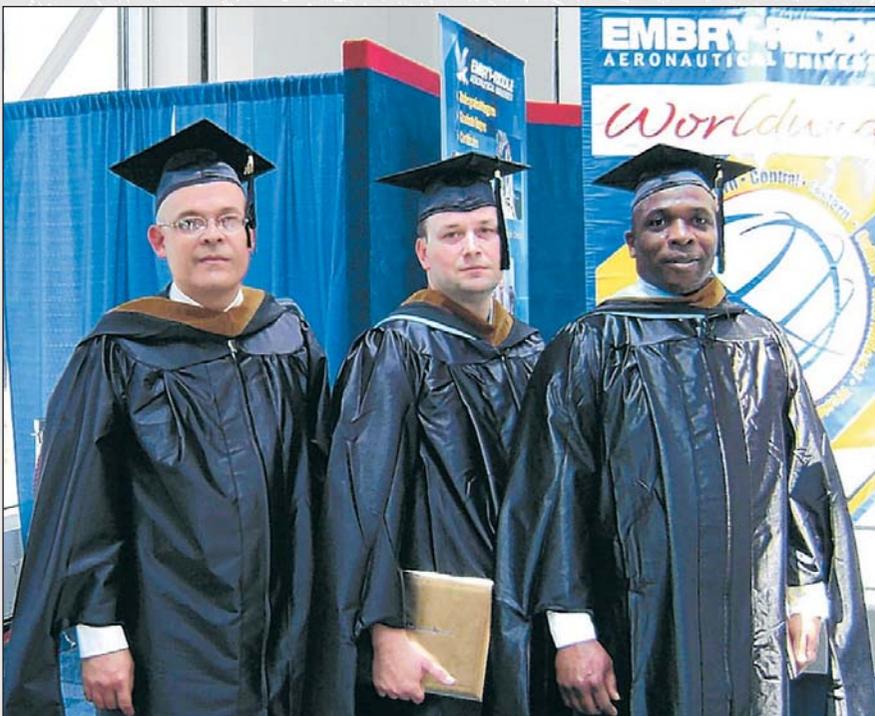
Mr. Man Premiere

SB Productions has completed the selection process for this year's Mr. Man Premiere. The 11 contestants selected include a doctor, an Army officer, Navy officer, Air Force reserve recruiter, Madison police officer, Madison fireman and Marine, research analyst, minor league baseball player, engineer, sales and catering manager, and an engineer student from abroad. The Mr. Man Premiere has been produced since 1981 on both a local and international level. The 2009 competition is scheduled Sept. 19 at the Marriott Hotel near the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Seating is limited. For tickets and more information, call SB Productions 683-3083 or visit www.mrmanpremiere.com.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop will be open this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Follow the signs for great savings," a prepared release said. "Large selection of clothing and household items. New furniture coming in daily." Visit building 3209 on Hercules Road on Tuesdays 9-4, Wednesdays 9-4 and Thursdays 9-5. Donations are taken daily at the drop box in back.

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Courtesy photo

Local graduates

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's 2009 commencement ceremony June 6 included 135 graduates from several campuses. The guest speaker was Dr. John Watret, chief academic officer for the ERAU Worldwide Campus. Among those who participated from Huntsville were, from left, Jorge Rivera, Tim Stone and Ron Williams, all of whom earned a master's in science management.

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Call for papers

This is a call for papers for the Research and Evaluation of NEMS/MEMS Workshop Sept. 8-9 at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, e-mail angie.cornelius@us.army.mil or visit the workshop website <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/SMAP-CENTER/Conferences/REN09/>.

Astronomy group

Von Braun Astronomical Society holds planetarium shows every Saturday night at 7:30 at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. Telescopes are open after the show if weather permits. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free to VBAS members. For more information, visit www.vbas.org.

Children's camp

Camp Merrimack is an arts half-day camp July 27-31 for children ages 3-12. The camp is open to children with special needs including Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, autism and others. Cost is \$40 per child. For information, visit the website <http://www.merrimackhall.com/artscamp09.html>.

Deployed work force

In appreciation and recognition of Team Redstone's service and sacrifice, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Myles would like to honor those who are serving or who have served in deployments in support of Redstone Arsenal operations for Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom. The fourth Team Redstone Deployed Workforce Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for the fall. This ceremony will recognize honorees for their deployments during the time frame of April to August 2009. Additionally, those who were not able to participate in the last three ceremonies — held April 7, Sept. 18, 2008 and Jan. 22, 2008 — are invited to participate in this ceremony. For more information, call Jeanna Reitmeier 876-5302 or Bruce Cline 955-6925.

Comedy luau

Black Pearl Select Salon will hold its fifth annual comedy luau Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cahaba Shrine park. Adult admission includes up to five children free, under the age of 17. More information and registration forms are available at www.blackpearlselect.com.

School supply drive

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers' Community Projects Committee has chosen the "Kids to Love Foundation School Supply Drive" as one of its July community projects. The Kids to Love Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that is committed to meeting the needs of foster children in Alabama. The foundation has also been instrumental in adoption placements. School supplies and tax deductible monetary donations will be collected through today. All the donations will be delivered Thursday after the monthly ASMC luncheon at Trinity United Methodist Church to the Kids to Love Foundation warehouse. If you would like to donate supplies or a monetary donation, call one of the following according to your location: Dana Wilbanks, building 5400, 876-4283; Sandy Balog, building 5300, 842-8012; Patsy Steakley, building 5300, 842-8046; Debbie Barring, building 5681, 313-4884; Deborah Chambers, building 5678, 955-0481; Jessica Dunaway, building 5308, 313-0533; Becky Lake, building 5308, 955-0053; Eura Reaves, building 5302, 842-7093; and Michael Antonio, building 7612, 450-9154. If there is not a contact person in your area, call Wilbanks.

Disability art tea

Anyone interested in assisting the disabled through art is invited to a tea served at St. Mary's Church of the Visitation Parish Center at 220 Lincoln St. NE from 1:30-3 p.m. Aug. 5. The tea will celebrate the formation of the Academy of Internationally Enabled Artists. The academy is dedicated

to the use of painting, singing, writing, acting and dancing to assist career-minded artists who are disabled. The event will also recognize five female artists who support art programs that use talent and faith to overcome disabilities. RSVP by July 21 to hostess Carole Esk'ridge 429-8697 or caroleeskridge3@gmail.com.

Family aviation

A free "Family Fun Fly and Swap Meet," featuring indoor radio-controlled and free flight aviation, will be held Sunday from 1:30-4 p.m. at Madison United Methodist Church Christian Life Center Aerodrome, 127 Church St. in Madison. Free loaner Vapor airplanes and MCX helicopters will be available to fly. For more information, call Jim Marconnet 772-3946.

Book discussion

Join the Post Library on July 23 for a discussion of the book "Three Cups of Tea." This bestselling book by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin tells the story of a young man who was mountain climbing in Pakistan, nursed back to health in a poor village, and has since spent his life bringing schools to isolated areas of the region. The book talk will be held at building 3323 from noon to 1 p.m. July 23. Feel free to bring your lunch and to come and go as your time allows. For more information, call the library 876-4741.

Children's reading

The Post Library will present "Tales with Taka" beginning July 18 from 10 a.m. to noon. The program will continue for two additional Saturdays, July 25 and Aug. 8 from 10-noon. Jamie Ward and her German shepherd Taka, a Reading Education Assistance Dog, will be appearing at the library for children to read to Taka. The "Tales with Taka" program will be open to children ages 5 and up and is available to anyone who has access to the post library. The library will have signup sheets for those interested in scheduling a time to read to Taka. Children will have an opportunity to read one of Taka's books or select one of the many books at the library. All children who participate in the program will receive Taka's special bookmark and a

coloring page. The READ program was created in Salt Lake City, Utah by Inter-mountain Therapy Animals and provides children a one-on-one opportunity to have fun reading to a four-legged friend in a non-critical atmosphere. Today the READ program is presented in hundreds of libraries and schools and improves the literacy skills of children through the assistance of registered therapy teams. For more information call librarian Gail Alden 876-4741 or Ward 233-3962.

Technical writers

The University of Alabama-Huntsville English Department and the Huntsville/North Alabama chapter of Society for Technical Communication will hold an all-day workshop on XSL for Tech Writers on July 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UAH's Salmon Library. Registration is 9-9:25 a.m. The workshop requires some experience with XML. Cost is \$100 for non-STC members, \$60 for members and UAH faculty and staff, and \$40 for students. Reservations are required by July 15 and can be made by calling 824-6321. More information is available at www.stc-na.org.

Fashion show

A Caribbean Fashion Show is planned locally to raise money for surgery for children born with birth defects. If you would like to place a business card in the programs (\$5 each) or make a donation, please send information and donations to Allison Adams, P.O. Box 1966, Madison, AL 35758 by Aug. 1. For more information, e-mail caribbeanfashionshow@yahoo.com.

Military academy

Riverside Military Academy, in Gainesville, Ga., has been educating young men for more than 100 years. Representatives of Riverside's admissions team will hold a free academy informational session July 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base, in the Challenger Conference Room. All interested families are invited. RSVP by calling 1-800-GO-CADET or e-mail admissions@riversidemilitary.com.