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Adopting Christmas angels

Workers contribute many gifts

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Redstone Rocket

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December 8, 1993

Visit with friends, relatives via video teleconferencing

BY SKIP VAUGHN

Military and civilian employees and their family members at Redstone can visit friends and loved ones elsewhere during the Christmas holidays without having to travel. All they have to do is sign up for a free 30-minute video teleconference.

Each year the video teleconferencing center at the Missile Command provides Christmas season visits in which members of the MICOM or Redstone community can talk face-to-face with their friends and relatives elsewhere. The other locations are military bases throughout the United States that also have video teleconferencing facilities, to include Hawaii and the Kwajalein Islands.

Scheduled dates for the Christmas visits are Dec. 20-23 and Dec. 27-30. Just call 876-3005/7825 to schedule a 30-minute visit.

"And the information we'll need from them when they call will be the name and phone number where people can be located on the other end, the distant end," said Leon Burkholder, a video teleconferencing technician for the Corporate Information Center at MICOM. "And we can also show graphics if they want to bring pictures (during their visit). And we can also make a videotape; just bring a VHS tape."

The video teleconferencing room at B-300 in Missile Command headquarters, building 5250, can hold up to about 16 people at a time. Seating capacities at other participating locations vary from eight to 26. "Most of them when they usually come in (here), they'll have like five or six people," Burkholder said. And typically they visit with their spouses or children stationed at the other location.

There are about 150 locations throughout the



READY FOR VISITORS — Burkholder sits in the MICOM video teleconferencing room which is among the participating locations in the nationwide Christmas visits program.

United States, including the Space and Strategic Defense Command in Huntsville. The Army, Air Force and Navy all have participating sites. When

callers sign up here, the MICOM video teleconferencing technicians — Burkholder, and James McCartney — will try to make arrangements with the other party's site or the nearest available location to the other party. "We'll get them the closest one available to their location if it's not in their immediate vicinity," Burkholder said.

The Christmas visits here have been going on about five years. "Participation has been pretty good," Burkholder said. "We usually run about 10 a year during this time."

A half-hour slot can be scheduled for each visit which will occur between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Just call Burkholder or McCartney 876-3005/7825 to schedule a time.

"They can celebrate Christmas with their friends and relatives that are stationed away from them, that they don't get to see," Burkholder said.

The program has grown since last year, with probably at least 15 new sites added. Here is a list of participating locations:

- AMC — Aberdeen Proving Ground; Adelphi; AMC A and AMC B at Alexandria, Va.; Fort Belvoir; Fort Monmouth; Letterkenny Depot; Natick R&D; Picatinny Arsenal; Redstone Arsenal; Rock Island Arsenal; St. Louis; Warren; White Sands.
- AT&T — Dranesville; Greensboro; Silver Spring.
- CMUV — Cruise Missile; Crystal City.
- FORSCOM — Fort Bragg; Fort Campbell; Fort Carson; Fort Drum; Fort Gillem; Fort Hood; Fort Irwin; Fort Lewis; Fort Meade; Fort Ord; Fort Polk; Fort Riley; Fort Stewart; Pent DTSW; Presideo.
- NAVAIR — Cherry Point; China Lake Rm 1 and China Lake Room 2; Indianapolis; Jacksonville; Lakehurst; Crystal City A, Crystal City B room 1, Crystal City B room 2; Norfolk; North

(See Video, cont'd on page 2)

Retirement brings big change for former commandant

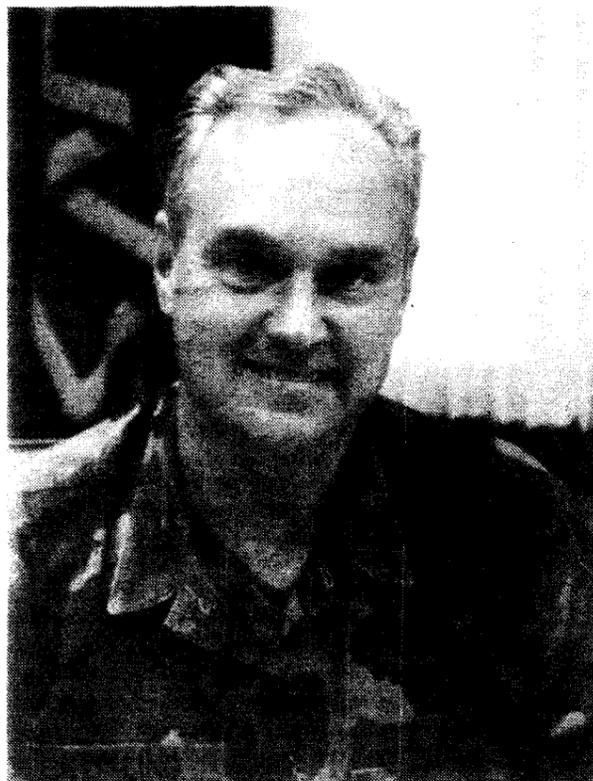
BY SKIP VAUGHN

When you've been wearing an Army uniform for nearly three decades, retirement means a major change in daily routine. Just ask Col. William Stirling, the former commandant of Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School.

"After 27 years of active service plus I went to a military high school, so I've been wearing some kind of uniform since I was 14 years old," Stirling said. "I can't imagine what it'll be like getting up in the morning and not putting on my green military uniform. But I can't imagine anyone having a better career than I've had; that's from both the jobs I've held, the people I've worked for, the people that have worked for me, the people that I've worked with."

He relinquished command of OMMCS Dec. 6 to Col. Thomas A. Hooper, a native of Oakdale, Calif., who came to Redstone from 34th support group in Korea. Stirling had served as commandant since January 1992. "Some of the best people that I've served with are right here — dedicated group of professionals, military and civilian," he said.

Stirling plans to stay in Huntsville; he and his family moved into a new home in Hampton Cove several weeks ago. He accepted a job offer with Vinnell Corp. to go to Saudi Arabia for a year. That company's headquarters is in Fairfax, Va.; and Stirling will be working with the Bradley support program in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. "It's a one-year contract; so, who knows what will happen after that," he said.



STIRLING

Redstone was the site of Stirling's first duty assignment when he served as the foreign military training officer here from 1967-70. That was during the days when there were several hundred international students at Redstone.

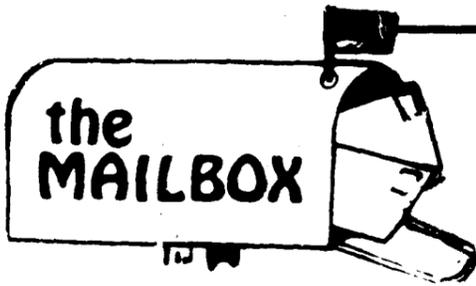
Upon retiring at the place where his career began, Stirling has this message for the Redstone community: "Thanks for all the support, both to me personally and to the organization. And although maybe I'm departing for a year, my family's going to remain here and I consider Alabama my home. I might've been born a Yankee, but like my dad used to say: 'Just because a man's born in a barn doesn't mean he's a horse.' So, I'm staying in Alabama."

The 50-year-old native of Jamaica, N.Y., graduated in January 1967 from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant through ROTC. A decade later, he received his master's degree in logistics management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1977. Stirling also completed extensive military schooling to include the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

After serving his initial tour here, Stirling went to Vietnam. His wife stayed in Huntsville with their 15-month-old daughter and 16-day-old son. "My year in Vietnam (1970-71) was probably a piece of cake compared to what she had to go through back here with two little ones," Stirling said.

Other career highlights include four years at Fort

(See Change, cont'd on page 2)



Travel credit card

Editor:

I recently received a letter from American Express giving me a personal identification number for use at automated teller machines. The only problem was that I did not even have an American Express card. After calling American Express, they informed me that they indeed sent my credit card back in October.

I do not remember receiving this card in particular, but I do know I receive a lot of unsolicited mail from credit card companies almost every single week. I simply throw them into the trash without opening them, unless it is from a company whose card I currently have such as the government Diners Club card.

The government's credit card program is totally irresponsible. I should not have to rely upon a credit card company to notify me of a government requirement to start using their credit card. How do I know whether it is true? There are many, many scams by mail, so until the government officially notifies me about American Express, how can I possibly know it is legitimate?

In addition, the government requires that each individual "voluntarily" agree to be responsible to the credit card company for all charges — even if the government fails to reimburse you on time. If you don't "voluntarily" agree, you don't get the card, and you may not get a travel advance.

The concept of using a credit card on TDY is excellent — I use it and like it. But the government has some very serious flaws in its implementation. First, the government should establish better procedures for officially notifying employees concerning credit cards for official travel, to include communicating with intended cardholders before they are contacted by the credit card company. Second, the government should pay the credit card bills, not the individual. Employees on TDY are traveling for the benefit of the government, and, as agents of the government, the government incurs the liability, not the traveler. If there is an incorrect charge, the government can easily collect from the employee. After all, the government controls our paychecks. Many private companies do it that way.

In the short run, I'm sure it is easier and cheaper for the government to keep things the way they are, but some day the government is going to get sued for millions by someone whose credit report was improperly ruined due to a preventable government administrative mistake.

Name withheld by request

(Editor's note: The General Services Administration

awarded a contract to American Express over Diners Club to provide travel charge card services to federal employees and military personnel. The new contract went into effect Nov. 30 and succeeds the Diners Club contract which expired Nov. 29.)

AWS eligibility

Editor:

Morale at OMMCS is terrible. We have had RIF after RIF, but the supervisors are expected to get even more work done. The supervisors have a lot of responsibility, but no authority.

The supervisors aren't even eligible for AWS. Why?...

The supervisors at the Ordnance Center and School at Aberdeen have the AWS. Why are the supervisors at OMMCS denied it?

No wonder morale is terrible at OMMCS.

Names withheld by request

(Editor's note: The OMMCS Public Affairs Office provided the following response, "In June 1992, the U.S. Army Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School (OMMCS) implemented the Alternative Work Schedule (AWS) for employees assigned to organizations not directly related to the training of our students. Allowing supervisors to participate in the AWS program was taken into consideration. However, after evaluating all the facts involved, a conscious decision was made that supervisors should not be allowed to participate in the program. OMMCS regrets that the writer does not agree with this decision.

"Currently, there are major OMMCS organizational changes under consideration. As it becomes clearer how our organization will be operationally structured, coupled with experience gained, AWS participation by supervisors will be re-addressed.

"Morale in such a time of change is understandably impacted and will remain a prominent, high priority command concern. Every effort is being made to keep OMMCS personnel informed of the status and impact of future changes."

Video

(Cont'd from page 1)

Island; Orlando; Panama City; Patuxent River; Pearl Har CINV-PAC; Pont MUGU; Warminster.

- NAVSUP — Mechanicsburg room 1 and Mechanicsburg room 2; NAVSUP headquarters 1 and NAVSUP headquarters 2; Philadelphia 1 and Philadelphia 2.

- NG — Arlington Hall.

- SDIO — Andrews AFB; Denver Martin Marr; Falcon AFB; GE Blue Bell; Griffiss AFB; Gunter AFB; Hanscom AFB; Huntsville; Kirtland AFB; Kwajalein Island; Lawrence Livermore Lab; Los Alamos; Los Angeles; Offutt AFB; Patrick AFB; Pentagon PMIC; Pentagon small room; Redondo Beach TRW; Scott AFB; SDIO Crystal City; Vandenberg AFB.

- SPAWAR — Portsmouth; San Diego room 1 and San Diego room 2; SPAWAR Crys City room 1.

- Sprint — Sprint Anaheim A1; Sprint Anaheim A2; Sprint Anaheim B1; Sprint Anaheim B2; Sprint Washington A1; Sprint Washington A2; Sprint Washington B1; Sprint Washington B2.

- TRANSCOM — Scott AFB.

- LF — Norfolk NAS.

Change

(Cont'd from page 1)

Hood, Texas, in the 2nd Armored Division from 1972-76; two years in Hawaii as an adviser to the Reserve Components 1980-82; a tour as a battalion commander in the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea 1982-83; commander of the 32nd Support Command in Germany 1985-87; executive officer to the director for logistics, Joint Staff at the Pentagon 1987-89; and commander of the 13th Corps Support Command at Fort Hood from December 1989 until January 1992.

He and his wife, Kathleen, got married just before he entered the Army so she has been with him throughout his career. She works as a dental assistant in Huntsville. Their daughter, Sheila, 24, is about to become a dental hygienist; she resides in Fairfax, Va. Their son, Ward, 23, is an Army specialist in the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. Ward, who is married, is on orders to go to Panama in April.

Stirling likes playing golf, boating, and water-skiing. He also says he's a "big animal lover"; his household includes two dogs, a cat and a parrot.

"I like working around the house and I like listening to country music," he said. "I'm a big country music

Thrift Shop serves

Editor:

In reference to the letter "Thrift Shop" published Nov. 24, I would like to provide the following response:

The Thrift Shop Board of Governors is deeply committed to serving the needs and desires of the community, the volunteers and employees.

On Nov. 23, at our regularly scheduled board meeting, feedback from customers and volunteers regarding elimination of the price reduction was addressed by the board. As a result of that feedback, the board has reversed its decision. The Thrift Shop will continue marking down merchandise.

The board welcomes feedback and suggestions from the community. A suggestion box is located in the consignment room, for customer convenience.

Karen Lopez
Chairman,
Board of Governors
The Thrift Shop

Sign your letter

Letters will not be considered for publication in the Redstone Rocket unless they are signed and contain an address or phone number for the writer. Names are withheld on request but unsigned letters will not be used. Send letters to: Redstone Rocket, AMSMI-IN.

Rocket readers giving feedback

Ever want to give us at the Rocket a piece of your mind — tell us exactly what you think of the newspaper — just spout off?

Well now you can. We're running a readership survey, and in just 48 hours we received over 150 responses. We're looking at every one of them, and will use them to make your newspaper better.

If you didn't get a survey and want to respond, let us know! Call us at 876-4161. We will print the results in a future issue.

THE REDSTONE ROCKET

Editorial Offices . . . 876-1500
Advertising Offices . . 539-3980

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fan." Maybe this transplanted New Yorker is an Alabamian, after all.

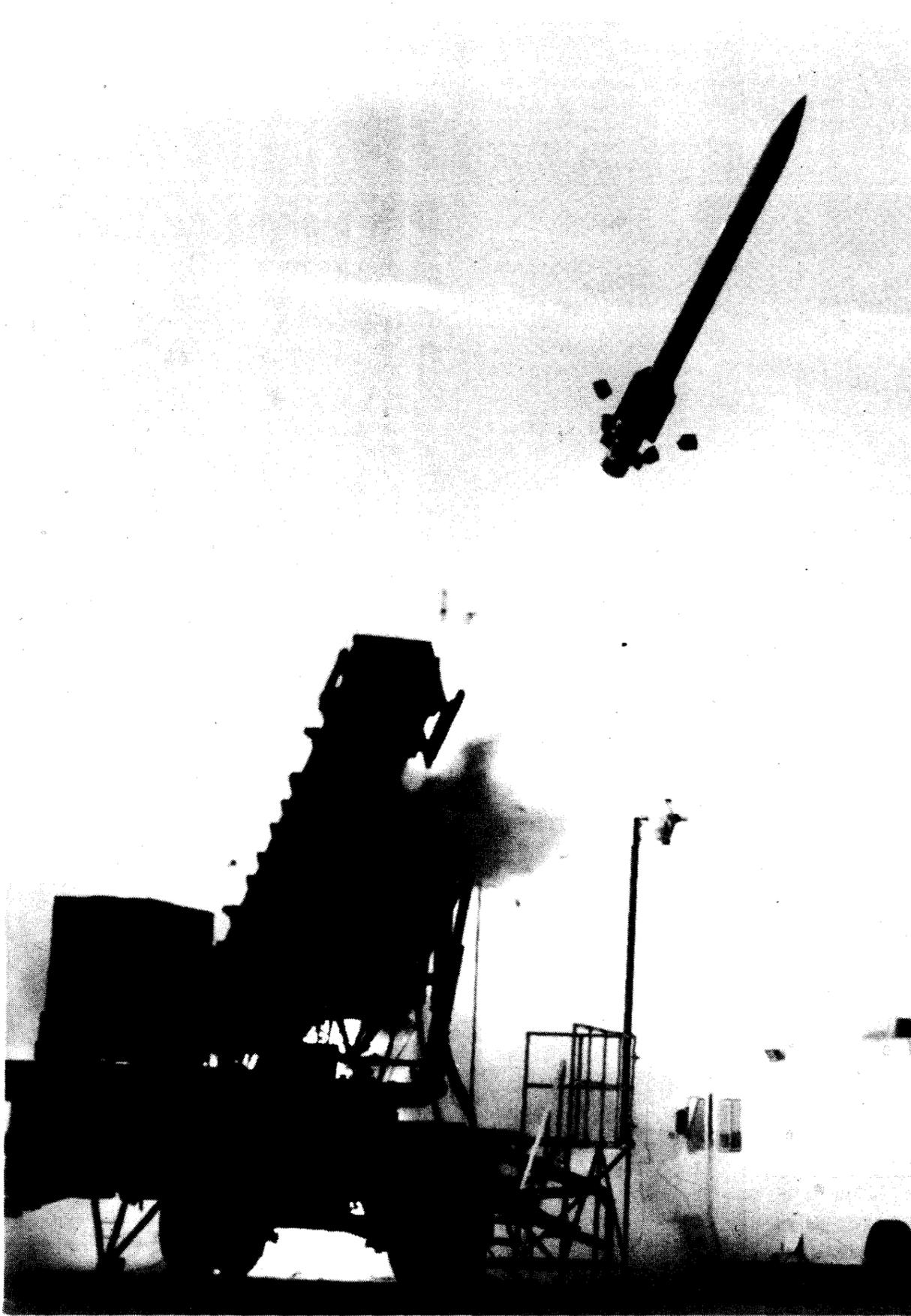
Locality pay approved

It's official now: Locality pay has been approved for federal workers, and general schedule employees in Madison and Limestone counties will see their pay boosted by 4.1 percent the first pay period of 1994.

The president approved the increase Dec. 1. Locality pay increases range from 3.09 percent to 6.52 percent, depending on what part of the country you work in. Rates were based on the cost of labor in an area, not on cost of living.

Not everyone will be covered by locality pay. Some categories of workers exempt are Senior Executive Service employees, wage grade employees and those in positions considered hard to fill and already receiving a special pay rate.

ERINT missile hits target ballistic re-entry vehicle



The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the Army said Nov. 30 that an Extended Range Interceptor (ERINT) missile hit a target ballistic missile re-entry vehicle in a test at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The test was the second in a series of planned engagements with a variety of targets to evaluate the ERINT, a small hit-to-kill missile, for possible future use in the Army's Patriot missile system to provide increased defense capability against theater ballistic missile threats.

The target was the re-entry vehicle (nose cone) of a special launch vehicle capable of providing realistic simulation of a variety of theater ballistic missiles. This target carried a non-hazardous simulated chemical warhead.

Both the ERINT and the target launch vehicle were fired from sites on the national missile range.

ERINT is one of several programs managed by the Army Program Executive Office Missile Defense. Loral Vought is the prime contractor.

ERINT HIT — An ERINT missile hits a target ballistic missile re-entry vehicle in a test at White Sands Missile Range Nov. 30. ERINT is a small, hit-to-kill interceptor being evaluated for possible future as a missile killer in the Army's Patriot air defense system. In the intercept photo, the ERINT missile, crossing from right to left, hits and shatters the incoming re-entry vehicle. The Army ERINT Project Office in Huntsville manages the program. Loral Vought is the prime contractor.

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Answers provided to early-out incentive queries

BY SANDA MARTEL

On Nov. 15, Maj. Gen. Joe Rigby, MICOM commander, announced that he is asking Army Materiel Command for authority to offer limited Voluntary Early Retirement and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VERA/VSIP) in early 1994. This step was necessary, Rigby said, after reviewing our funding situation, which indicates that if our funding remains at the current level authorized, we won't have enough money to pay our employees.

While the command is asking AMC and DA to help us with our funding situation, other things are being done locally to improve our situation. Those include tightening up on travel, overtime and training, and looking at the possibility of cutting back on some contracts.

If enough people take advantage of the VERA/VSIP (if it is approved), the command could possibly avoid a Reduction-In-Force.

From where we sit, answering questions as best we can on the "Rumor Control" hotline, we're finding out that a lot of you would like to know how many MICOM people are eligible to retire.

According to Len Farbman, chief of Technical Services Division at Civilian Personnel, there are approximately 530 people eligible for optional (regular) retirement, and between 750-800 more eligible for early retirement. Farbman stresses that these numbers can and will change, depending on when a VERA/VSIP window would open.

The decision to retire is individual and personal and no one will be coerced into retiring, the command is stressing.

Another concern many people are voicing is, "how many people will retire?" No one knows, but CPO had the following response:

"Our estimate is that we'll see a couple of hundred people retire," Farbman said, explaining that the number will probably be low because we just ran

VERA/VSIP early in 1993 and retired a substantial number, about 530.

Some might be encouraged by the incentive available, especially those who missed out in early 1993 by only a few months and those who didn't retire in early 1993 because they wanted to get another year under their belts. Others may decide to retire because they fear that eventually a bill will be passed in the Congress raising the retirement age of federal workers.

Separation incentive

Another question MICOM people are asking: Will we get a better deal by waiting?

Callers say they would like to take advantage of VERA/VSIP, but because they don't meet the age requirement, they would have to take a two percent annuity reduction for each year under age 55.

These callers say they think the command could get its numbers down and avoid a RIF if the annuity reduction was dropped.

"To my best knowledge, based on all the information I have, I don't see that happening," Farbman said.

"I would be pleasantly surprised to see that turned around," Farbman continued, adding that DoD is not pursuing additional incentives to entice employees to leave the work force; the idea behind the incentive program is to reduce government expenditures.

Numbers may change

Don Dixon, chief of Recruitment and Placement at CPO, said that employees shouldn't place too much emphasis on the numbers they hear bandied about as the retirements needed to avoid conducting a RIF.

"The numbers may change between now and when we finish VSIP because Resource Management is still trying to get funds from AMC," Dixon said. "We won't know for awhile yet."

He indicated that no jobs by individual names have been identified as jobs that would be lost.

A "major milestone" of events/actions has been developed by the command, which estimates the VERA/VSIP will open (assuming it's approved) in January and run for 30 days.

MICOM's current strength (as of Oct. 31) is approximately 5,890.

MPs looking for prowler in housing area on post

Editor's note: The Provost Marshal Office provided the following article.

Over the past several months we have had several reports of a possible prowler/"peeping tom" looking in windows or hiding around quarters.

When challenged by quarters occupant, this person then flees the area either on foot or by bicycle. We request your support and assistance in the apprehension of this individual. Should you see anyone loitering around or near government quarters or someone who seems out of place, please call the Military Police as soon as possible at 876-2222.

These incidents have usually occurred in the early morning hours between 5:30 and 7.

It is imperative that you provide the Military Police with as much information as possible regarding the physical description/characteristics of the individual cited. A reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for this offense.

Easy As HO, HO, HOME!

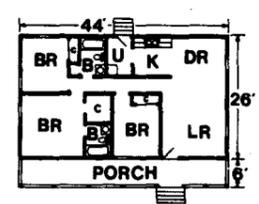


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Fire department float depicts Christmas Eve nightmare

Every parent's Christmas Eve nightmare was depicted by Redstone Fire Department's float in the annual Huntsville All-Volunteer Christmas Parade.

It was the night before Christmas and all through the house was the smell of burning turkey, and the clanking sound of dad trying without success to assemble a new tricycle. This was the scenario for "Oh What a Night Before Christmas!," the fire department's entry in the parade held Sunday, Dec. 5.

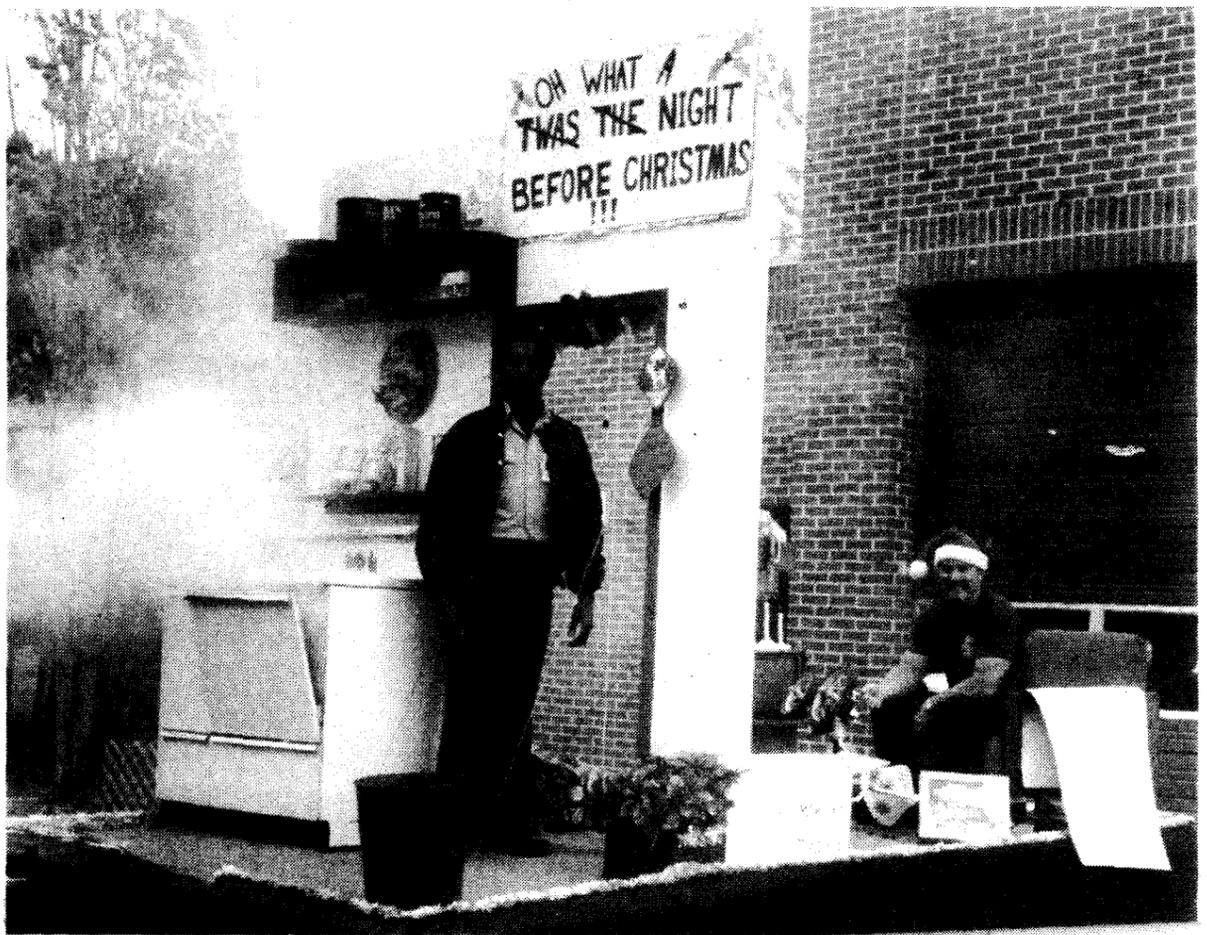
"We just try to get the Christmas spirit," said Fred Elliott, with a laugh. "This parade thing helps us out a lot."

Elliott and other members of the fire station on Vincent Drive created the float. It included a smoking stove, a mis-assembled tricycle, and a frantic mom and dad. Barbara Ransom, the station secretary, played the role of the mom, wearing night clothes and curlers. Robert Clarke, a fire inspector, was the dad who ran from the living room where he was making a mess of "Mikey's tricycle" to the kitchen when he smelled the smoke from the burning turkey.

Besides participating in the parade, "we'll give a couple of new toys that'll go to the Marines' Toys for Tots program," said Troy Vest, the district chief at Vincent Drive fire station.

Fire department members involved in the float included Elliott, Vest, Jeff Marksberry, Johnny Bishop and Curtis Chereek, members of the Vincent Drive station; Harry Hollingsworth of the Rideout Road station; and of course, the role-players, Ransom and Clarke.

The fire department plans to transport Santa to visit homes of Redstone youngsters who are unable to get out for Christmas — due to handicaps or illness — before Dec. 25. To schedule a visit on post, call the Vincent Drive fire station 876-1130/3014.



OH WHAT A NIGHT — Posing with the fire department's Christmas float are Johnny Bishop, standing, and Fred Elliott. Props include a smoking stove and a poorly assembled tricycle.

People

The following people have received awards or been promoted within the past month:

Multiple Launch Rocket System Project Office:

Maj. Brian Sutton	Army Achievement Award
Dianne Farlow	Promotion
Annie Neal	Promotion
Tamara Williams	Promotion
Beverly VanOostrum	Monetary Performance Award
Johnnie Swaim	Monetary Performance Award
Patricia Ward	Monetary Performance Award
James R. Johnson	Monetary Performance Award
Brenda Morrow	Monetary Performance Award
Ricky Holder	Monetary Performance Award
Nancy Ward	Monetary Performance Award
George Jones Jr.	Monetary Performance Award
Dexter Young	Monetary Performance Award
Eugene Edwards	Monetary Performance Award
Bobby Austin	Monetary Performance Award
Tonya Gordon	Monetary Performance Award

Jerita Johnson
Myra Farr
Charles Hopkins
Barbara Hebert
John Beale
David Moultrie
Raymond Pietruszka
Gregory Pruitt
Bryan Tauchen
Shadric Bridge
David E. Jones
William Butler
Rex Teague
Maureen Raley
John Whitaker
C. David Ward
Clinton Cochran Jr.
Eugene Hatcher Jr.
Donnie Ballance
Johnnie Swaim
Lee Hendricks
Eugene Hatcher Jr.

Monetary Performance Award
Monetary Perf. Awd/30 Years Service
Monetary Perf. Awd/10 Years Service
Monetary Perf. Awd/Special Act

Steven Watson
Alvin Rose
John Simmons
Anita Gibbs
James Ayers
Peggy Langley
Josephine Taylor
Clinton Cochran Jr.
Margaret O'Donnell
William Stelle IV
Jo Barnette
Judy Kennedy
Mary Harmon
Joel Price
Arlene Harris

Structures Directorate, RD&E Center:

Teresa Ivey
Susan Matthews
Susan Matthews
Norma Terry
Norma Terry

Exceptional Performance Certificate
Exceptional Perf. Cert./Special Act
Quality Increase
Quality Increase
Quality Increase
Quality Increase
Special Act Award
Special Act Award
Special Act Award
Special Act Award
30 Years Service
30 Years Service
10 Years Service
10 Years Service
10 Years Service

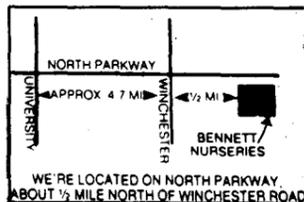
Special Act Award
Special Act Award
Exceptional Performance Award
Special Act Award
Promotion

Poinsettias

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Sen. Inouye: Army's Rangers lead the way

Editor's note: On Nov. 10, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) offered the following comments on the floor of the U.S. Senate during morning business.

"Mr. President, I recently had an opportunity to visit with some of America's best and bravest young men — members of the nation's elite 75th Ranger Regiment just back from Somalia. Brothers — black, white, Asian, Hispanic — bonded together by a calling of service to nation. Like generations of Rangers before them, they have volunteered to take on the toughest missions and, if need be, give up their lives for the needs of the nation and those of their fellow citizens.

"Much has been said and written about the manner in which these Army Rangers acquitted themselves in the recent action in Mogadishu. There has been no shortage of 'Monday morning quarterbacks' criticizing their planning, and performance. Some have gone so far as to suggest the unit failed in its mission.

"Mr. President, these critics are wrong! These brave men did not fail. The Rangers of the 75th Regiment did not fail their nation nor did they fail their brothers in arms. They, in fact, accomplished what they set out to do, snaring two dozen key members of Aidid's staff. These brave young men and their fallen comrades epitomize the qualities we expect in American warriors: unequalled skill in their profession, unfailing devotion to duty, gallantry in action, loyalty to both the nation and one's comrades in arms, and selfless sacrifice. They have done all the nation could have asked, and more.

"Our history is replete with the incredible courage, determination and selfless sacrifice displayed by

"Their performance in Mogadishu on 3 and 4 Oct. is a testament to the skill, bravery, and fortitude of America's finest young men."

*— Sen. Daniel Inouye
D-Hawaii*

Roger's Rangers, Francis Marion, "The Swamp Fox," Darby's Rangers, and Merrill's Marauders. No one who has ever stood on the edge of Pointe du Hoc on the Normandy coast and looked down that steep cliffside could ever believe that ordinary men actually scaled those cliffs under withering fire. They were not ordinary — they were Army Rangers.

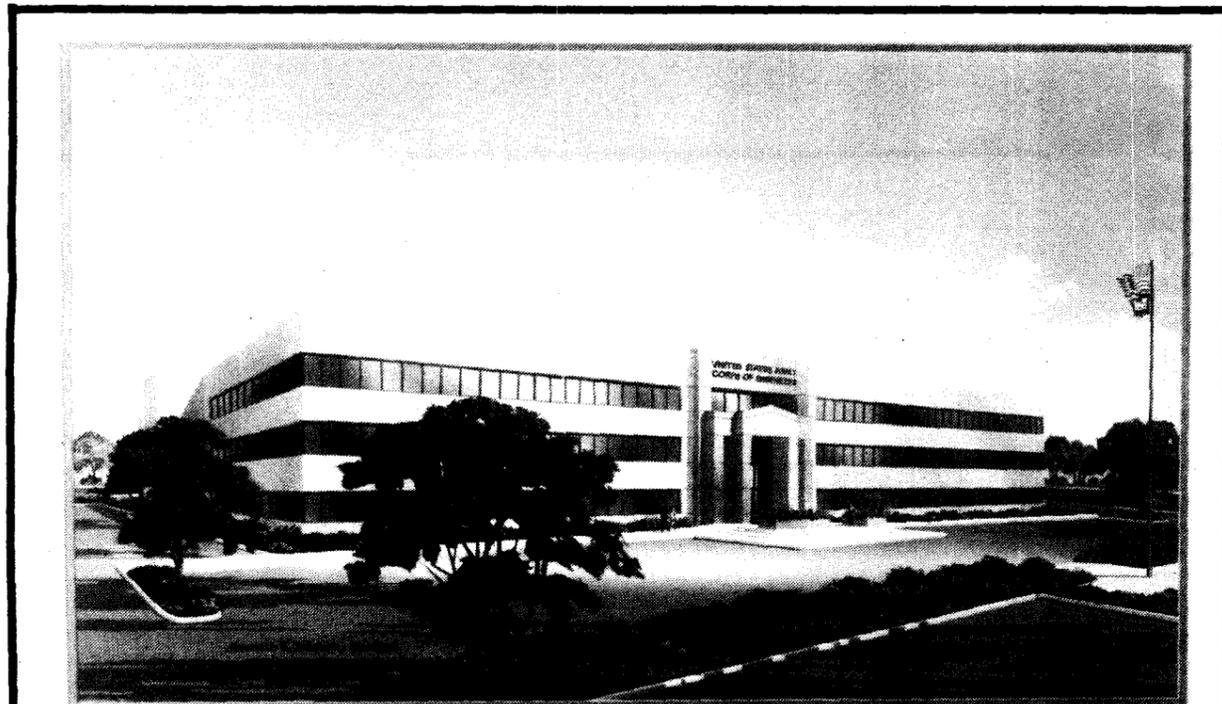
"Throughout their existence, Army Rangers, through action, not words, have set an incredibly high standard. Mentally alert, physically strong, morally straight, they always shouldered more than their share of the task at hand. When they met the enemy they were usually victorious; when they were not, the enemy paid a terrific price for victory. Surrender has never been, and thankfully is still not, in the Ranger vocabulary.

"Today's Army Rangers are no different than their predecessors. They met the challenge in Somalia. Not only did they succeed in capturing two dozen key members of Aidid's staff, but when the fog of war engulfed their operation they fought for over nine hours against incredible odds inflicting far heavier

casualties than they themselves took. It is no small coincidence that Aidid agreed to a cease-fire after the capture of 24 of his top lieutenants and the death of hundreds of his soldiers.

"Incredibly, some have criticized these Rangers for staying with their fallen comrades. This criticism strikes at the very foundation of what makes all our service men and women perform together so well under pressure, what makes people give that last full measure for their comrades and for their nation. I know from my personal experiences as a soldier during the Second World War how critical this bond of trust is between comrades in arms. The Ranger Creed states in part: 'I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.' This is not some anachronistic rhetoric, it is at the very core of the Ranger ethic.

"The nation shares the sorrow of those Rangers whose brothers in arms were killed in Mogadishu and that of the families who lost their loved ones. But above all, these Army Rangers and their families have every right to stand tall and feel proud of their performance under fire, for we, as a nation, are most proud of them. Their example of gallantry in action, perseverance, loyalty to each other — even unto death, and adherence to their creed, serves as an inspiration to all Americans. Their performance in Mogadishu on 3 and 4 Oct. is a testament to the skill, bravery, and fortitude of America's finest young men. Their steadfast courage under fire once again proves beyond doubt that 'Rangers Lead the Way.'"



NEW BUILDING — This is an artist's rendering of the new Corps of Engineers building which will be located in University Square, near the corner of University and Wynn Drive. Ground was broken Oct. 28; and the Huntsville Division, Corps of Engineers, hopes to move in by August 1994.

Here's advice for pet owners

As you celebrate the holiday season, keep in mind the health and safety of the animals in your household, advises the Veterinary Treatment facility.

The vet facility asks that pet owners consider the following:

- Chocolate in large quantities is poisonous to dogs and cats. A pound of milk chocolate can make a small dog very ill.
- Poinsettia plants also contain substances that can poison animals (and children, too).
- Make sure your Christmas tree is well-anchored so it can't tip over if your cat tries to climb the tree.
- Don't use chemical preservatives in the water for live trees. Dogs and cats love to drink out of tree stands.
- Tinsel is tempting to many cats. If they swallow some, it can cause an obstruction in the intestines. If you think your pet has swallowed tinsel, watch for vomiting, loss of appetite or just "ain't doing right."
- Consider giving gift puppies or kittens a couple of weeks after the holidays. Young animals need lots of time and attention and a busy household with all the noise and extra people around can make it more difficult for them to adjust to a new home.

From the staff of the Veterinary Treatment facility: "Best wishes for a happy, safe holiday."

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Christmas angel project at IMMC an annual gift of love

BY SKIP VAUGHN

More than 250 disadvantaged children will receive Christmas gifts this year, thanks to the annual Angel project sponsored by IMMC.

Colorfully wrapped presents — including clothing and toys — filled a conference room at building 5687. Three large trucks waited outside to transport the gifts to the Salvation Army in Huntsville.

Some 251 angels, needy children, were adopted in this year's SOS Angel Love project, according to Margot Sheaffer. "And underline *love*," added the inventory management specialist who started the annual project four years ago.

"It's a community service," Sheaffer said, "to the children who wouldn't have a Christmas."

Maj. Gen. Joe Rigby and his wife, Colleen, joined members of the Integrated Materiel Management Center in a gathering Thursday morning in the 5687 conference room. Immediately afterwards, soldiers and others began piling the many gifts onto two 4-ton trucks and one 5-ton truck.

"You've done a wonderful job," Colleen Rigby told Sheaffer.

Maj. Gen. Rigby, commander of the Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, told Sheaffer: "You've made Christmas for a lot of little kids."

The youngsters ranged from age four months to 9 years. Gifts were contributed by people throughout the Missile Command, according to Sheaffer. "There's a lot of good people on this Arsenal," she said.

Jim Flinn, the director of IMMC, jokingly calls Sheaffer the "head angel" but she declines to take all the credit for the project. Members of her team at the center included Charlotte Rutherford, Belinda Leak, Louise Carter and T.J. Longoria.



CELEBRATION OF GIVING — Colleen Rigby, left, wife of the commanding general, and Margot Sheaffer, organizer of the SOS Angel Love project, pose in front of some of the many presents contributed by people throughout the Missile Command.

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MICOM commander's goal: no involuntary separations

BY SANDA MARTEL

MICOM is doing everything it can to avoid a reduction in force in 1994. Will it be enough? It's too early to tell.

Many factors are involved, Maj. Gen. Joe Rigby told an audience of building 5250 employees Friday in his first round of "town hall meetings" which will continue through Dec. 21 so employees can ask questions and voice opinions about the future of Missile Command.

The commanding general gave an overview of MICOM's situation: Preliminary budget guidance indicates the command is \$45 million short of what was anticipated. Some \$20 million of that total is directed to payroll.

Even though the command is hopeful that Army Materiel Command and Department of the Army will restore some funding, Rigby said he decided to plan for worst case scenario and requested permission to conduct Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP).

"We need VERA/VSIP to posture us to meet 1994 and carry us into 1995," Rigby said, also mentioning that in years '94-97 the command will be required to will bring down the numbers of high grades (GS/GM 13-14-15s) drastically. Further, the National Performance Review spearheaded by Vice President Gore is recommending a drastic change in the supervisor-employee ratio, to a recommended 1-16. MICOM's supervisor-employee rate is 1-8-1/2, Rigby said.

"In late December, when we see what the final budget guidance is, we'll have a better picture of where we stand," Rigby said. The VERA/VSIP window is anticipated for early January through early February. Should the command have to conduct a RIF the notices would go out in early April with an effective date of early August.

One thing Rigby said he wanted to make clear to his audience was that the command had no plans to go to a four-day workweek. He had been asked that question in an earlier town hall meeting and had responded that it was one thing that he had look at as a means of reducing costs but had decided that the command could not feasibly adopt it because our customers and our headquarters work a five-day workweek.

Even though the RDTE program budget guidance is lowered for '94, Rigby said there would be no RDTE spaces cut as long as there's a funded workload.



RIGBY

Further, the recent Department of Defense "bottom up review" killed some of MICOM's customers (Program Executive Offices) programs, which translates to a reduction in customer dollars that MICOM will collect, Rigby said. Although there's not been an impact in that area yet, he mentioned that Tactical Missiles Program Executive Office is joining MICOM in requesting VERA/VSIP.

Finally, BRAC '95 (Base Realignment and Closure) could impact the command, although Rigby said he believes Redstone has the best infrastructure in AMC, perhaps in the Army, and that the arsenal is a viable candidate for further consolidations within AMC.

"My goal is that we have no involuntary separations this year," Rigby said.

He encouraged all employees to give input to the recently formed Future Task Force headed by Jim Flinn, director of Integrated Materiel Management Center. The purpose of the task force is to develop alternative proposals for the future MICOM structure, 1997 and beyond. Phone numbers are 876-0029/0008.

The rumor control hotline has been reactivated and anyone can call 876-4161 with questions about VERA/VSIP.

The remaining town hall meetings will be conducted on Dec. 14, 9:30-11 a.m., building 4488 cafeteria; Dec. 14, 1:30-3 p.m., building 5400 cafeteria; Dec. 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m., building 5250 cafeteria.

Weekly Bulletin changes to electronic mail only

The Weekly Bulletin will no longer be published in hard copy due to funding shortages, but is, however, available electronically.

To access the Weekly Bulletin perform the following:

- If you're on a Mic system or in a Unix environment, type in "bulletin" and return after the "\$" prompt.
- If you're using a menu, contact your system administrator and have them add "bulletin" to your menu.
- If you're on the Mac network, choose network services from the apple. You'll receive a list of services, and among the list choose "bulletin."

Contact Janie Wilson, 876-8669, for questions and assistance.

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Army acquisition official spent most of career at Redstone

BY SKIP VAUGHN

The Army's deputy director of acquisition career management returned to Redstone last week for a working visit at the place where he spent more than 30 years.

Dr. Bennie Pinckley assumed his job at the Pentagon Nov. 1. He serves as deputy to Lt. Gen. William Forster, the director of acquisition career management who is also the military deputy to the Army acquisition executive.

Pinckley's position is a new post which resulted from the Defense Acquisition Work Force Improvement Act, a public law dated Nov. 5, 1990. "What we're really trying to do, and what that public law was written toward, is to establish a professional world-class acquisition work force that is technically competent and possesses a keen business sense," he said.

"We've got about 30,000 positions that we have identified in the acquisition work force, so we've got a bunch of people we're trying to keep up with," he added. "Part of these have been identified as critical acquisition positions — positions like project managers, deputies, those in charge of contracts management. We have identified 808 military and 5,570 civilians in the area of critical acquisition positions. And we actually have at the moment 2,236 military and approximately 4,000 civilians in the Army Acquisition Corps."

Before going to Washington, D.C., Pinckley was project manager for the Ground-based Surveillance and Tracking System (GSTS) which is part of the Program Executive Office for Missile Defense. He held that post in Huntsville from August 1992 to September 1993. Pinckley had served as deputy PEO for air defense from November 1988 until July 1992.

He arrived at Redstone in April 1958 as a second lieutenant at what was then called the Ordnance Guided Missile School; and he was an Army ordnance officer until November 1960. He worked at Redstone as an Army civilian from November 1960 until departing



PINCKLEY

for Washington in November. Projects he worked with included Hawk, Mauler, Bat, Joint Tactical Missile Defense, and High and Medium Altitude Air Defense. Pinckley was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in November 1988.

"That (departing Redstone) was really tough because 33 years is a long time, and I've got a lot of friends here," he said. "So, it was very difficult to leave our environment here and go to Washington. But the job I'm working at now influences the career management for those people that are involved in pro-

gram management; so, it relates back to the 33 years I spent at Redstone. It involves improving the quality of our acquisition work force and making sure the Army is doing things in a professional manner.

"It was a difficult decision not only in that I had to leave Redstone, but I spent 33 years in engineering and now I'm having to switch to career management as opposed to engineering," he said.

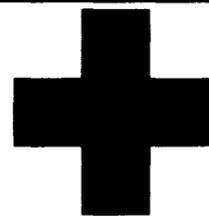
Pinckley, 60, a native of Yuma, Tenn., received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Tennessee in 1958. He was commissioned through ROTC as a second lieutenant. Pinckley earned a doctorate in public administration from Nova University, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in 1987.

He and his wife, Earline, the principal at Westlawn Middle School, have two daughters. Judy Royster is a medical doctor in Madison. The younger daughter, Linda Lawson, is a Madison resident whose husband, Larry, works as an engineer at the Research Development and Engineering Center here. The Pinckleys have five grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 10.

"The Army really is the most successful service as far as acquiring equipment for our soldiers. And since I'm a card-carrying flagwaver, I would encourage everyone to get whatever training and experience they can in order to provide even better equipment for our soldiers," Pinckley said.

His move to Washington meant a change from residing in his house, which he still maintains in Huntsville, to high-rise apartment living in a big city. Pinckley does, however, plan to return to Huntsville for good when he retires.

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Redstone Arsenal Christmas Party slated Friday

The local Army community — military and civilian — is invited to the 1993 Redstone Arsenal Christmas Party set for Friday at the Officers Club.

"We should all be proud of the progress made this past year which demonstrates why Redstone Arsenal is highly regarded throughout the Army. This progress could not have occurred without the total involvement of soldiers, civilians and their families," states a news release from the Resource Management Directorate, the sponsor for this year's Christmas party.

"The entire Redstone Arsenal community, military, civilian employees, their spouses or guests are invited to celebrate this success, and kick off the holiday season" by attending this event, the release continues.

The party will include dinner, musical entertainment, and dancing. "It is even rumored a jolly old round guy will be there to hand out presents," the release adds.

Social (cash bar) starts at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:15. The menu features prime rib entree. Dr. Jerry McKinney is to be the pianist during the social hour. Col. Mel Kahue, director of resource management for the Missile Command, is the scheduled master of ceremonies. The "Trouveres" from Lee High School are to perform.

Dancing begins at 9:05 with music provided by the "Soul Source," a group formerly called the "Church

Street Band." Soul Source performs a variety of music. The event will conclude at 11.

Military dress is: Army blue/mess dress with bow tie; optional enlisted, class A Army green (female with skirt) with white shirt, black bow or four-in-hand tie/neck tab/nameplate. Civilian dress is business suit or cocktail attire.

Cost is \$15 per person. Make your reservations today by calling Dorothy Hosea in the Protocol Office 876-7135. The deadline for reservations is close-of-business today.

"Come and celebrate with your family, friends, and co-workers. We look forward to seeing you there. Have a safe and happy holiday season," the release concludes.

Duck hunting season to open Dec. 17

Redstone hunters open another duck season next week short of water, short of ducks and short of hunting days.

Changes in arsenal hunting policies will make this the shortest duck season ever, deleting six days from the federal and state approved season which opens Dec. 17 and closes Jan. 20.

State authorities opted for a split season which means all hunting stops from Jan. 3 until Jan. 8.

The change to post regulations enforced for the first time this year also shuts down all hunting on post each

Tuesday and Wednesday with the exception of the week between Christmas and New Years. That deletes Dec. 21, 22 and Jan. 11, 12 and 18, 19. Redstone traditionally shuts down all hunting on Christmas and New Year's Day as well.

Another change this year ended the ban on goose hunting imposed last year.

Authorized waterfowl hunters need to have current state and federal waterfowl stamps in addition to a state license and arsenal permit. Only shot shells filled with steel shot may be used in waterfowl hunting.

Troop bowling

Here are the Troop Intramural Bowling standings after last week's games:

Tuesday's Conference	W	L
Readiness Group-2	189	86
Readiness Group-1	166	109
F Company Equate	158	117
HHC MICOM	150.5	124.5
Readiness Group-4	147.5	127.5
MEDDAC-2	144	131
MEDDAC-1	143	132
F Company MSTD	138.5	136.5
HHC 832nd MD	129.5	145.5
Flintstones	127.5	147.5
Anchors E Company 832nd	123.5	151.5
Bye	10	36

200 games bowled Nov. 30:

Avery Hollifield (F Co. MSTD)	245
Scott Allison (F Co. Equate)	228
Jesse Beauford (Readiness Gp-1)	214
Juan Santiago (Readiness Gp-2)	213
Ron Helton (HHC MICOM)	208
Howard Horn (HHC MICOM)	202
Ray Williams (Anchors E Co.)	200

Thursday's Conference	W	L
DOT Last Year's Champs	178	72
MLRS F Company	147.5	102.5
HHD USATA	144	106
Hooters	141	109
Navy	138.5	111.5
Master Blasters	129	121
49 ORs	125.5	124.5
MEDDAC	120	130
NNTK	101.5	148.5

200 games bowled Dec. 2:

Carl Giddons (NNTK)	213
John Cappiello (DOT LYCs)	203 & 201

Recreation Center reopens with new look, equipment

Editor's note: Jenness-Stults is a marketing assistant at Directorate of Community and Family Activities.

BY MICHELLE JENNESS-STULTS

The Recreation Center will unveil a new look at its grand reopening Dec. 14 at 4:15 p.m. Members of the Redstone community are invited to see how some of their Army Communities of Excellence winnings have been spent.

The decor of the building has been changed to reflect an electronics and entertainment theme. Other changes and improvements include the installation of a lighted basketball court in front of the building, a new patio/pavilion on the north side of the building, and new flooring throughout the center.

In addition to physical changes, new games and equipment are being installed. The center now offers electronic darts, Pop-a-Shot, new pool and pingpong tables, and a Karaoke system. A new computer/study area with three computers and a laser printer, Nintendo games, and more televisions and video equipment will be added soon, completing the upgrade.

The Recreation Center, building 3711, is open weekdays from 1:30 p.m. until 10 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., for active duty, retired military, and their family members.

For more information about the grand reopening or the Recreation Center, call 876-4531.



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Missile Command worker receives top civilian honor

A MICOM employee was one of 10 federal workers to be awarded the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service last month.

Dr. Richard Rhoades, associate director for systems at MICOM's Research Development and Engineering Center, was presented the award by Gen. Gordon Sullivan during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Rhoades' work in developing innovative management concepts that have been adapted as Army models and his leadership in implementing the DoD Laboratory Demonstration Program were major factors in his nomination for the award.

Rhoades is responsible for all RD&E Center ac-

tivities in support of weapon systems development, acquisition and sustainment. He developed the policies and procedures for a full matrix management approach to providing engineering functions for project offices.

He has worked at Redstone for 30 years, starting as a research chemical engineer in the Army Propulsion Lab and center in October 1963.

Rhoades holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He received additional graduate education from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow.



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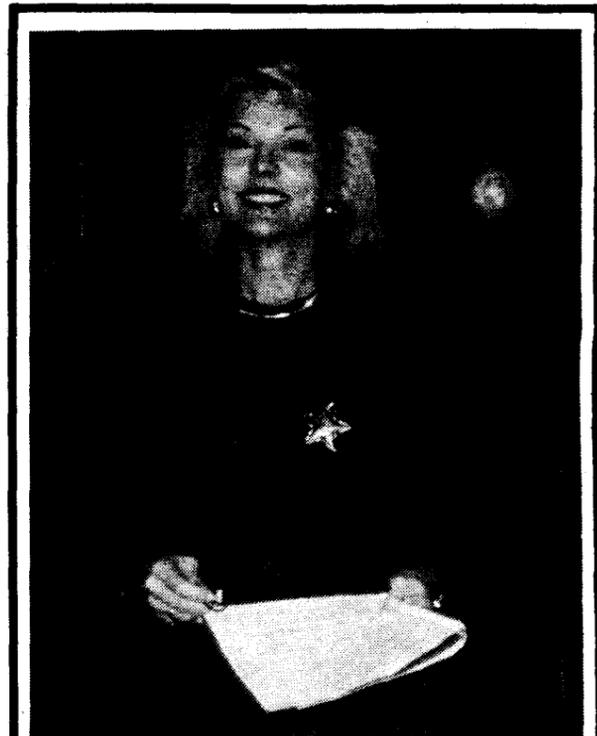
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POC is Carolyn Collier, ACOE Program Manager, 842-2565.



TRAINING CONFERENCE — Lee Milteer, of Lee Milteer Associates Inc. of Virginia Beach, Va., talks about quality during the second day of an annual training conference Dec. 2-3 sponsored by the Huntsville/Madison County Chapter of Blacks in Government. More than 200 people attended the conference held at the Challenger Club. The conference theme was, "Refocusing Your Goals in Times of Diversity and Change."

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AMC promotes suicide awareness, prevention

Suicide awareness and prevention are particularly important as the holiday season approaches, according to the commander of the Army Materiel Command.

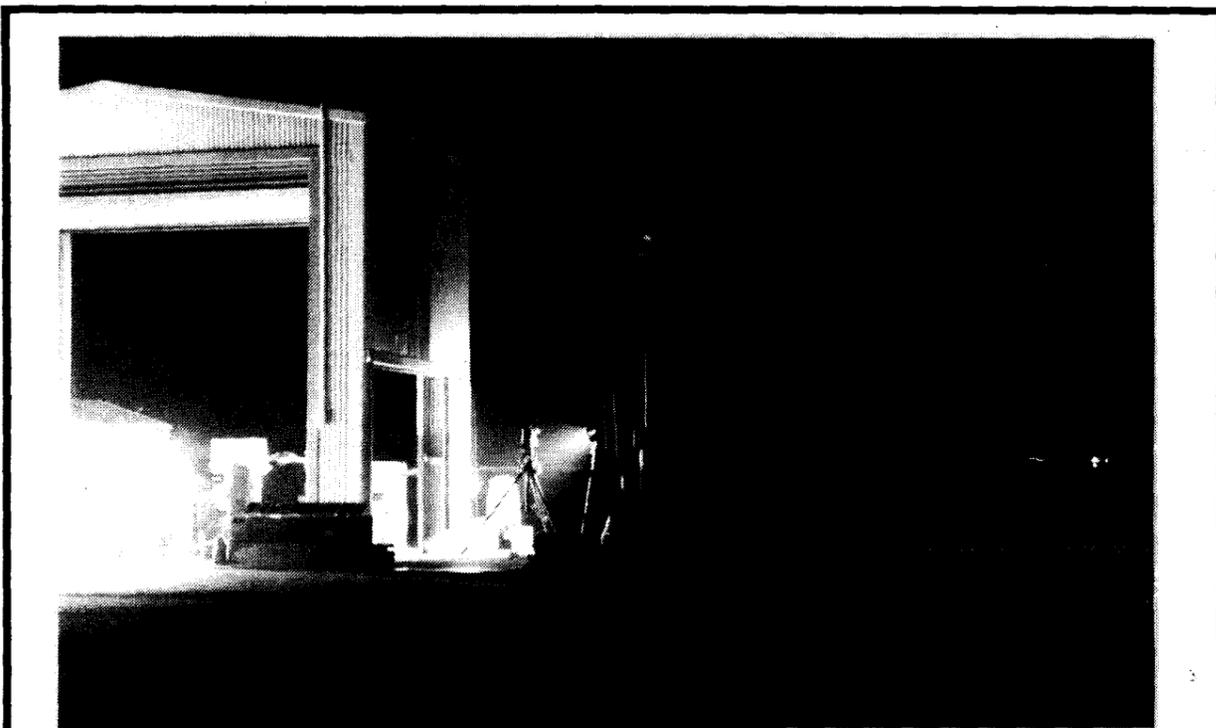
Gen. Jimmy Ross, the AMC commander, signed the following open message to subordinate commands regarding suicide awareness:

"As we approach the holiday season, we need to pay special attention to our suicide awareness efforts and prevention program.

"The holiday and post holiday seasons are accompanied by many feelings and emotions. These are times of joy and love, but also times of stress, anxiety, and loneliness. I know you have suicide awareness programs in place. Some have initiated programs, such as U.S. Army Aviation and Troop Command's "Team Approach," which seeks to reduce stress and anxiety brought on by downsizing. Others have programs that support our people during periods of distress. We are in the process of collecting information from you on formal and informal programs that are in place throughout U.S. Army Materiel Command to further assist us in our efforts to help our people. We will share this.

"The following information presents a trend analysis for the past four years of attempted and actual suicides. This analysis may assist in focusing your efforts: The AMC trend on suicides is 10 attempted and 10 actual suicides per year based on a four-year comparison. Actual suicides within AMC are predominantly DoD civilian, Caucasian males ranging in age from 20 to 63. Attempted suicides are predominantly military, Caucasian males and females, ages 20-31 and dependent, Caucasian females, ages 15-43. Predominant causes of attempted and actual suicides are marital problems, emotional/personal problems, and financial problems. Methods adopted in attempted and/or actual suicides were guns, pills, cuts/stabs and/or poisonous gases.

"We all need to work together on prevention and awareness programs. We owe it to our people," the message concluded.



NIGHT TEST — Successful day and night tests were conducted Nov. 17-19 at Redstone test areas on an essential component of the TOW Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS). The forward looking infrared component of ITAS' target acquisition subsystem will ultimately perform target and missile tracking and provide the gunner night vision capability.

Disposed paint can harm environment

Editor's note: Nielsen is an environmental engineer in the MICOM Environmental Office.

BY KURT NIELSEN

Proper disposal of unused or unwanted paint and solvents by the activities and tenants of Redstone Arsenal is needed to ensure compliance with environmental laws.

Programs have left some organizations with unused paint or solvents to dispose of. So, as a reminder be aware that these paints and solvents are listed as hazardous wastes under our Federal Environmental Laws.

Recently, an unknowing individual was noticed disposing paint in an area dumpster. Because so many impact the installation, remember: The sum of inappropriate actions will seriously affect our environment.

Paint and solvents can be hazardous if not handled properly. So please, use the following guidelines for proper handling and disposal of excess paint and solvent:

- Determine if any unused paint or solvents are in your area. Flammables and combustibles such as oil based paint and solvents require approved metal flammable storage cabinets. Latex paint is not a fire hazard. Therefore, an appropriate amount of latex paint may be stored without use of a flammable locker.

- For removal and disposal procedures of excess or unwanted paint and solvents call Linda Smith, the base liaison officer, at 876-6492.



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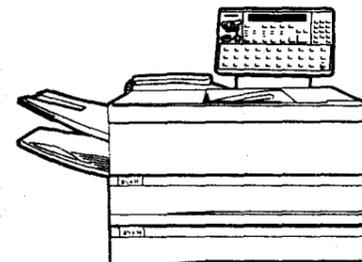
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Florida State picked to win national championship

BY SKIP VAUGHN

Bowl games are upon us; and when the smoke clears from these season-ending classics, the team standing in the No. 1 slot will be Florida State.

Yes, college football fans, like it or not: FSU is the choice of most pollsters as the best team in the nation. Fans of Nebraska, West Virginia, Auburn and Notre Dame aren't likely to agree with this assessment, however.

Florida State did lose to Notre Dame, but the Seminoles also had one of the toughest schedules in the nation. Nebraska, on the other hand, went undefeated against one of the easiest schedules. These top two teams will face off in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night; and Florida State should win decisively.

Unbeaten West Virginia plays Southeastern Conference power Florida that same night in the Sugar Bowl. Look for the Gators to help end at least some of the argument about the polls by handing West Virginia its first loss.

Skip's Picks went a perfect 4-0 in the final weekend of the regular season. This brought the final picks record to 332-111-9 for 75 percent (up from last season's 71 percent). Here are some predictions for the upcoming bowl games:

Las Vegas Bowl, Dec. 17 — Ball State (8-2-1) vs. Utah State (6-5). My pick...*Utah State*.

John Hancock Bowl, Dec. 24, at El Paso, Texas — Texas Tech (6-5) vs. Oklahoma (8-3). My pick...*Oklahoma*.

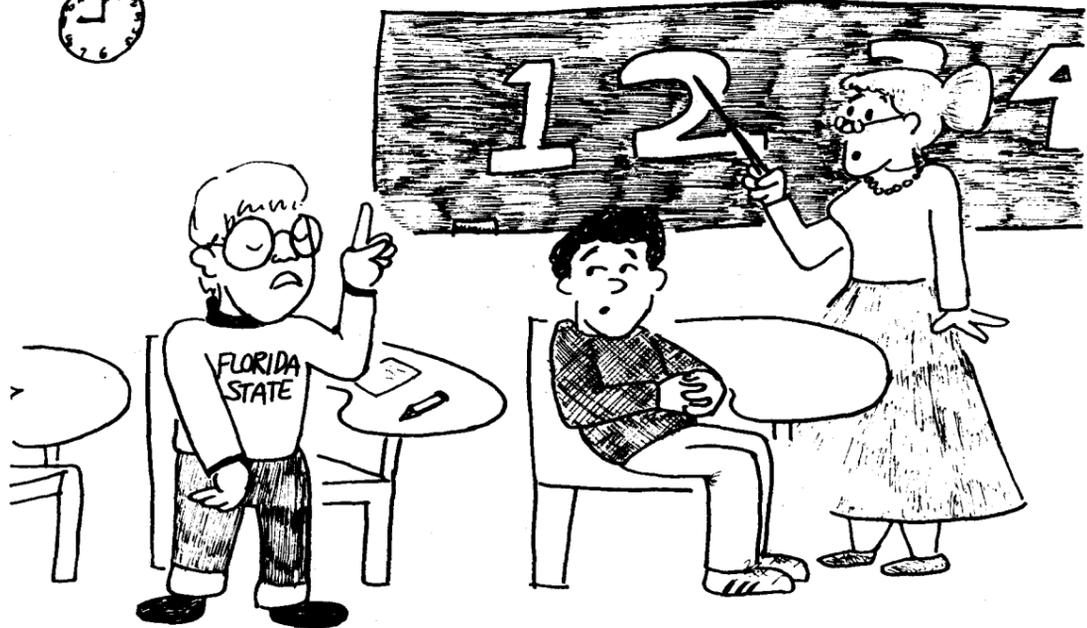
Aloha Bowl, Dec. 25, at Honolulu — Fresno State (8-3) vs. Colorado (7-3-1). My pick...*Colorado*.

Liberty Bowl, Dec. 28, at Memphis, Tenn. — Michigan State (6-5) vs. Louisville (8-3). My pick...*Michigan State*.

Copper Bowl, Dec. 29, at Tucson, Ariz. — Wyoming (8-3) vs. Kansas State (8-2-1). My pick...*Wyoming*.

Holiday Bowl, Dec. 30, at San Diego — Brigham Young (6-5) vs. Ohio State (9-1-1). My pick...*Brigham Young*.

Freedom Bowl, Dec. 30, at Anaheim, Calif. — Southern Cal (7-5) vs. Utah (7-5). My pick...*Southern Cal*.



"NO, TEACHER. THE CORRECT ANSWER TO WHAT COMES AFTER NUMBER ONE IS: NEBRASKA."

Independence Bowl, Dec. 31, at Shreveport, La. — Virginia Tech (8-3) vs. Indiana (8-3). My pick...*Virginia Tech*.

Peach Bowl, Dec. 31, at Atlanta — Clemson (8-3) vs. Kentucky (6-5). My pick...*Clemson*.

Gator Bowl, Dec. 31, at Jacksonville, Fla. — Alabama (8-3-1) vs. North Carolina (10-2). My pick...*North Carolina*.

Alamo Bowl, Dec. 31, at San Antonio — Iowa (6-5) vs. California (8-4). My pick...*California*.

Hall of Fame Bowl, Jan. 1, at Tampa, Fla. — Michigan (7-4) vs. North Carolina State (7-4). My pick...*Michigan*.

Citrus Bowl, Jan. 1, at Orlando, Fla. — Penn State

(9-2) vs. Tennessee (9-1-1). My pick...*Tennessee*.

Cotton Bowl, Jan. 1, at Dallas — Texas A&M (10-1) vs. Notre Dame (10-1). My pick...*Notre Dame*.

Carquest Bowl, Jan. 1, at Miami, Fla. — Boston College (8-3) vs. Virginia (7-4). My pick...*Boston College*.

Fiesta Bowl, Jan. 1, at Tempe, Ariz. — Miami (9-2) vs. Arizona (9-2). My pick...*Miami*.

Rose Bowl, Jan. 1, at Pasadena, Calif. — UCLA (8-3) vs. Wisconsin (9-1-1). My pick...*UCLA*.

Orange Bowl, Jan. 1, at Miami, Fla. — Nebraska (11-0) vs. Florida State (11-1). My pick...*Florida State*.

Sugar Bowl, Jan. 1, at New Orleans — Florida (10-2) vs. West Virginia (11-0). My pick...*Florida*.

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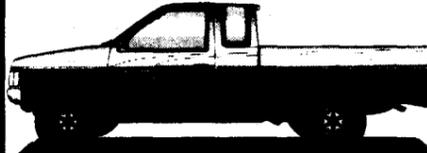
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Not your kid? Well, how about his...54% of all high school seniors have smoked marijuana. And over half of them smoke it regularly.

Still not your kid? Or maybe you're not so sure anymore.

Well, the best way to know for sure is to talk with your child. Of course, speaking to your child like this

takes a lot of courage. And to do it effectively takes a lot of homework—like reading articles, attending meetings, and talking to other parents. This way, your child will see you as a well informed source.

Listen, we're not using these statistics about marijuana and cocaine to scare you.

Then again, that's exactly what we're trying to do.

If you're afraid your child may be included in some of these numbers, get help. Contact your local agency on drug abuse for more information.

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PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA

Autonomous smart submunition scores in testing

Editor's note: The following article was provided by the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Project Office, Assistant Project Manager for Special Projects.

Sometimes an anticlimactic "clank" can signify the sweet sound of success. On Nov. 9 the multinational terminal guidance warhead (TGW) development program, managed by the Multiple Launch Rocket System program management office, scored its third successful autonomous engagement of a cold, stationary armored target.

As in the first two successes, the test was conducted at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The lack of a "boom" on impact can be attributed to the substitution of a telemetry module in the area normally occupied by the lethal mechanism on a tactical unit.

"We're ecstatic with the successes," said Robert Neighbors, MLRS assistant project manager for special projects. He oversees the development program

for not only the U.S. Army, but also for the United Kingdom, French and German co-development partners.

"When we initiated the system demonstration substage of the program in August 1989, we had a working system — on paper. While we had developed and tested the individual components and subsystems, we had yet to integrate hardware and software into a working system," Neighbors said.

"I don't mean to make this sound like a cakewalk," Neighbors continued. "In addition to the technical challenges of the program there were also challenges introduced by the differences in social, cultural and business practices among the international partners. The ultimate success of the program attests to the commitment of the organizations and individuals involved."

The unique capabilities of the MLRS TGW system are directly attributable to state of the art advances in

radar, signal processing and software algorithm technologies. The real challenge was to make all the pieces come together at the same time, Neighbors said.

The missile utilizes 94 gigahertz technology to allow a compact radar diameter of less than four inches.

"To capitalize on the size advantage of the radar we had to develop an on board computer capable of processing massive amounts of radar data very quickly," Neighbors said.

The result was a signal processor capable of executing millions of instructions per second, effectively, a Cray super computer, in the volume of a two-pound coffee can, according to Neighbors.

This computing capacity provides a reprogrammable environment for operation of robust target acquisition and tracking algorithms.

When the system is fully operational, three terminal guided submunitions (TGSMs) will be housed in a warhead which is delivered over an area of known enemy armored targets by an unguided MLRS rocket. Once released, the TGSMs independently maneuver over the target area, seek out and then attack enemy tanks and other targets in the manner demonstrated by this year's tests.

The MLRS TGW program is in the system demonstration substage of demonstration/validation and will culminate with rocket dispense tests scheduled for later this year.

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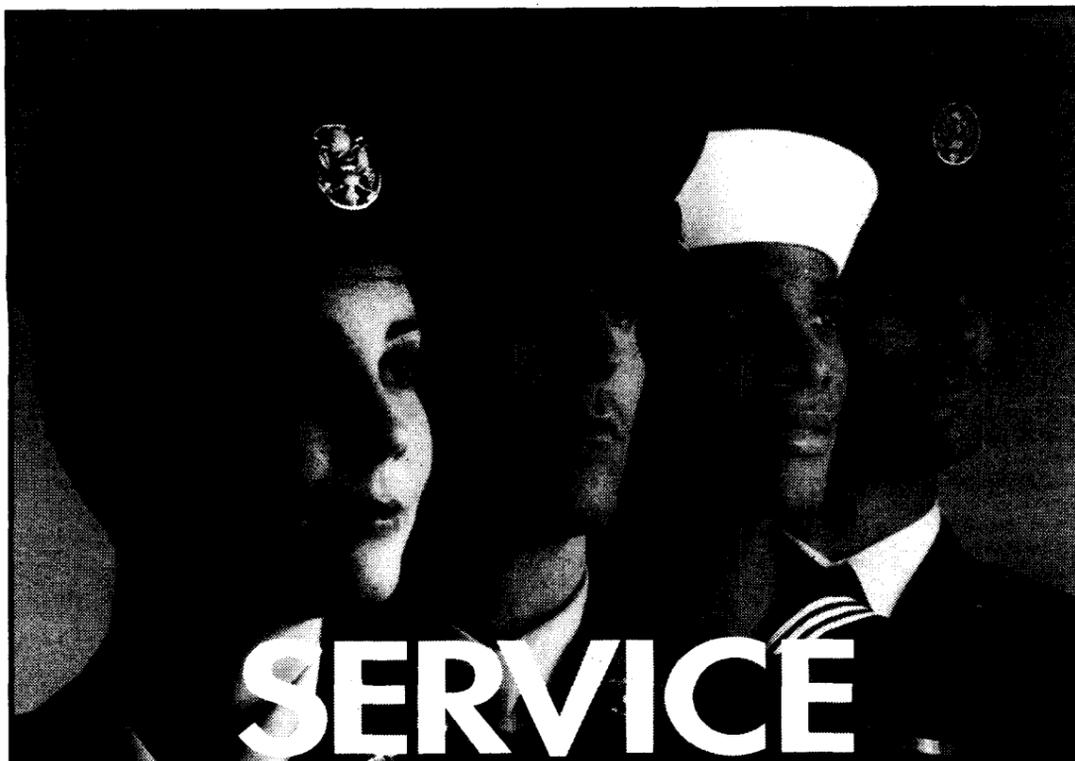
Christmas trees available here

Christmas trees are once again available on Redstone Arsenal for authorized users, according to the Directorate of Public Works.

"All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees, are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area northeast of the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) area which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees shall not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use," states a release from the directorate.

"This area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. Travel will be limited and controlled by daily check-in with ASP personnel at building 2592. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only," the release continues. "Extreme caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside of the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree."

Trees should not be cut earlier than Dec. 11 or later than Dec. 24; and cutting should occur during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tree trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For more information and a location map call Outdoor Recreation, building 5132, at 876-4868.



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Announcements

Retiree fitness

Signup is in progress for 50-plus on-the-go line dancing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m., start date to be announced. For information call Ted Compoc 842-2574.

Retirees and their spouses are urged to participate in the Retiree Fitness Program at Pagano Gym. The current program of Aerobics to mellow tunes has several openings. Jean Begeman, aerobics instructor, welcomes your participation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-11 a.m. in Pagano Gym's aerobics room. "Be dressed in workout gear, wear safe and comfortable gym shoes, and inform your physician for proper consent. Your heart is your most critical muscle; give it a workout!" For more information, call Compoc 842-2574.

SSDC Christmas party

The Space and Strategic Defense Command's annual Christmas Party will be Dec. 11 from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Officers Club. The theme is "Romance in Wonderland" with music by Rick Jobe & the Tuxedo Junction. Current and former SSDC and PEO Missile Defense employees are invited to an evening of socializing, food and ballroom dancing for \$14.75 per person (\$12.75 for enlisted personnel and GS-9 and below). For information call Maj. John Adams 955-4831.

Single soldiers

The BOSS (Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers) annual Christmas party will be held Dec. 10 from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. at the Recreation Center, building 3711. "Free admission; free food; free drinks; live DJ." And while there, you can register for BOSS's basketball tournament scheduled Dec. 11; entry fee for this tournament is \$15 per teammate (three-person teams), and prizes will be awarded. For more information, call 876-BOSS.

Black history month planning

A Black History Month planning committee meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Dec. 9 in room B-200 at building 5250. This will be a working meeting to discuss and plan activities for Black History Month in February. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should plan to attend. For more information, call Bernard Collier of the EEO Office 876-9223.

Supply management careerists

Another ACCES panel for Supply Management (CP-13) will be held soon. PERSCOM will no longer set suspense dates for the receipt of ACCES packages or release the exact date of the panel. Packages received too late to process for the current rating panel will be held for the next rating panel. "For this reason, this office will not set a suspense date for submission of ACCES packages. Do not wait for announcement of a suspense date! Get your package in now!" Any GS/GM 12 (or above) employee wishing to register in the Supply Management Career Program (CP-13) should submit an ACCES package. Careerists who have previously submitted packages will not need to resubmit. ACCES packages can be submitted at any time to Linda Wolfe, AMSMI-MMC-MM, 876-1531, building 5681, room B4S.

PX news

The Post Exchange will have its Employee Appreciation Day on Dec. 12; the Main Store, building 3220, will close at 6 p.m. for this occasion.

"The Redstone Arsenal Post Exchange management and employees would like to take this opportunity to wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

Foster care

Families living in government quarters can be foster parents. Civilian and military families are needed to provide foster homes for children experiencing crisis. For more information call Jennifer Clark, family advocacy program manager at Army Community Service, 876-5397.

Post Theater movies

Thursday — *The Program*, rated R, 112 minutes. Friday — *The Program*. Saturday — *Demolition Man*, R, 110 minutes. Sunday — *Demolition Man*. Tuesday — *Demolition Man*. All shows begin at 7 p.m. Admission for Tuesday is \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for children. Admission for all other shows is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.25 for children.

Super supper nights

The military dining facility will provide a Super Supper Night the third Thursday of each month from 4:30-6:30 p.m. "Soldiers may bring family members or guests to the dining facility to enjoy an excellent meal." There will be a different super menu each month. Reservations are not necessary. The dining facility is located at building 3438 south. For information call CWO 3 Felix Battle or Charles Minga 876-3067/2317.

Abandoned vehicles

Abandoned vehicles include a silver 1985 Jaguar XJ6, identification number SAJAV1342FC428672; a black 1978 Datsun 280Z, identification number HLS30-451678; a brown over white Chevrolet Silverado suburban, identification number CCL169F136433; and a silver 1979 Mercury Cougar, identification number 9H93F763343. Owners or anyone knowing the owners should call SSgt. Mettert, Provost Marshal Office, operations section, building 3453, 842-2441/2442, to identify or claim their vehicle.

Resource managers

Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) is accepting nominations for national and local awards for individual and team achievement during 1993. Criteria is outlined in the fall issue of "Armed Forces Comptroller." Nominations are due by Dec. 15 to the awards chairman, Ernie Weir, at AMCMEA, AMXME-MI, 4940-B Research Drive, Huntsville 35805-5906. For more information, call Weir 722-1934 or Don Henson 895-3472.

Government accountants

North Alabama Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants will hold a joint meeting with American Society of Military Comptrollers at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Holiday Inn-Madison Square. The program will feature a fashion show and other entertainment. For reservations call Jo Ann Blue 876-7986 or Sandra Julian 876-2373.

Texas A&M alumni

The North Alabama Texas A&M Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at Mr. C's Restaurant, 11247 Memorial Parkway southwest, for its annual banquet/officer election. For reservations call Doug Slauson 461-7357 or Mike McColpin 876-8084.

Warrant officers

Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association will meet at 11 this morning at the Officers Club regimental room. Highlights from the national meeting will be discussed. Lunch will be available. Members and non-members, active duty and retired are invited. For more information on the association call MWO 4 Don St. Germain, chapter president, 842-2864; CWO Bob Borden, secretary, 876-1909; or retired CWO Wayne Hamilton 851-9066.

SSDC open house

The Space and Strategic Defense Command in Research Park will have its annual in-house Christmas Open House for family and friends from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 17. Tables will be set up in the hallways with refreshments provided by SSDC employees. At 1:30 p.m., a special Christmas program will be presented in the cafeteria. For more information, call Maj. Margaret Withrow 955-4011.

German culture

The Friends of German Culture will have its annual Christmas banquet at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Huntsville Hilton. RSVP at 533-5115 by Dec. 8. There is an admission charge.

Active/retired NCO spouses

The Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club will have its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Challenger Club. Upcoming dates include: Post Exchange gift wrap booth, Dec. 10-24 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and the ARNCOSC Christmas party, Dec. 11. For more information, call Judy Fredrich 828-6885.

Williams Elementary

Williams Elementary will have a Christmas program at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13. The PTA will give brief announcements preceding the program. "Make note that this will be the second Monday, instead of the normal date for functions which is second Tuesday." The stage curtain is scheduled to be installed prior to the program. "We have many people to thank for the fund-raising to purchase this curtain including donations by the Officers Wives Club and the RSA Thrift Shop."

Hospital holiday schedule

The Fox Army Community Hospital outpatient clinics will close the afternoon of Dec. 17 for the hospital Christmas party. The Emergency Room and Pharmacy will remain open as usual. All hospital clinics will operate on a regular schedule but with reduced staffing throughout the holiday period. Routine and same-day appointments will be available. Clinics will close for federal holidays on Dec. 24 and 31.

Community activities

SPORTS HAVEN — A fun evening of Karaoke will be held from 7-11 p.m. Thursday at Sports Haven. The background music and words to the songs are provided; you provide the lead vocals. "Choose your favorite songs from our song book and perform solos, duets, or sing with a group. Make your friends your guests!" For more information, call Sports Haven 876-6595.

OFFICERS CLUB — Members can ring in the new year and dance the night away at the Officers Club's "New Year's Eve Ball." Tickets are on sale now at \$26.95 per person. "Seating is limited, so reserve yours early!" Dinner is from 7-9 p.m., dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.; and breakfast is served from 12:30-1:30 a.m. For more information, call 830-CLUB.

POST RESTAURANT — On Dec. 14, look for your 50 percent off coupon at all Post Restaurant cafeterias. Coupons are good at all Post Restaurant cafeterias through the month of December. "This is our special Christmas gift to you!" For more information, call 876-8741.

OUTDOOR RECREATION — A turkey shoot will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 11 between the trap and skeet ranges. "For only \$3 per shot, you can test your skill and have a great time." Outdoor Recreation will provide weapons, or you can use your own 12-gauge shotgun. For your safety, the Trap and Skeet Range will be closed during this event. For more information, call 876-6854.

YOUTH SERVICES — Youth Center members are invited to the Youth Center Winter Day Camp Dec. 20-23, Dec. 27-30 and Jan. 3-4, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 per day per member. Children must bring their own sack lunches or bring money to eat from the snack bar. For more information, call 876-KIDS.

Officers wives

The Officers Wives Club invites its members to experience the joy of giving at the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Brunch on Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. Cost is \$4. Reservations and cancellations should be made by noon Dec. 10 to Brenda Abernathy 722-9985, or PegE Michaud 880-1628.

Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold its monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 13 in building 5250, room A-115. For more information, call 881-7430 or 876-4880.

Basketball tournament

The Pagano Gym/Schick three-on-three basketball tournament will be held Jan. 19, 20 and 21 at Pagano Gym. This event — for active duty military only — is limited to the first 24 entries; maximum of four players per team. For more information, call Joe Reed or Don Lewis 876-7969.

Santa's visit

The Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association is sponsoring "Santa and His Elves" on Dec. 17 from 1-4 p.m. Santa will be visiting the housing areas on post, distributing goodies to all the kids.

Lost ring

Lost: Mother's/Grandmother's ring, left in restroom off lobby of building 5250 on Nov. 29. Sentimental value. Call Nancy Campbell, 876-3862 or 379-3198 (home) if found.

Jobs symposium

A jobs symposium, the third in a series sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, will be held 5:30-6:30 p.m. today — note date change from Dec. 7 — at the BDM Conference Room in Research Park. "Presenters with jobs/positions to fill both locally and nationally include: executive recruiters, contract hiring companies with both local and national offices." Bring a current updated resume. For more information, call Linda Keen 837-4287.

Vehicle identification

On Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the traffic section of Provost Marshal Office will conduct automobile windshield etching and bicycle registration at the Military Police Substation, building 1140 which is at the intersection of Goss Road and Crozier Drive. These services will be offered on a first come, first serve basis to all soldiers, family members and civilian employees. Those who are unable to take advantage of this opportunity on Dec. 11, may call the substation at 876-2752 and make an appointment to have their windshield etched at a later date.

Professional engineers

The Huntsville Chapter of the Society of Professional Engineers will meet at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 13 at the Holiday Inn Madison Square. Susan Weber, wetland ecologist for the city of Huntsville, is to speak on "An Introduction to Wetlands and Associated Regulations." For more information, call Tom Schwaller 544-6305.



Carpool Hotline

Call 876-1500 to place your free carpool ad.

Recruiting battalion wins second straight championship

The U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Montgomery has been recognized as the No. 1 recruiting battalion in the Army for the second year in a row.

"The hard work and long hours put in by each and every member of this battalion have made Montgomery the 'top battalion' in Army recruiting for FY '93," said Lt. Col. Jamiel Saliba, commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Montgomery.

The battalion, headquartered at Maxwell Air Force Base's Gunter Annex, is responsible for Regular Army and U.S. Army Reserve recruiting in a 60,000 square mile area encompassing the state of Alabama and the panhandle of Florida. The battalion includes five company headquarters located in Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery plus 32 recruiting stations located throughout the area.

"It has been a great year and I am so proud of every member of this battalion, especially the family members, whose support and understanding is essential," Saliba said. "Most importantly the soldiers demonstrated that they are true champions earning national championships in FY '92 and now FY '93." (News release from U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Montgomery.)



REPEAT CHAMPS — Lt. Col. Saliba, commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion-Montgomery, left, accepts the plaque recognizing the battalion as the "Two Time National Champs" of Army recruiting for fiscal 1992 and '93 from Brig. Gen. Robert Roper Jr., deputy commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky. Sharing the limelight is Sgt. Maj. William Eddy, the current sergeant major, and retired Sgt. Maj. Rodney Campbell who was the battalion's sergeant major from March 1992 to May 1993.

MICOM loans information processor to local community

BY SANDA MARTEL

Travelers arriving at Huntsville International Airport can get information about lodging, restaurants, entertainment and directions to Redstone Arsenal with the touch of a fingertip, courtesy of the Missile Command.

Touch for Information Processing System (TIPS) was formally presented to city, county and Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau officials at a Nov. 30 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the airport.

TIPS provides information about Redstone Arsenal and the greater Huntsville area and prints directions and a map to desired location. Categories of information include restaurants, lodging, golf courses, shopping, and Redstone Arsenal.

"Thanks for this wonderful addition to our information center," said Judy Ryals, executive director of Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau. She noted that at times when their booth at the airport is not manned, visitors will still be able to get the information they need.

In welcoming guests to the ribbon cutting, Maj. Gen. Joe Rigby, MICOM commander, noted that the TIPS has been well-received at the Visitor Reception Center since its installation in June 1991. An additional unit was installed at the Military Personnel Office in September 1992.

The TIPS on loan at the airport uses the same format, but has added categories to include tourist information.

Also taking part in the ceremony were John Mountain, MICOM's corporate information officer, Huntsville Mayor Steve Hettinger, and Madison County Commission Chairman Mike Gillespie.



RIBBON CUTTING — Launching the TIPS at Huntsville International Airport are, from left, Mountain, Gillespie, Ryals, Hettinger and Rigby.

Preventive maintenance a service in family housing

Editor's note: The Housing Management Division provided the following article.

During the next few weeks the Housing Management Division will publish articles to communicate to family housing residents the procedures for requesting and receiving repairs to their quarters. Understanding how the maintenance and repair program functions is the key to customer satisfaction.

The Preventive Maintenance program in this article is our first series of discussions. Future articles will discuss such topics as placing a Service Order call, Self-Help Maintenance, Prioritization of Work, Response Times, Individual Job Orders, and Between Occupancy Maintenance. We hope each resident will find these articles helpful and be receptive to follow the procedures discussed. Comments concerning the published articles may be submitted to Housing Management Division, building 111.

Preventive Maintenance service gives the occupant an opportunity to have a craftsman look at those problems that you notice all the time but cannot seem to find time to call in. PM is scheduled to be accomplish-

ed on each set of quarters and appliances every six months. Each month a list of quarters scheduled for PM will be published in the *Rocket* for your convenience. Quarters will be tagged a minimum of two days prior to scheduled visit. Residents who cannot be home during the time of the scheduled visit are requested to call the Housing Maintenance Shop at 876-7061 to reschedule the service appointment. In households where both spouses work and there is no way for one of them to be home during the day for the

scheduled PM service, the contractor will schedule appointments after normal duty hours. Residents should keep a list of all items that need to get fixed which are beyond the scope of self-help maintenance, and give the list to the PM team. This practice will reduce service order calls, thereby saving your time and keeping costs for repairs to a minimum.

Quarters scheduled for PM during December are 408-497.

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HIV screening recommended for Americans receiving German blood

Editor's note: Fox Army Community Hospital provided the following article.

A German pharmaceutical firm, UB Plasma, allegedly allowed HIV-positive blood products to be shipped to a number of civilian hospitals and clinics across Germany.

A possibility exists that those United States personnel while stationed in European Command who received a transfusion of blood related products in a German civilian medical treatment facility since 1985 may be at risk. At this time the known specific blood products involved are: fresh frozen plasma, cryoprecipitate, and coagulation factor concentrates.

Blood products obtained in U.S. military medical treatment facilities since 1985 are safe. The Armed Services Blood Program's blood banking operations are licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and certified by the American Association of Blood Banks, and all blood products are tested and processed in ac-

cordance with the strict requirements established by these organizations.

Although the risk of exposure to the contaminated blood plasma products is minimal, the Office of the Surgeon General encourages those beneficiaries assigned to the EUCOM since 1985 and who received blood products at a German hospital or clinic, report to a Department of Defense medical treatment facility for possible testing for the antibody to HIV. Individuals eligible for testing include:

- Active duty personnel and their family members.
- Retired military personnel and their family members.
- Former active duty personnel and their family members.
- Active duty and retired personnel who are concerned about sexual contact with German nationals. (Former beneficiaries who had sexual contact with

German nationals should report to local civilian sources for testing at their own expense.)

- Current and former DoD employees and their family members.

Those individuals eligible for testing are encouraged to call the Preventive Medicine Service community health nurses at 876-8831.

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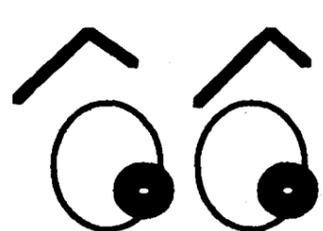
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The deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday before the Wednesday publication. However, classifieds will be published as space permits. First come, first served basis.

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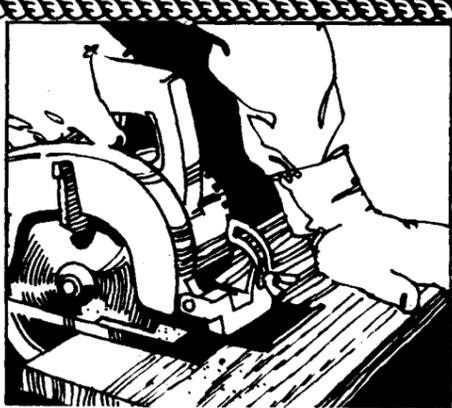
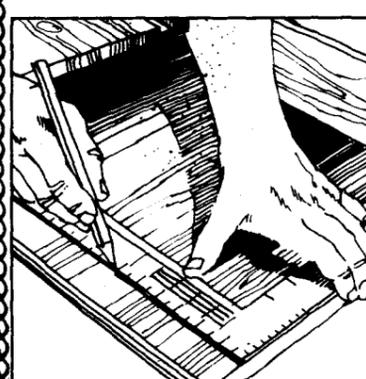
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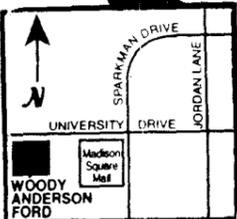
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