



Redstone Ro

FLEMMING BOOK BINDING
73 COUNTY RD. 1441
QUITMAN MS 39355

VOL. 46 No. 1

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

January 8, 1997

AMCOM: 1997 brings formation of merged command

By Skip Vaughn

With the disestablishment of MICOM and the formation of the Aviation and Missile Command, 1997 will be an exciting year for the Missile Command.

Maj. Gen. James Link, commander of MICOM and Redstone Arsenal, encourages the work force to ensure a smooth transition. The Aviation and Missile Command will join the aviation function from St. Louis with this organization here Oct. 1.

"The greatest challenge is to ensure this transition remains transparent to our most important customer—the soldier in the field," Link said.

The year also brings additional downsizing. Hundreds of workers are ending their government career with early-out incentive bonuses. Also, MICOM's approximately 140 term employees—those hired for a specified period such as one year—will see their contracts end in March.

Link expressed confidence that the command's downsizing efforts have averted forced layoffs in 1997. "We are confident that we have been able to demonstrate to headquarters Army Materiel Command that with the extraordinary efforts we have taken

to organize ourselves for the future—through VERA/VSIP (Voluntary Early Retirement Authority/Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay) and the regional civilian personnel center—all these efforts will get us into a position where we will not have to forcibly remove employees.

"So, our strategy is to move further downsizing into fiscal year 1998, so we can build AMCOM (Aviation and Missile Command) and position ourselves for our future reductions at the turn of the century. And we think we can do this without a reduction in force," Link said.

Every effort will be made to help displaced term workers find new employment if they desire, considering the command's downsizing efforts and hiring freeze. "Obviously the best opportunity for new hires comes with the advent of AMCOM," Link said.

An estimated 45 percent of the 2,300 workers from Aviation and Troop Command in St. Louis are expected to move with their jobs. This would mean about 800 to 1,000 potential vacancies at the Aviation and Missile Command—not counting the additional contractor jobs.

In April an advance party of approxi-



LOOKING AHEAD— Link expects an exciting year which includes completion of the Heflin buildings at the Sparkman Center.

mately 100 from the Program Executive Office for Aviation is expected to arrive. Most of the ATCOM workers who are moving will start arriving in July. New and renovated facilities will be occupied from late July through the end of October. "We expect the move to be complete before the end of cal-

endar year 1997," Link said.

Move-related construction projects to be completed this year include the two new Heflin buildings in the Sparkman Center, and renovations to buildings 5681 and

See 1997 on page 16

Construction work at Heflin building reaches top point

Buildings 5308 and 5309, the latest additions to the Sparkman Center, will be completed by the end of September, although workers will begin occupying the building as soon as each floor is completed, as early as August.

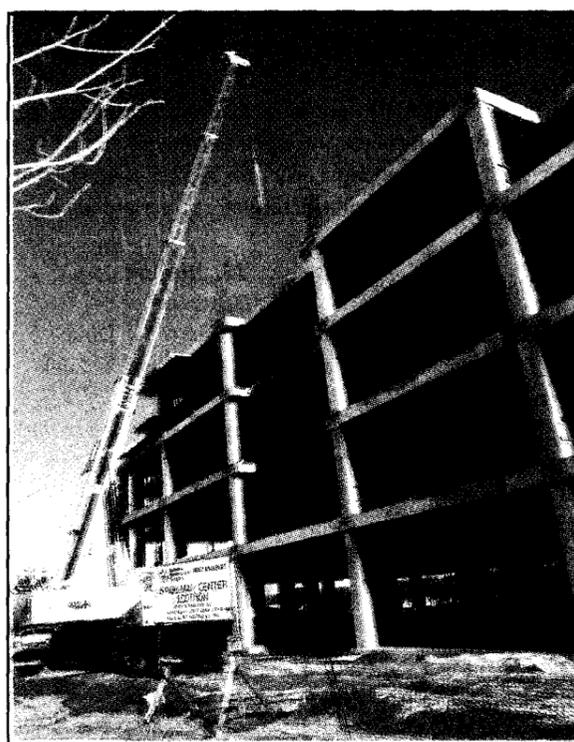
This will be just in time to accommodate additional workers arriving from St. Louis to merge with MICOM workers to create the new Aviation and Missile Command, which will be activated Oct. 1.

A topping-out ceremony, an event traditionally held at construction sites when a building reaches its highest point, was held Dec. 20 at building 5309.

The two buildings contain approximately 236,000

square feet of administrative space and are being built by Universal Construction Company of Huntsville. Cost of the Heflin buildings, named in honor of retiring Sen. Howell Heflin of Alabama, is \$28 million. The total also includes upgrading traffic signals in and out of the Sparkman Center, a cafeteria expansion to include an additional hot food line, increased seating, kitchen equipment and a new food court for fast food.

These two buildings bring to the Sparkman Center a total of nine buildings and total office administrative space of 1,000,000 square feet to accommodate 4,000 workers.



TOPPING OUT— Construction has reached the top of a new four-story structure at the Sparkman Center. This building, along with a new three-story facility, are named in honor of retiring U.S. Sen. Howell Heflin of Alabama. A topping-out ceremony at the four-story structure was held Dec. 20.

Cost cutting efforts among priorities at MICOM in 1996

Here are some 1996 headlines from the pages of this newspaper:

- **January:** Dr. Arthur Rudolph, a member of the Wernher von Braun rocket team, died Jan. 1 at his home in Hamburg, Germany. He was 89.... Redstone Arsenal Support Activity celebrates its 25th anniversary.
- **February:** The Army selects Redstone as the site for a regional civilian personnel center which will open in March 1997.
- **March:** A roll-out ceremony is held for the first THAAD missile to be fully assembled and tested at Lockheed Martin's Courtland facility. THAAD stands for Theater High Altitude Area Defense.

- **April:** Redstone Arsenal receives a runner-up award in the annual Army Communities of Excellence competition.... The Corps of Engineers, Mobile District awards a \$28 million contract to Universal Construction Company of Huntsville for the construction of two additional buildings at the Sparkman Center.
- **May:** Military gunners from Fort Lewis, Wash., arrive to test fire a new target acquisition system for the TOW missile.... The Missile Command receives an award from the Huntsville Land Trust and the state of Alabama for its efforts in environmental management and planning.

See COST on page 2

Letters to the editor

Drill sergeants

Recently, drill sergeants have taken quite a beating from the press. This negative publicity not only impacts those drill sergeants who have done a great job in the past, but also those who are currently performing in a superb manner.

For this reason, I am compelled to speak out. I served as a drill sergeant from 1992-95 at Fort McClellan. During my tenure I served as a drill sergeant and senior drill sergeant. I and others who were on the drill sergeant trail at Fort McClellan executed our duties in this prestigious position with the utmost professionalism and dedication.

The drill sergeants out there are doing an exceptional job. They serve in a highly stressful environment. As a result of recent allegations, it has gotten even more stressful for those who are giving all that they have to give out there on the trail. They should be commended because they are doing a job that only a few highly motivated, dedicated, and topnotch noncommissioned officers can do or want to do.

Because a few have fallen, it doesn't mean that the drill sergeants who are out there serving with pride and dignity are not doing their best. Drill sergeants out there should continue to lead the way and hold their head up high.

For those who are about ready to enter the military, be assured that those noncommissioned officers will carry out their assignments with the utmost integrity.

For those who have been chosen to be among the few—a drill sergeant—go out and do as the slogan goes, "Be all that you can be."

SFC Veronica Edmiston
Senior operations sergeant,
Provost Marshal Office

Life in the Army

A view of Army life...

From the time that I met you, you promised to take care of me as long as I stayed true and loyal to you. You promised me that after 20 years or so that you would take care of me for the rest of my life if I always stayed true.

You gave me a place to stay and food to eat. I never questioned your loyalty to me. You even gave me medical and dental care; you supplied all my needs. You were the next best thing to mom's apple pie. You were kind and tolerated all my mistakes because I was still a child when I came to you. You instilled in me all the values of home and the oneness of family throughout the years.

You provided teachers to guide me and many sisters and brothers to talk to. Everyone is different but you raised us to believe we were part of a team, a part of you. You taught us to fight together and not with one another. You groomed us to stand tall no matter where we were or what we had to do. You instilled pride in all of us to do our best and that's all that was asked of us to give.

We tried to please you in every way, we followed your rules in hopes of one day being the best in our chosen fields. We knew that if we followed the rules we would move up quickly among the structures of ranks. We never questioned this idea. We engaged in finding knowledge through many schools, both military and civilian.

As I look back over the years, I see what I was and what I am today. I still think that I made the right decision by leaving my home and joining you. You were kind and gentle when we first met and then you began to change as the years began to wear on. You became so unforgiving and you forgot about all the promises you made to me.

You began to take them away one at a time and now all I want to do is divorce you and go on with my life.

In the beginning I was so full of hope for me and you, you gave me a drill instructor who was tough but always let me know if I needed him, he would be there to push me on. In those 20 weeks you taught me how to survive and lead others along the way. You gave me pride in all that we do. You sent me to foreign lands and back.

I progressed through the ranks and then you asked even more of me. You finally made a drill instructor out of me; I enjoyed it for the three years I was there because I wanted to make a difference. I instilled pride and professionalism in all that I met and taught them the rules as guidelines to follow. I taught them that you were hard but fair and that if they worked hard you would reward them graciously.

This I did out of my loyalty for you. I groomed myself to excel at all that I tried. I even wanted to be your next poster model to let everyone else know how I felt about you. As my time comes to a close with you, I now feel cheated for all that I let you take from me without holding you accountable for the guarantees that you said would still be there for me as I close this chapter of my life.

You have broken almost all your promises to me and now I have no trust in you because you are prone to cheat me once more. Though these feelings are there about you, I can't help but still love you. I have had many disappointments and many successes with you. Over the years when I thought we were through, you always came back promising something new.

Though I never asked much of you, sometimes I sit and wonder how you honestly feel about me? Though now we are going through rough times, I will not forsake you and I hope you will also stand beside me! My loyalty is still true!

SFC Veronica Edmiston
Senior operations sergeant,
Provost Marshal Office

Jaywalking golfers

When the new golf course clubhouse was built, time was taken to put into place a tunnel so that golfers could reach the original greens. Is this tunnel only for those golfers on carts? Why can't the golfers who wish to get their daily cardiovascular workout use this tunnel? The reason I am asking is because on numerous occasions I have seen golfers on foot crossing Goss Road risking serious injury by taking on the perennial 2,000-pound automobile. There will be a very serious accident in this area if someone does not correct the problem now. At different locations on the Arsenal you can see the nice flashing deer crossing signs alerting you to the possible danger of striking a deer crossing the road. Do we need one of these with a picture of a golfer pulling his clubs?

M. Justice
Madison

(Editor's note: Lee Hicks, deputy director for Directorate of Community and Family Activities, provided the following response. "We also share the concerns of the author. Since day one, there has been a sign posted in the golf pro shop encouraging golfers on foot to use the tunnel. Also, signs have recently been installed on both sides of Goss Road informing the golfers on foot to use the tunnel. We will continue to discourage the practice of crossing Goss Road by golfers on foot.")

Guards return to gates on Jan. 13

Guards/police will begin manning perimeter gates at Redstone Arsenal on Jan. 13.

The north portion of the post (gates 8 and 10) will not be manned at all times. This will permit limited access during normal operating hours of authorized patrons to Community and Family facilities such as the Post Exchange, Commissary, Fox Army Community Hospital, clubs, golf course, bowling alley, military gymnasiums, Army Community Service, craft shops, etc.

A new portable gate will be placed and manned (5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days per week) near the intersection of Neal Road and Patton Road to restrict unauthorized access to the central and southern portions of the Arsenal. (Patriot Drive will be blocked near the intersection of Neal Road and Patriot Drive.) It will be unmanned from 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. once gate 8 is fully manned.

Gate 8 on Goss Road will be open 24 hours daily—seven days per week. It will be unmanned from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and manned from 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. seven days per week. This will be the Arsenal's only entry and exit

point between 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Gate 10 on Patton Road will be open but unmanned from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days per week. All remaining gates will be manned as previously published.

Here is the planned schedule for those gates:

- Gate 1 (Martin Road east), 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; inbound 5:30-8:15 a.m. and outbound 3-6 p.m. Also open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.
- Gate 2 (Buxton Road): 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed weekends and holidays.
- Gate 3 (Redstone Road): 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed weekends and holidays.
- Gate 7 (Martin Road west): 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed weekends and holidays.
- Gate 9 (Rideout Road): 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. hours/day, all days.

This change will increase the Arsenal's security posture while retaining ease of access to Community and Family facilities on the north end of the post.

COST

Continued from page 1

- **June:** The Missile Command begins accepting early retirement applications in an effort to meet a funding shortfall.... Javelin—a manportable, fire and forget, antitank system arrives in the field. The first unit fielded is the 3rd Battalion, 75th Rangers at Fort Benning, Ga.
- **July:** The Post Theater closes due to lack of business.
- **August:** Roland Blow, a Missile Command logistic assistance representative who was injured in a deadly terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia in June, receives the Purple Heart medal.
- **September:** SFC Mona Augustus and Spec. Lee Bertram are named Redstone's NCO and Soldier of the Year, respectively.
- **October:** The civilian pay function transfers from here to Omaha, Neb.
- **November:** The Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGV) Joint Project Office welcomes three soldiers home from their mine-clearing work in Bosnia.... The commanders of MICOM and ATCOM jointly identify key officials of the merged command which stands up in October 1997.
- **December:** The Missile Command kicks off its value engineering efforts for fiscal 1997 after exceeding its goal for VE savings in fiscal '96. The command saved more than \$203 million in fiscal '96 through this program which looks at functions of weapon systems and cuts their costs.

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Advertising office 539-9828

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

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is The Advertiser Company, located at 3315 Bob Wallace Ave. Suite 106, Huntsville AL 35805.

The deadline for display and commercial classification is 4 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

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No RIF expected at MICOM in fiscal year 1997

The new year brought good news for Missile Command workers concerned about their job security.

There won't be a reduction in force here during fiscal 1997, according to MICOM officials. The command should be able to achieve its required strength levels through attrition and early-out.

Gen. Johnnie Wilson, commander of Army Materiel Command, confirmed that assessment in a Dec. 23 memo to Maj. Gen. James Link, commander of MICOM and Redstone Arsenal. Wilson's letter was in response to a Dec. 2 memo from MICOM on the impacts of implementing a reduction in force.

"In response to your correspondence, I sent a team of experts from my staff to

Huntsville to validate MICOM's downsizing strategy," Wilson wrote. "Based on an evaluation of the information provided to the team, I have been advised that MICOM can negate

their FY97 RIF and achieve their FY97 end state through the use of Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP), Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) and other known

attrition. Given MICOM's projected FY97 attrition, there is no longer a need to expand their VERA/VSIP authorities to cover employees of the U.S. Army Aviation and Troop Command

(ATCOM).

"I appreciate and support your efforts to limit the adverse impact on our personnel caused by downsizing. I encourage you to continue to aggressively

pursue all available programs to ensure you meet your FY97 end state by 30 Sept. '97 through voluntary separation incentives and attrition," Wilson concluded.

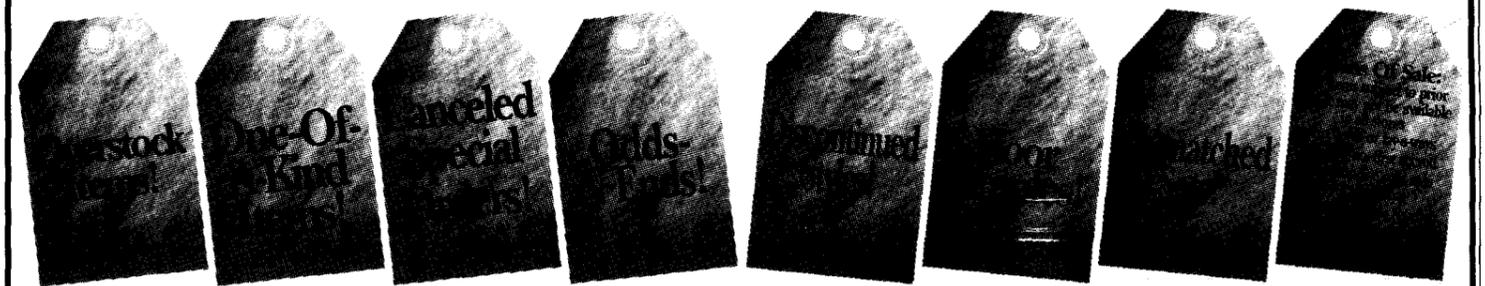
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<p>Living Room</p> <p>Name Brand Upholstery well made Contemporary sofa. Was \$599. Now \$444</p> <p>100% Italian leather sofa, European styling with pillow top seating. Was \$999. Now \$743</p> <p>Alan White's Traditional style sofa in today's designer fabric. Was \$799. Now \$474</p> <p>Berklene dual-chaise reclining sofa & love seat in a rich teal leather. Was \$2,369 Both pcs. Now \$1,421</p> <p>Transitional style designer loveseat. Was \$669. Now \$118</p> <p>Contemporary scatter back sofa & loveseat in today's colors. Was \$979 Both pcs. Now \$675</p> <p>Nunziato 100% leather sofa, rich burgundy color with pillow top seating. Was \$899. Now \$671</p> <p>95i sofa by River Oaks - pillow-backed, rolled arm in 100% cotton print. Was \$499. Now \$318</p> <p>Large club chair & ottoman. Was \$779. Now \$154</p> <p>3 piece sectional in 100% Italian leather everywhere the body touches. Includes chaise recliner, and innerspring sleeper. Was \$1,999. Now \$1,484</p> <p>Sofa. Transitional style in a durable textured fabric. Was \$699. Now \$418</p> <p>Occasional</p> <p>3 piece table set in light scrubbed finish has castered cocktail table & 2 end tables. Was \$649. Now \$267</p> <p>Odd end tables in various styles & finishes. Was \$99 & up. Now \$64</p> <p>All wood end table or cocktail table in Queen Anne design. Was \$239. Now \$124</p> <p>Versatile roll top desk in oak finish. Was \$399. Now \$196</p> <p>Accent end table in vine & lattice motif with glass top. Was \$168. Now \$47</p> <p>Odd cocktail tables - choose from a variety of styles. Was \$119 & up. Now \$74</p> <p>Recliners/Chairs</p> <p>Elegant accent chair features hand carved wood. Was \$599. Now \$233</p> <p>La-Z-Boy recliner at this terrific price. Was \$449. Now \$196</p> <p>Plush, comfy recliner by Berklene. Was \$599. Now \$228</p> <p>Swivel rocker in decorator fabric. A perfect accent for any room. Was \$399. Now \$144</p> <p>Traditional style rocker recliner by Stratford. Was \$699. Now \$368</p> <p>Dining Groups</p> <p>5 piece dinette in natural finish has 36x60 table and 4 Windsor chairs. Was \$699. Now \$374</p>	<p>Odd dinette chair - various styles & finishes. Starting at. Now \$18</p> <p>Floor sample - 5 piece dinette. Was \$599. Now \$199</p> <p>4 piece living room group - leather match. Now \$1,399</p> <p>Odd dining room tables Starting at. Now \$99</p> <p>Bedroom</p> <p>Name brand queen size bed in a cherry finish. Was \$999. Now \$398</p> <p>3 drawer Italian made night stand. Was \$299. Now \$98</p> <p>Twin/full bunk bed in choice of colors. Was \$249. Now \$177</p> <p>Queen size canopy bed in black matte finish. Was \$299. Now \$197</p> <p>Cedar chest - choose from a variety of styles & finishes. Was \$299 & up. Starting at \$158</p> <p>Odd bedroom pieces - headboards, night stands, chests & dressers. Was \$299 & up. Starting at \$45</p> <p>Out of box, bedframes, rails, full size & queen size. Was \$39 & up. Now \$5</p> <p>Floor sample entertainment center. Was \$599 & up. Now \$446</p> <p>Classic cherry computer work center. Was \$699. Now \$449</p> <p>Bedding</p> <p>Simmons Slumber Rest twin size mattress or boxsprings. Was \$119 ea. pc. Now \$44 ea. pc</p> <p>Sealy queen size mattress set, discontinued Posturepedic model. Was \$699. Now \$288</p> <p>Simmons Beautyrest queen mattress set. Floor model. Was \$499. Now \$257</p> <p>Spring Air Majestic full size mattress or boxspring. Was \$239 ea. pc. Now \$174 ea. pc</p> <p>Sealy Posturepedic - twin sets - discontinued models. Was \$549. Now \$188</p> <p>Odds & Ends</p> <p>Queen Anne style roll bench in a selection of colors. Was \$229. Now \$116</p> <p>Queen Anne style storage bench. Was \$59. Now \$37</p> <p>Baker's rack in vine & lattice motif. Was \$229. Now \$88</p> <p>Cheval mirror in cherry finish. Was \$119. Now \$48</p> <p>Traditional plant stand in cherry finish with marble. Was \$69. Now \$29</p> <p>Lamps & Accessories</p> <p>One of a kind lamps - different colors & styles. From \$99 to \$199 Now only. Now \$48 ea.</p> <p>5 ft. to 7 ft. ficus and other misc. trees. From \$139 to \$199 Now only. Now \$77</p> <p>Various selection of discontinued accessories, florals, glassware, artwork & more. Now 1/2 OFF!!</p> <p>Wood trimmed oval mirror in cherry finish. Was \$99. Now \$37</p> <p>Area rugs a variety of styles - one of a kind floor samples - various sizes. From \$199 to \$299. Now \$93</p> <p>Sleep Sofas</p> <p>Simmons queen sleeper covered in a rich jewel tone durable fabric. Maxipedic mattress. Was \$799. Now \$593</p> <p>Twin/Full/Queen size sleeper by Simmons with maxipedic mattress. Was \$599 Now your choice of sizes. Now \$399</p> <p>Futon - black powder finish frame with geometric print mattress. Has removable snack table. Was \$429. Now \$314</p> <p>Plaid transitional style queen sleeper by Simmons. Was \$1,199. Now \$597</p> <p>Floor sample - queen sleepers - styles will vary. Was \$699 to \$999. Now \$199</p>
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Army Community Service ready for 1997 challenges

By Kathy Harkleroad

1996 was a busy year for Army Community Service; and the ACS chief expects another banner year in 1997.

"We implemented several new programs last year, and all were a great success," Sue Paddock said. "We also improved or enhanced many of the programs we already had in place and have seen a great response in those programs."

The Relocation Program was one of the areas that grew the quickest and saw many changes and improvements. "We updated the Standard Information Topic Exchange System (SITES) and went on the Internet," Paddock said. "We have also averaged 50 requests per month for SITES information here in our office."

The relocation program also sponsored several workshops for the community and began working with the pending move of workers from St. Louis. "We held several seminars on mortgage rates, home buying, and home loan information and all were very well attended," Paddock said.

Operation Ready Training was a new program implemented at ACS and involved disseminating information to the various units on how units can be more responsive to soldier and family separations. "This was a new program for us and after receiving the material from DA we went to all the units and briefed them," Paddock said. "We made copies of the tapes for each unit, and furnished them with the hard copy information as well. This is really a great program and includes information on everything from the soldiers leaving, how to get financial affairs in order, various types of paperwork, and even how to plan reunions."

Another area within ACS that saw some

changes last year was the Family Member Employment Program. "We had several workshops on resume writing, how to conduct a job search; and Debra (Jefferson) worked with the youth during the summer and helped with a pre-job fair orientation," Paddock said. "We are also looking at a major addition to the program this year and will be adding a room that will include computers, typewriters, phones, fax machines and Internet capabilities that will greatly enhance career planning and job assistance."

The Army Emergency Relief fund-raising campaign was a big success and once again exceeded its goal. "This (past) year's goal was \$40,000 and thanks to the support of the community we collected over \$46,000," Paddock said. "We had a tremendous response from the community and it was greatly appreciated."

Other programs within ACS were also busy last year and included the Exceptional Family Member program which participated in the Jaycees Disabilities Day at the fair, Special Olympics Bowling and Track and Field. The Education Committee hosted the Parent/Principal Night in August, and the Principal's Breakfast earlier that year. The Consumer Affairs program offered many workshops on financial planning and investing for retirement. The Family Advocacy Program worked heavily with outside agencies in developing the Peer Helper Training program, and sponsored several workshops on parenting, stress management and other family related topics.

In looking at 1997 Paddock sees many challenges, but looks forward to facing those challenges and maintaining the ser-



SPECIAL HELP— ACS participates in many community events throughout the year and the Special Olympics track and field event is one. Soldiers from the post escorted children throughout the day at the event.

vices at ACS.

"We are looking at the possibility of a smaller staff this year and we have been focusing on intense cross training. All of us are proud of the fact that we have always been able to offer the soldier and family members one-on-one assistance, and we will be working hard this year to continue that tradition," Paddock said.

"ACS never works alone and we are looking forward to another year of working

hand-in-hand with the various support agencies both on and off post to help the soldiers," she added. "We are also looking forward to working with our volunteers and with the possible upcoming staff shortage, we will be relying on them more and more."

"We are here for whoever needs us and will do the best job we can to help them," Paddock said. "Filling those needs is our main goal."

SURVIVE THE RIDE!

RAY LIOTTA LAUREN HOLLY

TURBULENCE

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PHOTOGRAPH BY LLOYD ALBERT II, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER KEVIN SAARLES PRODUCED BY MARTIN RANSOHOFF DAVID VALDES WRITTEN BY JONATHAN BRETT DIRECTED BY ROBERT BUTLER

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January 2 through January 31, 1997
Huntsville and Madison County

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Here's How:

Note: Make sure your old phone books are dry and unwrapped.

- Deliver books to these two drop-sites and help the HSV/Madison County public or private school of your choice compete for \$3,000 in cash prizes provided by BAPCO. (School credits available only at drop-sites.)

BFI-District Office

4704 Commercial Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35816
P: 837-2670

BFI-The Recyclery

1004 A Cleaner Way
Huntsville, AL 35805
P: 881-2347

- Put books in your blue curbside recycling bin.
- Put books in the newspaper containers at the recycling centers throughout the country
- Put books beside a Coca-Cola vending machine.

QUESTIONS? Call 880-6054

This telephone book recycling program is administered for the community by the Solid Waste Disposal Authority

832nd Ordnance Battalion keeps its focus on training

By Kathy Harkleroad

Training was the buzzword for soldiers of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion last year. And it will be the focus again this year, according to battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kathleen Meehan.

The battalion did something new in 1996 when it incorporated the Common Task Training Skills into a Situation Training Exercise. Each company within the battalion took the field for the day and put their skills of land navigation, first aid and survival skills to the test.

"It was quite an experience for them and I think everyone learned a lot," Meehan said. "Each soldier worked in a squad and each scenario caused the soldiers

at some point to react to enemy fire, sending radio traffic, assisting casualties and medical evacuations. It also tested their ability to react to chemical agents.

"We are definitely going to continue this type of training in the future as it really enhances the training they participate in all year long. It also gives the platoon leaders, operation NCOs, first sergeants, and company commanders an opportunity to work closely together and gives them an experience with command and control," she added. "This type of training is also more physically demanding than walking through stations in a parking lot."

Training also played an important part in several of the other events sponsored by the battalion which

included the annual Orienteering Meet, Battalion Mil Stakes, and drown proofing. "In those events we take the skills that have already been learned by the soldier and make a competition event. There they can enhance their skills as well as have some fun doing it," Meehan said.

While training is first and foremost for the battalion, there are other events that the battalion sponsors. Last year the Ordnance Ball was held at the Officers Club; and plans are already

under way for this year's ball. "We learned a lot from last year's ball, and have taken those lessons and have incorporated them into the planning of this year's ball," Meehan said. "We have already started the planning, and invitations should go out the middle of next month."

The battalion sponsored the annual organizational/family day which gave soldiers and family members a time to play.

In looking forward to 1997, Meehan said there is

the possibility of a new program. "It has been suggested that we sponsor an iron-soldier type of event that will include several competition events," she said. "It will be not only physically demanding but will include a combination of marksmanship, ruck sack march, some obstacle course events and orienteering skills events. Right now we are in the development stage of the competition and look forward to implementing it."

Also in store for the battalion are several transitions

of commanders. "We will see new commanders for HQ/Alpha Company, Delta Company and HHC," Meehan said. "Those change of commands should happen sometime this spring and of as right now I don't have a date for either of them."

1997 is going to be a good year and full of good training, according to Meehan. "We have lots of exciting events, and will stay focused on training," she said. "We are always looking for new ideas when it comes to training."



BATTALION STAKES— The annual 832nd Ordnance Battalion Stakes was among many activities soldiers assigned to the battalion took part in last year. SFC Norman Smith, HHC MICOM, left, grades Pvt. Jamison Roberts of B Company on the M16A2 function test as part of the competition.

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WORTH REDEFINING

"Count that day lost whose low descending sun
Views from thy hand no worth action done.

—anonymous

"In a time of turbulence and change, it is more true than ever that knowledge is power."

—John F. Kennedy
(1917-1963)
U.S. president

Retiring contract professional always tried to be fair

By Fred Carr and Charlotte Masucci

"Antiquated, computer illiterate PCO retires" was how Jerry McMurry described his pending departure.

McMurry, a division chief in the Acquisition Center, concluded 33 years of procurement work with the government. He retired Friday. During his career, he worked for NASA, Safeguard and the Missile Command.

Anyone who has dealt with McMurry during his past 23 years at MICOM is aware that he is recognized as one of the foremost experts on procurement/acquisition at the command; and he is deeply respected by peers, subordinates and superiors alike.

Upon graduating from Jacksonville State in 1960, McMurry had not planned on a career in government contracting. He began his professional career as a junior accountant with Thiokol in 1960 making \$2.56 an hour "which was more money than I ever thought I would make," McMurry said. His job there was to verify the accuracy of a newly-installed computer which tracked the hours worked by Thiokol employees. As the computer became more accurate, his services were needed less; and so when the computer finally became accurate enough so that the numbers did not need to be double checked, he was offered a job as a junior contract administrator on the Nike Zeus program with Thiokol. Although he was an account-

ant by trade, he decided to try contracting as his attitude was "I'll try anything to keep working." He stayed at Thiokol until April 1964 when he heard that NASA was hiring contracts people. "They were hiring anyone who could spell contracts," he said.

He signed up with NASA as a GS-11 contract negotiator and was in on the ground floor of NASA's race to the moon. McMurry was responsible for the contracts for all river barges and seagoing vessels that carried the stages of the spacecraft down the Mississippi River to New Orleans and from there to the Cape. He negotiated and administered some other interesting contracts at NASA including the contract for the first space suit. When NASA started experiencing cutbacks after the 1969 walk on the moon, McMurry took a job at the Safeguard command during the same kind of work. By this time he was a GS-12 contract negotiator and experienced in his new vocation. Nevertheless, he was surprised at the difference between contracting at NASA and the Army. The Army required many more reviews and approvals than NASA; and at MICOM he learned he had to do much more work to award the same number of contracts as he did at NASA. In 1973, Safeguard was projecting a large reduction in force; and being a relatively new GS-13 who would probably be affected by the RIF, McMurry laterally transferred to MICOM. He said he got the job that everyone



McMURRY

else wanted and he was not a popular man for his first six months here at MICOM.

He first worked on the TOW program, was promoted to a GS-14 and worked on the 2.75-inch Rocket System. When the 2.75 system was canceled in 1980, he transferred to Patriot which was going from research and development phase to production. He negotiated the first production buy of the Patriot missile which he said "was the hardest contract I ever dealt with." Preparations for the award of that contract included many hours of uncompensated overtime, Saturdays and Sundays. His current job was easy by comparison, he said. After going through

four more production buys of Patriot, he left in 1986 to become chief of division B within the Acquisition Center. During the last 10 years, his division has provided acquisition support to the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles. He has been responsible for the acquisition of some of the major missile systems the Army has fielded and has seen many good people come and go.

During his entire career, he has been what he calls a "front line negotiator," always responsible for the award of contracts. He thinks that perhaps one of his greatest contributions to contracting has been to bring the negotiator's perception to the process. As

regulations were being staffed for review, he has managed to put some logic and reason into the contracting process.

McMurry has established quite a reputation within the Department of Army for his knowledge of incentive contracting. He said he has been intrigued with incentive contracts ever since his early days at NASA. He believes that much can be accomplished by a good incentive structure, and incentive contracts have a true place during research and development. He said he has enjoyed working with the strategy part of incentive contracting. "And of course whatever you get excited about is what you put a lot of effort into," McMurry added. He became involved with Value Engineering Change Proposals in much the same way and has worked to learn more about that aspect of contracting.

His favorite part of the workday was seeing the people in the office in the morning and getting the status on all the latest personal and professional developments. He also enjoyed meeting his people in the hall and asking detailed status of contractual actions. That was his secret of

remembering status of various actions as he related people to their assigned actions. He thinks his greatest attribute is his memory; and he often amazed the people around him as well as his customers in the program executive offices and the program management offices with his ability to recall facts and numbers.

McMurry said his mother had the greatest influence on his life. She instilled in him at an early age the concept of fairness; and in all of his dealings, professional and personal, he has tried to be fair. His father instilled in him the principle of hard work and to "give it your best— whatever you're doing." Both parents taught him the value of money; he said he has always been conscientious with the taxpayer's money and treated it as if it were his own.

When you look at McMurry's life outside the office, you wonder where he found time to be interested in all the things he does, much less get it all accomplished. He has been a race car driver, owns a 100 acre farm in Guntersville with 50 head of cattle, maintains rental property and operates

See FAIR on page 17

COMPUTERS & ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

INTRO. TO VISUAL BASIC FOR WINDOWS	Jan. 13-17/M-F, 8 am-Noon/TS0198-09
INTER. VISUAL BASIC FOR WINDOWS	Feb. 24-28/M-F, 1-5 pm/TS0199-10
SYSTEM SIMULATION USING MATRIX	Feb. 24-Mar. 11/M-TH, 5:30-9:30 pm/TS3304-01
SURFIN' THE NET: INTRO. TO INTERNET	Jan. 27-29/M-W, 8 am-Noon/TS0246-09
JAVA: PROGRAMMING FOR THE INTERNET	Feb. 4-20/T&TH, 5:30-8:50 pm/TS3285-02
INTRO. TO C PROGRAMMING	Jan. 27-Feb. 7/M-F, 1-5 pm/TS0010-56
ORACLE 7	Feb. 10-19/M-F, 12:30-4:30 pm/TS3236-07
WINDOWS NT WORKSTATION	Feb. 24-Mar. 7/M-F, 8 am-Noon/TS3284-02
SYSTEM ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT	Feb. 4-14/T-F, 6-8:30 pm/TS3195-05

ENGINEER REVIEWS

ENG. IN TRAINING CERTIFICATION REVIEW	Jan. 27-Apr. 7/M&W, 5:30-9:30 pm/TS3009-21
PE REVIEW: ELECTRICAL	Jan. 27-Apr. 7/M&W, 5:30-9:30 pm/TS3090-09
MECHANICAL	Jan. 28-Apr. 8/T&TH, 5:30-9:30 pm/TS3005-10
CIVIL	Jan. 28-Apr. 8/T&TH, 5:30-9:30 pm/TS3011-10
BE PREPARED & PASS THE FE EXAM	Feb. 3-12/M&W, 5:30-9:30pm/TS3308-02

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

BUSINESS LAW & FINANCE	Jan. 14-Apr. 1/T, 6-9 pm/MC6271-01
BENEFITS & COMPENSATION REVIEW	Jan. 29/W, 9 am-4 pm/MC6091-09
LEGAL ASPECTS OF EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES	Feb. 12/W, 9 am-4 pm/MC6013-15
HOW TO SUPERVISE PEOPLE	Feb. 5/W, 9 am-4 pm/MC6229-02
COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR MANAGERS	Feb. 6/TH, 9 am-4 pm/MC6230-02
PROOFREADING & EDITING	Feb. 18-19/T-W, 9 am-4 pm/MC6060-16
BASICS OF COLLECTING PAST DUE ACCOUNTS	Feb. 25/T, 9 am-4 pm/MC6188-06
ADVANCED ISSUES & COLLECTION TECHNIQUE	Feb. 26/W, 9 am-4 pm/MC6288-06
SURVIVAL SKILLS FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS	Feb. 26-27/W-TH, 9am-4pm/MC6198-04

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT	Begins Jan. 27/MCP9902-01
C PROGRAMMING	Begins Jan. 27/WTSP9902-01
NETWORK ENGINEER (NOVELL)	Begins Jan. 21/WTSP9900-01
SYSTEMS ENGINEER (MICROSOFT)	Begins Feb. 24/WTSP9903-01
MULTIMEDIA	Begins Jan. 24/WTSP9901-01
SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT	Next Course in Feb./MCP9905-01

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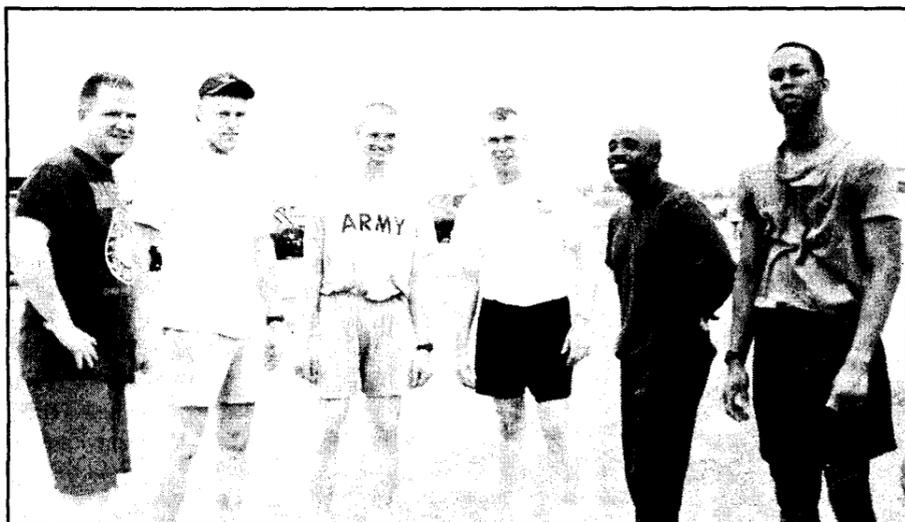
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FUN RUN—Soldiers from B and C Companies who stayed behind during the holiday exodus participated in several activities during the holidays. These are some of the soldiers who started the year out right by participating in the New Year's Day four-mile Fun Run sponsored by Huntsville Track Club.

Soldier students return from their holiday exodus leave

By Kathy Harkleroad

Holiday exodus was a mixed bag for students assigned to the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School. While most of the students left to spend the holidays with their families and friends, others chose to stay behind.

Pvt. Jerry Marquis, from Helena, Mont., was one soldier who chose to spend his holiday here on the Arsenal. "It really wasn't a hard choice to make once I found out it would cost \$2,028 for me to go home," he said. "It just didn't make sense, especially since I am graduating Jan. 10th and will be returning home anyway."

Marquis is attending the course for ammunition specialists and is in the National Guard. "Even though I didn't make it home this year, I still had a nice vacation from school and work," he said. Marquis went on several trips sponsored by the 832nd Ordnance Battal-

ion and went to the Jack Daniel's Distillery, the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge and to the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum.

When asked for the highlight of his holiday stay, Marquis didn't hesitate with the answer. "I got to sleep as much as I wanted," he said with a smile. "I sat around, watched television, visited the Rec Center, and slept."

Cpl. Steven Coons, from Sidney, N.Y., also stayed behind during the exodus, but had a much different holiday break than Marquis. "My family is here and I got to spend the entire time with them, which was really nice," Coons said. Coons has his wife and two children with him as he attends school and is staying with his in-laws.

"I had to pull duty a few times, but basically I had a wonderful Christmas. I even went on a few trips with the other soldiers to Birmingham and to the dis-

tillery, so I got to see quite a bit," he said.

Pvt. Matthew Portel, from Allentown, Pa., went home for the holidays and enjoyed the time with his family and friends. "My dad drove down and picked me up so we had a real nice visit during the trip," Portel said. "The best part of my whole leave was seeing family and friends I haven't seen in quite a while. It really made the holidays complete."

Spec. David Veillion, from Eunice, La., had an extra special Christmas as well when his wife came to Redstone to pick him up and take him home. "I got to spend the time with my wife and two kids, which made my holiday complete," Veillion said. "It just wouldn't have been the same without them."

Students assigned to B and C companies returned Jan. 4, unpacked, reorganized and got back to the business of being a soldier.



RETURNING HOME—Pvt. Lawrence Barideau and Pvt. Jack Pierce, 4 to Redstone Arsenal. The soldiers were picked up by bus from the airport and driven to the company.



Dear Members and Potential Members:

Redstone Federal Credit Union would like to clarify a recent development in the situation regarding restrictions to our Field of Membership. We have received a temporary stay on the previous restrictions to membership which have occurred over the past two months. The stay may be somewhat temporary, however, it will allow potential members the opportunity to join the Credit Union. We ask that you act quickly in opening your account.

A federal appeals court agreed on Dec. 24, that federal credit unions may add new members (and their families) from existing companies within their Field of Membership, who were recently determined ineligible. This latest decision is due to the appeals court's partial stay of a ruling against federal credit unions issued in October. Redstone Federal Credit Union is informing potential members from all of its employer groups to open accounts as soon as possible.

The stay is dependent upon the Supreme Court agreeing to hear the case of appeal by AT&T Family FCU. The AT&T case is the central case which originally brought the issue of unfairly restricting credit unions to the forefront. The decision to hear the case may be made in a matter of weeks, therefore, RFCU is viewing this time period as a window of opportunity and is encouraging potential members and their family members to immediately apply at any RFCU office.

We encourage potential members who may have been turned away in recent weeks to recontact the Credit Union to join at this time. Family members of current members who have been turned away recently are also encouraged to join at this time. It is our hope that we can serve as many potential members as possible, who are seeking the financial services of Redstone. Again, we do encourage those interested to act quickly.

Respectfully,

G.E. Toland
President

Supplemental insurance advised for beneficiaries of Tricare

If you receive medical care outside the military system, and you don't have any other health insurance (or a supplemental policy) to help pay your cost-shares or co-payments, you'll be facing out-of-pocket expenses. Even though Tricare/Champus pays a generous share of the cost of civilian medical bills, your share of the cost might be substantial, depending on whether you use Champus (also known as Tricare Standard in some parts of the country) or choose one of the other Tricare health care options (Prime or Extra).

Tricare/Champus supplemental insurance policies are offered by most military associations and by some private firms. They are designed to reimburse patients for the civilian medical care bills they must pay

after Tricare/Champus pays the government's share of the cost. Before you buy any supplement, carefully consider which plan is best suited to your individual needs.

Each Tricare/Champus supplemental policy has its own rules concerning acceptance for pre-existing conditions, eligibility requirements for the family, deductibles, mental health limitations, long-term illness, well-baby care, care provided to persons with disabilities, claim filing limitations, conversion to Medicare, widow's or widower's benefits, payment limitations under the diagnosis-related group (DRG) payment system for inpatient hospital charges, and rules concerning allowable charges. (Adapted from a Defense Department release.)

Redstone Arsenal motorists urged to use their seatbelts

By Dian Avery

Each year in the United States, nearly 45,000 people die in traffic crashes. Another 10,000 traffic-related injuries are caused each day on the nation's streets and highways.

The human tragedy resulting from motor vehicle crashes has clearly become a major problem in the United States. The real tragedy however, is that more than half of these deaths and injuries could be prevented by simply "buckling up."

Redstone Arsenal was one of the first localities in Alabama to require mandatory usage of seatbelts and was commended by the Alabama Governor's Commission for

Traffic Safety for being instrumental in helping to pass a mandatory usage law for the state. In previous surveys, Redstone has placed high in the percentage of seatbelts being used. Because people have a tendency to become complacent however, it sometimes proves helpful to remind them of "good things" they may have forgotten. The MICOM Safety Office and the Provost Marshal's Office are making a coordinated effort to do this.

Some facts that you should read and take to heart are:

- Seatbelts are mandatory in Alabama and on Redstone Arsenal.
- Speeds of less than 40 mph account for 80 percent of all traffic accidents.

- Half of all traffic fatalities occur at speeds of less than 40 mph.

- Three of four auto-related deaths occur within 25 miles of home.

- Crash fatalities can and do occur at speeds of 12 mph. That's about the average driving speed in a parking lot.

- At 30 mph, the impact has the same force as jumping headfirst from a three-story building.

- A common cause of death and injury to children is being crushed to death by unbelted adults.

- People ejected from cars are 25 times more likely to be killed than occupants restrained in their seats.

In the near future, the Provost Marshal's

Office will be conducting random and periodic checks to ensure that seatbelts are being used. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration awards a place on their National Safety Belt Honor Roll for those organizations achieving 70 (bronze), 80 (silver), or 90 (gold) percent usage. So, in addition to reducing the chances of fatalities and injuries in vehicular accidents, you will be helping to allow Redstone Arsenal to gain recognition and serve once again as a role model for the entire local community.

Now that you know the facts, don't you think that you better ensure that you and all passengers in your vehicle are buckled up?

(Editor's note: The MICOM Safety Office provided this article.)

National Guard MPs perform beyond the call of duty

By De Juana Lozada

HANAU, Germany—It was early in the morning and hundreds of people flooded the parking lot of a popular club in Hanau on their way home. Suddenly someone yelled, "He's got a gun." A military policeman called in to help control the after-party crowd, looked up just in time to see a man pull a weapon out of his pants and pistol slap a woman across the face. "Drop your weapon," the officer commanded. Instead of heeding the warning, the man turned and pointed the gun at the policeman who instinctively drew his weapon in self defense.

"It all happened so fast. I just reacted with my training, but my main concern was that innocent people not get hurt," said Sgt. Terry Rutan, a patrolman with the 514th Military Police Company. Trusting his instincts Rutan talked the man into surrendering his weapon.

"I've been a correctional officer in a prison for the past two years. Dealing with

prisoners all day, you can look at them and tell what they want to do. I could tell this guy was just looking for a way out," he said.

According to Rutan, there were more than a few tense moments as the two men stood with guns pointing at each other. "I kept telling him to drop the weapon. Finally after the third time, he dropped it because he had time to think about me blowing him away. I'm glad it turned out that way, because if I had had to shoot him, some innocent bystander could've gotten hurt."

For his bravery, Rutan received an Army Commendation Medal from Lt. Col. Russell Bucy, 414th Base Support Battalion commander. National Guard MP Sgt. Charles Hassell, who was off-duty at the time and a correctional officer in civilian life, Spec. Terrence Cannon and Spec. Jeffrey Davis also responded to the situation. "I came in to help get the gun away from him (the assailant)," Hassell said. "It was instinct; I just reacted. But I deal with

this sort of thing everyday. It's just part of the job."

"It was shocking. It was the first time I'd ever seen anything like that happen. I was a little nervous, but I had to do what was necessary to help my fellow soldier," said Cannon, a 20-year-old factory worker in civilian life.

Davis echoed this sentiment. "Things could've really gotten out of hand if he (Rutan) hadn't been so calm. For me, I just followed through with my training. I think everything turned out for the best," he said.

For their efforts, Hassell, Cannon and Davis all received Army Achievement Medals.

The bravery and dedication to duty displayed by members of the 514th MP Co. doesn't stop here. Recently Spec. Jonathan White also received an ARCOM and Spec. William Becker received an AAM for risk-

ing their lives to pull tanks containing highly flammable welding gases from a burning military vehicle.

"We were driving to Ayers Kaserne when we came across a burning truck on the side of the road," Becker said. "White just ran up to the vehicle and started pulling the tanks out away from the flames, and I followed him and helped. We knew that if the fire got to them, the situation could've resulted in serious damage or even death," he said.

The 514th MP Co. out of Greenville, N.C., has been deployed to areas throughout the 104th Area Support Group in support of Operation Joint Endeavor since July 1996. They are scheduled to return stateside in March. (Arnews)

(Editor's note: De Juana Lozada writes for the 104th Area Support Group's newspaper, the Hessen Herald.)

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JANUARY 10

Base realignment info goes on-line at MICOM

By Sanda Trousdale

Employees who could be affected by BRAC and the upcoming ATCOM/MICOM merger now have a way of getting their questions answered electronically.

An interface to the e-mail system has been developed whereby employees can submit questions and see the answer posted on an electronic bulletin board, accessible by the Internet.

The service may be accessed via the Team Redstone Homepage (<http://www.redstone.army.mil>). Choose "MICOM Intranet Information," then "MICOM Community News and Calendar." Go to "BRAC Bulletin Board" to view archived questions and answers.

Or you may directly access the Bulletin Board by using the following address: <http://www.redstone.army.mil/micom/bbs/micomweb.html>.

To send a question, choose "Submit question pertaining to BRAC" and follow the instructions. Your question will be received by the Public Affairs Office and referred to the appropriate office for a response. All responses to questions will be posted on the Bulletin Board.

To view the Bulletin Board, which will list all questions and answers, choose "View BRAC question and answer archive."

MICOM users with Netscape Navigator (2.2 or higher) may click on "View ATCOM BBS" to access that command's electronic Bulletin Board. If you have Internet Explorer, you'll have this service sometime later this month. We'll tell you as soon as it's available.

The ATCOM work force is not yet able to access the MICOM Bulletin Board, but procedures are being developed to make that option possible for them soon.

Development of MICOM's electronic Bulletin board is the result of a tasking from the Executive Steering Committee to improve communications between the work forces of MICOM and ATCOM in the wake of the merger of the two commands, according to public affairs chief Al Schwartz.

Questions submitted to the Bulletin Board should be limited to BRAC and the merger of ATCOM and MICOM, Schwartz said.

This Bulletin Board is a tool to keep the work force informed about the merger of ATCOM and MICOM into the Aviation and Missile Command, which will become operational Oct. 1.

For more information, call Team Redstone On-Line at 842-2400.

Soldier-performers sought for 1997 Soldier Show

WASHINGTON— It's not too late to audition for the 1997 U.S. Army Soldier Show. Show producers are looking for soldiers with talent in singing, dancing, and playing an instrument (guitar, harmonica, woodwinds, specialty instruments) and technical theater skills to make up the cast of this year's show.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is an Army Entertainment program housed at Fort Belvoir, Va. The cast and crew report to a first sergeant and detachment commander under the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

CFSC released an official message announcing auditions and requirements: R 111802 Sep 96. The deadline for submissions has been extended, according to Army Entertainment officials. "We'll accept submissions up until Jan. 12," said Ron Smith, Soldier Show artistic director.

According to Smith, ver-

satility, demonstrated energy, and willingness to be part of a highly effective, fast-moving team are crucial characteristics they look for in addition to performance quality and talent.

"We encourage selection through local and major Army command entertainment contests, but the competitive process isn't necessary for an individual soldier to submit an application and audition tape," said Michael Wellert, chief of Army Entertainment.

"Soldiers need to be fully deployable as we take the show overseas. The 1996 cast spent a month in Europe where they performed for Operation Joint Endeavor in Hungary," Wellert said.

The 1997 show is scheduled to travel to Korea and the Pacific in addition to more than 40 stateside shows.

Applicants must have a minimum of 120 days remaining on active duty

after Oct. 24. It is important for soldiers to submit a complete package which contains the following:

- Videocassette (1/2" VHS) showcasing performance ability, with emphasis on musical styles, vocal range, movement, and any special talents.
- Name, rank, social security number, unit address, duty telephone, and separation date.
- Full length official photo.
- "Intent to release" memorandum signed by unit commander for 179 days temporary duty beginning on or about April 4.
- Copies of personnel qualifications, DA Forms 2A and 2-1.

Those aspiring to be sound, light, and stage technicians must send a techni-

commendation from a local MWR representative.

Selectees will be notified by CFSC and their names announced in an official message in early 1997.

"We really hope MWR staff and commanders will encourage soldiers to audition and help them prepare their videos and application packages, especially those stationed at remote locations and overseas," said Wellert, noting that when selectees come to their home installations with the show, it's a great source of pride to local soldiers and commanders.

For more information, contact local morale, welfare, recreation officials or call Army Entertainment, DSN 656-6394 or commercial (703) 806-6394. (Arnews)

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First black general officer to appear on postage

WASHINGTON— Benjamin Oliver Davis Sr., will become the 20th American honored in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage stamp series early next year.

Davis distinguished himself in a long military career that saw him become the nation's first black brigadier general and a driving force in the eventual integration of the U.S. armed forces. The stamp, to be dedicated Jan. 28 at the Washington, D.C. National Guard Armory, depicts Davis at the height of his career on an inspection tour near the American front in France in August 1944.

"Benjamin O. Davis Sr. served his nation and his fellow human beings with uncommon devotion," said Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. "Now he will rest with honor in the annals of United States philatelic history."

Final duty

On July 20, 1948, Benjamin O. Davis crossed the portico of the White House to receive the congratulations of his commander-in-chief, President Harry S. Truman. It was both an honor and his final duty as a soldier. He was retiring after 50 years of service in the U.S. Army. Truman joked that he had always wanted to see what a man who had served 50 years in the Army looked like. In truth, he was making a statement to the nation. For here was a man who had enlisted as a private and risen through the ranks to become the nation's first black brigadier general. Here was a man who had championed the idea of an all-inclusive armed service and demonstrated its merit in a half century of uncom-

mon individual achievement.

Just six days later, Truman issued Executive Order 9981, ending racial discrimination in the military.

Proud moment

If the White House retirement was Davis' most public moment, his proudest may have come four years earlier on the windswept runway of the Ramitelli airfield along Italy's Adriatic coast. On that day, Davis pinned the Distinguished Flying Cross to his own son's chest for demonstrated gallantry in the air war over Europe. General Benjamin O. Davis Jr., commander of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, would later become the U.S. armed forces first black three-star lieutenant general.

The senior Davis was as skillful at helping to shape national policy as he was in guiding the growth of the individuals he touched. His power sprang from his deep commitment to personal action and responsibility, and his devotion to God, country, military duty and his family. His long career took him around the globe, including two tours in the Philippines, service as military attache to Monrovia, Liberia and extensive duty in the European theater during World War II.

He also spent consider-

able time in the United States, including nearly 20 years as Professor of Military Science and Tactics in six separate tours of duty divided between Wilberforce University in Ohio and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Davis entered military service on July 13, 1898. His career honors included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, and the Grade of Commander of the Order of the Star of Africa, Liberian government.

Davis saw the essential summons of life embodied in the lines of a Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem, "The Village Blacksmith":

"Each morning we see some task begun,

Each evening sees its close

Something attempted something done

To earn a night's repose."

The Black Heritage stamp series began in 1978 with a stamp honoring abolitionist Harriet Tubman. Honorees in the series include Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Phillip Randolph, Mary McLeod Bethune, James Weldon Johnson, Ida B. Wells and, in 1996, marine biologist Ernest E.

Just.

How to order

Customers have 30 days to get the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase the new stamps at a local post office, affix the stamps to envelopes, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

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Requests for first day of issue cancellations must be postmarked by Feb. 27. The Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center also offers first day covers for new issues. These are blank covers (without cachets) with new stamps affixed and postmarked with the official "First Day of Issue" cancellation. First day covers will remain on sale for at least one year after each stamp's issuance.

Customers may place an order or request a USA Philatelic Catalog by phoning 1 800 STAMP-24, or by writing to: USA Philatelic Catalog, PO Box 57, Grand Rapids MN 55744-0057.

(Arnews)

Register for draft through Internet

WASHINGTON— For the first time ever, young men can initiate a registration with Selective Service using a computerized on-line service.

"This will make registration even easier for men in millions of computer households," Gil Coronado, director of the Selective Service System in Arlington, Va., said. Coronado heads the federal agency which preserves America's capability to conduct a military draft in a crisis.

In addition to providing a wealth of information to the public through its Internet home page (<http://www.sss.gov>), Selective Service has teamed with CompuServe to allow young men to initiate a registration on-line. The agency's joint venture is with CompuServe's "All Things Military." A young man with computer access to CompuServe simply utilizes GO MILITARY and requests a registration form. Once the information is entered on-line, the information is forwarded to Selective Service for processing. Within 30 days, the new registrant receives a personalized registration card in the mail. After checking the information on the card, signing and dating it, the young man mails it back to SSS.

Young men must register within 30 days of turning 18 in accordance with federal law. More than 35 million men have registered since 1980, however none has been drafted. The last draft ended in 1973. By having the names and addresses of men ages 18 through 25 on file in the Selective Service System database, America remains ready to face any threat in the future.

"Being able to offer an on-line means to help men register is just another way to further our goal of providing a wide range of military-related services to our CompuServe members," Dan Meeks of CompuServe's "All Things Military" said. CompuServe Inc. connects more than 5 million home and business users in more than 185 countries. (Selective Service System release)

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Program recognizes students for good conduct on school buses

Redstone youngsters who ride the school bus to Williams Elementary have some extra incentive for showing good manners during their trip.

A program titled the "Best Student Award Program" has been implemented this school year. Children who behave on the bus will receive a certificate that will be displayed on the bus along with either a free bowling pass or certificate for free movie rental.

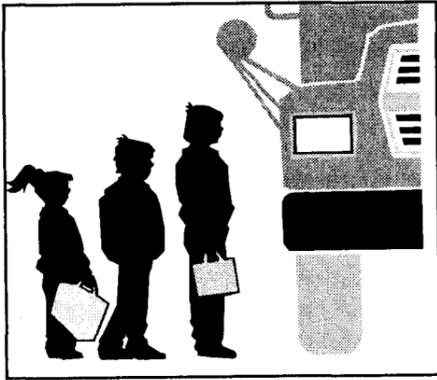
This program is for children riding the buses to Williams Elementary and involves more than 380 children and 11 buses, according to Dan Robbins, contracting officer's representative for school bus operations. He works in the equipment management division in Directorate of Logistics at the Redstone Arsenal Support Activity.

For the month of November, 11 youngsters were selected as winners by the drivers. Each driver presented a certificate, along with a free bowling pass and a coupon for a free movie rental, on Dec. 16 at Williams Elementary.

"The driver will pick a new student each month who has displayed the best behavior and will award the certificate and prizes," Robbins said.

Winners for November included Nicole Russell, Lionel Flores, Monica Williams, Marcus Booze, Cassey Wright, Chloe Drake, Crystal Booker, Nikita Martin, Mia Morals, Ashley Atkins and Madonna Talley.

Robbins provided the following information regarding school bus behavior:



information regarding school bus behavior:

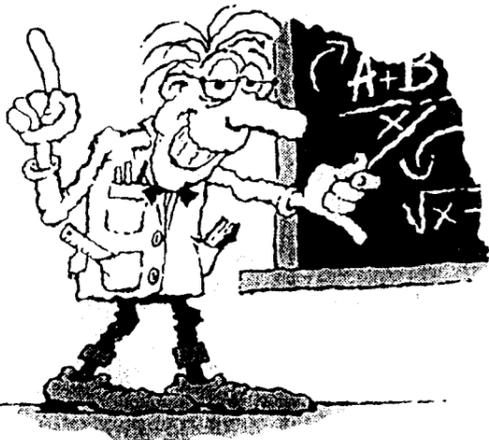
- The main responsibility of the drivers is to make sure the students are transported to and from the school safely. But it is not the drivers' responsibility alone. There are several things the parents can do, as well as the student. Parents should remind their child it is very important not to extend any portion of their bodies out of open windows. It is also important that the children be reminded to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before they enter or exit the bus.
- Other rules riders are asked to observe include no smoking, teasing, playing practical jokes, or fighting on the bus. These rules are to protect the safety and rights of all the students; and boisterous and mischievous conduct is unacceptable.
- Disciplinary measures are in place for children who disobey the rules; and a suspension of bus privileges could occur.



Congressional visit...

Representative-elect Robert Aderholt, of the fourth congressional district in Alabama, listens to a reporter's question before boarding a helicopter for an aerial tour of Redstone on Dec. 17.

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PENETRATOR
PAGING THAT COMES THROUGH

New directional system enhances Army's firepower

By Jacqueline Griggs

FORT HOOD, Texas—Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery here are putting a new 80-percent-faster directional system to test during the Force XXI experiment.

The directional system, Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, is used by the Army fire support command and control system. AFATDS is used to process fire missions to firing units over the computer, according to SSgt. Travis L. Bennett, battalion fire direction noncommissioned officer for Headquarters Battery, 4-42nd.

The process replaces — and is faster than — the previous computer system, the Tactical Fire Direction System.

"AFATDS is an excellent system," Bennett said. "It speeds up the process by 80 percent compared to the outdated 1950s TACFIRE computer system."

The field artillery battery is excited about the faster system because it enables the leaders to distribute the mission quicker.

"This system's main function is to be faster," said 1st Lt. Jim Dzwonchyk, executive officer, HHB, 4-42nd. "The updated mission program takes 10 sec-

onds to pop up on the screen for us to report the mission to the fire units."

Not only is AFATDS faster, but it is also easier to learn and transport.

"The system is simple to teach and is easy to grasp," Bennett said. "It's also remoteable, easy to relocate. Just take the system out (of the vehicle) and put it in the classroom."

"It's simple," Dzwonchyk said. "All you have to move is one screen, one keyboard, and one central processing unit."

"AFATDS is Windows-based so it is user-friendly in today's computer day and age," Dzwonchyk said.

The graphics of the AFATDS is another feature that makes the system easier to use for the soldiers.

"The images on the screen are of a high resolution display," Dzwonchyk said. "This means a soldier has full capability of clear features on the screen just like looking at a map. The soldier can pinpoint the exact location of a firing unit and its target."

The new high-tech system supplies field artillery with advanced commu-

nication capabilities. AFATDS updates the previous source of radio to communicate with the firing units, but still uses the radio for backup.

"Computers can crash and other software problems can happen," Bennett said. "So until they work out the bugs, the radio will always be used along with the new system." (Arnews)



News contact of the year...

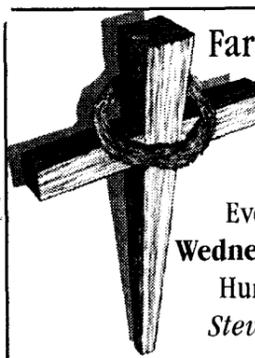
Pam Rogers, a public affairs specialist at the Missile Command, was named the News Contact of the Year for 1996 by the Huntsville Press Club.

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3	16,347	16,892	17,437	17,982	18,526	19,071	19,616	20,161	20,706	21,251
4	18,351	18,963	19,575	20,187	20,799	21,411	22,024	22,636	23,248	23,860
5	20,531	21,216	21,901	22,585	23,270	23,955	24,639	25,324	26,009	26,694
6	22,885	23,648	24,410	25,173	25,935	26,698	27,460	28,223	28,986	29,748
7	25,430	26,278	27,126	27,974	28,821	29,669	30,517	31,365	32,212	33,060
8	28,164	29,103	30,043	30,982	31,921	32,860	33,800	34,739	35,678	36,617
9	31,109	32,146	33,183	34,220	35,257	36,294	37,332	38,369	39,406	40,443
10	34,258	35,400	36,543	37,685	38,827	39,969	41,112	42,254	43,396	44,538
11	37,640	38,895	40,149	41,404	42,659	43,914	45,168	46,423	47,678	48,933
12	45,112	46,616	48,120	49,624	51,128	52,632	54,136	55,640	57,144	58,648
13	53,645	55,433	57,221	59,009	60,797	62,585	64,373	66,161	67,949	69,737
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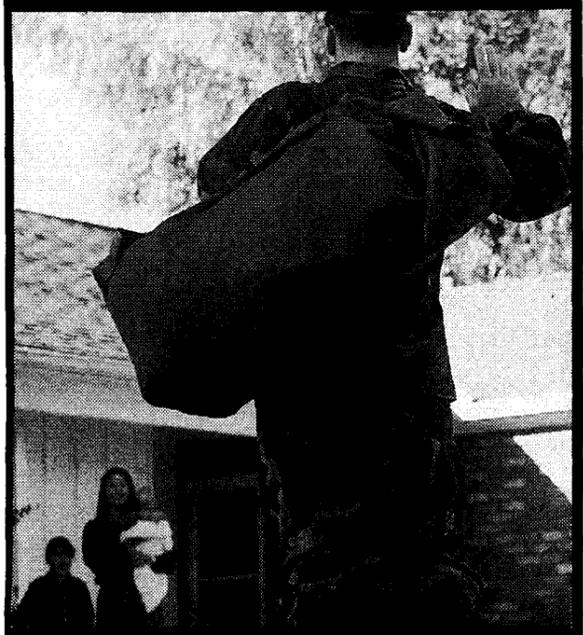
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Sports

New coaches named for Army boxing and wrestling

ALEXANDRIA, Va.— The Army has named two members of the World Class Athlete Program to coach the Army boxing and Army wrestling teams.

Sgt. Byron K. Moore, 34, will take over coaching duties for SFC Jesse Ravelo, who stepped aside following the 1996 Summer Olympic Games where he served as an assistant coach for the U.S. Olympic boxing team.

A Missouri native, Moore has always been interested in the sport of boxing, but only started boxing in 1989.

"I entered a boxing smoker at Fort Bragg as a bantam weight at 119 pounds," he said. "And I almost decided not to continue. But I tried out for the post (boxing) team."

The first year, Moore won the Forces Command championship for his weight class.

The light-wheel mechanic took home a silver medal at the 1993 Olympic Festival and was ranked number two in the nation in his weight class. In 1995, Moore served as assistant coach at the Milwaukee Classic at which five military boxers won gold medals.

His goal as coach?

"To win all 12 bouts at the Armed Forces Championships and to put Army boxers on the U.S. team for the 2000 summer Olympics."

SSgt. Derrick Waldroup will coach Army Greco-Roman wrestlers, replacing SFC Tony Thomas who is retiring. Thomas

coached the all-Army wrestling team to seven consecutive armed forces team titles and armed forces Greco-Roman wrestlers to their third consecutive national team title.

Waldroup, an Illinois native assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., was one of two Army Greco-Roman wrestlers who made the 1996 U.S. Olympic team, fulfilling a life-long dream after being an alternate at the summer games of 1988 and 1994. In Atlanta, Waldroup defeated four former and current world champions in his 198-pound weight class, finishing a respectable seventh.

A wire-systems installer by military trade, Waldroup, 34, has been wrestling since high school. With his sights already set on making the Olympic team, Waldroup went on to college.

"One of my coaches persuaded me to look into the military and a couple of weeks after that I signed up," he said. The year was 1985.

During his 11 years on the all-Army team, Waldroup won 10 armed forces Greco-Roman championships and several freestyle championships. He's been around so long, this year he was inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Waldroup appeared on national television during the Olympics, once in a segment in which sports commentator Dick Engberg profiled the Greco-Roman wrestlers and in Bob Dotson's story about sports psychology. Waldroup was selected 1996 Army Male Athlete of the Year, and

was named the Armed Forces Male Athlete of the Year.

"Work hard and be persistent" is Wal-

droup's advice to athletes with Olympic aspirations. Now he'll have a chance to help soldier-wrestlers do just that. (Arnews)

Bataan memorial march scheduled for April 20

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M.— Military members ready to test their endurance are invited to the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range on April 20.

The event — the largest military memorial march in the country — recognizes the sacrifices made by thousands of U.S. and Filipino servicemembers overwhelmed by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands during World War II. Many of those captured were members of the New Mexico Army National Guard.

The route starts on White Sands Missile Range, crosses hilly desert terrain, circles around the west side of Mineral Hill and back to main post through desert trails and washes. The starting elevation is 4100 feet, climbing to 5300 feet; the approximate distance is 25 miles.

This is the sixth year White Sands, a national defense test range, has teamed up with the Army ROTC Department of New Mexico State University and the

New Mexico National Guard to host the event. Participants may be active duty, reserve, National Guard or retired military. Cadets from ROTC units or service academies are also eligible.

Teams and individuals may compete in either heavy or light divisions. Military marchers will be required to wear full field gear in both divisions. Civilian marchers in either division should wear appropriate attire for a road march through desert terrain. All marchers entered in heavy division categories must also carry a 35-pound rucksack.

Teams may consist of five to seven people; five people must cross the finish line together within a 10-yard gate. Team categories are female, light division; male, light and heavy divisions; over 40 male, light and heavy divisions; coed, light and heavy divisions and National Guard, light and heavy divisions.

The individual categories are female, light division; male light and heavy

divisions; over 40, female light division and over 40 male light division.

Team entry fee before April 1 is \$65 for a five-person team, \$77 for a six-person team and \$89 for a seven-person team. After April 1, fee is \$80 for a five-person team, \$95 for a six-person team and \$110 for a seven-person team. Individuals who meet the early deadline pay \$20 while payments postmarked after April 1 should be made out for \$25.

The fee covers T-shirts and an informal meal during the closing ceremony. Checks should be made payable to: Bataan Death March, WSMR.

WSMR Billeting has a limited number of rooms available. Free lodging at the installation gymnasium (bring a cot and sleeping bag) will be provided. Hotel accommodations in nearby Las Cruces will also be available.

For more information, call DSN 258-8612 or commercial (505) 678-8612. (Arnews)

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Paperwork investigators track 'Gulf War Illness'

By Gerry J. Gilmore

WASHINGTON— A narrow ribbon of dark asphalt meanders past archaic, military-style huts of dilapidated tin. Dented metal signs, which rattle like dry bones when brushed by the wind, list the names of long-departed Army units and facilities. Crying tears of peeling paint, the lonely signs remind the infrequent visitor of what once was.

The black top road runs through Engineer Proving Ground, an almost-forsaken piece of federal land tucked away just off Interstate 95 near Springfield, Va. At the road's end is a building of sturdy brown brick. Inside this building, U.S. Army

and Joint Services Environmental Support Group employees have helped a sizable group of possibly ill Gulf War veterans from becoming lost in history.

"We're not an environmental agency; we don't take soil or air samples," said Donald C. Hakenson, ESG director. "We're paperwork investigators. We know how to take various types of (military) records and build a story and create a picture. The big news story for us (now) is the Persian Gulf (War)."

More than 700,000 American servicemembers deployed to the Middle East during Operations Desert Shield (Aug. 7, 1990 to Jan. 16, 1991) and Storm (Jan.

17 to Feb. 28, 1991). Six years later, about 10 percent of U.S. Gulf War veterans, including those on active duty and discharged, have reported illnesses they believe may stem from their service in the Gulf.

Late in 1991 and early 1992, all the services were tasked by DoD to provide Gulf War military personnel information including names, unit identification codes and the dates when servicemembers signed in and out of units, to the Defense Manpower Data Center in Monterey, Calif., Hakenson said. At that time, DoD officials were concerned that servicemembers' health may have been adversely affected by oil well fires started by the Iraqis during the war.

"Congress had tasked DoD to build a registry, which it was already working on, to identify (servicemembers) and come up with exposure scores to the oil fire smoke," Hakenson said. "That's how we started."

From October 1993 to mid-July 1996 Hakenson said his organization had researched between 5 and 6 million pages of Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force operational records from the Gulf War, about 1,200 boxes' worth. From these records a data base was created that pinpoints the Gulf War locations for more than 4,000 U.S. units,

representing 757,605 servicemembers.

At one time almost 40 military, government civilian and contractor employees worked on the Gulf War registry, Hakenson said. Judy Donahue, a quality control systems administrator, helped to ensure the registry contains accurate information.

"I would review [the contents of] each box again ... making sure information was 100-percent correct. I'd then commit it to the data base as good data to be used," Donahue said. "We looked at daily staff journals, after-action reports, unit histories ... Everything from handwritten documents to official documents sent up to higher commands.

"(The Gulf War registry) will aid in any type of research we'll need to do for veterans, whether illness-related or any other kind. The data will be here and it'll be usable for many years to come," she added.

Donahue and the other ESG employees who worked on the Gulf War registry were dedicated to their task, said Project Manager Robert C. Swartwout. Many took a personal interest in their work.

"Half of the people on the task force served in the military in some way," Swartwout said. "We had two retired sergeant majors who both did 30 years in the Army (and) some spouses of servicemembers. I think the people knew of the importance of what they were doing."

Information in the ESG Gulf War unit and personnel registry was used in determining U.S. troop positions in proximity to the Khamisiyah, Iraq area in March 1991. In May 1996, the Pentagon learned from U.N. reports that the Iraqis had stored chemical weapons at Khamisiyah. The reports were filed by a special commission that investigated possible causes of illnesses reported by Gulf War veterans. Defense officials now believe about 20,000 American troops may have received fallout from Iraqi chemical weapons that were destroyed at Khamisiyah by U.S. soldiers just after the Gulf War's end.

Before Khamisiyah came to light, DoD officials had been stymied to explain how U.S. servicemembers could have been exposed to chemical agents during their Gulf War service. This August DoD began contact-

ing 1,168 U.S. servicemembers assigned to units involved in March 1991 demobilization operations at Khamisiyah. Those veterans were asked to call a special hotline to report any medical problems that might be related to the Khamisiyah incident. DoD has contacted more than 500 of those veterans by telephone and has sent certified letters to the remainder who couldn't be reached by phone.

The president has ordered DoD to increase its efforts to investigate the cause of Gulf War veterans' illness claims. The defense department is now attempting to locate 20,000 Gulf War veterans who served within 31 miles of Khamisiyah. On Dec. 10, DoD announced it is soliciting private studies on the effects of low-level exposure by humans to nerve agents.

"(Khamisiyah)... is the first event where we can place American troops in an area where we believe chemical weapons were destroyed," said Deputy Secretary of Defense John P. White during a recent Gulf War Illness news confer-

See WAR on page 15

Defense officials now believe about 20,000 American troops may have received fallout from Iraqi chemical weapons that were destroyed at Khamisiyah by U.S. soldiers just after the Gulf War's end.

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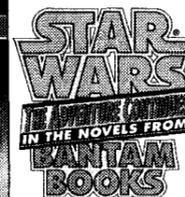
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Defense Secretary Perry visits 1st Armored Division soldiers in Germany

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany— It was the beginning of a long year for most 1st Armored Division soldiers and their families.

On the eve of their deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina last winter, U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry met with 1st AD soldiers to explain the purpose of the perilous mission that faced them.

He told them the war in Bosnia had resulted in more than 200,000 deaths and more than a million homeless. He also told them the Balkan conflict — already in its fourth year — threatened to spread into a wider European war.

The parties were willing to abide by the terms of the Dayton peace agreement only with an implementation force of NATO troops led by Americans. So the commitment of U.S. troops, Perry said, was vital to prevent further killing.

At that time, critics cast doubt on whether the commitment could be met. They claimed that Task Force Eagle troops would encounter severe resistance when they entered Bosnia, and that warring factions could not be separated. They questioned the wisdom of inserting U.S. troops into the centuries-old conflict, marked by "ethnic cleansing" and other atrocities not seen in Europe

since World War II.

But when Perry returned here Dec. 16 — with the many months spent in the former Yugoslavia as part of the 12-nation multinational force behind them — he praised 1st Armored Division troops for "confounding the skeptics."

The 23,500-strong peacekeeping force successfully separated three warring armies, entrenched behind confrontational lines strewn with millions of land mines; assisted with economic recovery of the war-torn land; supported the first democratic national elections since the Second World War; and forced compliance with the Dayton peace agreement.

Perry knew soldiers would be telling tales of driving their Humvees along treacherous roads lined with mines ... "about countless patrols in miserable weather, never knowing if (they) would be attacked... about enduring the weight of full-protective gear every day inside a base camp, knee-deep in mud ... about the strict discipline imposed by General Order #1," he said.

But he urged the IFOR troops to also relate the stories of how they made history in Europe and how they "wrote the book" on peacekeeping operations.

"You wrote the book on force protection; you wrote

the book on the application of intelligence to military operations; and you wrote the book on logistics support for military operations," Perry told the assembled soldiers.

"In the future, no nation, no military will embark on any peacekeeping operation without going to school on the brilliant success of the 1st Armored Division in Bosnia," he said.

The day's events were marked by all the pomp and choreography of ceremonial military tradition. As Perry was ushered onto the field in front of 1st AD headquarters for an honors ceremony, the thundering boom of a 19-gun salute pierced the cool morning air. Spectators waved banners and U.S. flags to the sounds of the 1st AD Band.

After praising the force as a whole, Perry — flanked by NATO Supreme Allied Commander Gen. George Joulwan, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis J. Reimer and Task Force Eagle and 1st Armored Division Commander Maj. Gen. William L. Nash — bestowed individual awards to soldiers singled out for their accomplishments during Operation Joint Endeavor.

Earlier in the day, Nash and Perry had presented awards to local family support group leaders and volunteers as well, recognizing

their efforts during the deployment.

"You have written the book on family support," Perry told the FSG leaders and corps of volunteers. "Every military mission in the future will learn from what you've done."

Over the last 13 months, FSG leaders held monthly meetings, organized trips and community-wide functions and just lent an ear when needed.

"I tried to talk to everybody," said Barbara Ellis, family support group leader for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division. She searched out family members "in the PX, on the street, in the commissary ... anywhere ... and I just talked to them."

And equally important, FSGs served to keep families involved, and to keep rumors in check.

"A family support group is about support and information when you need it ... to stop rumors and give you the facts," Ellis said. "I can't say that (time) went by faster, but I saw that by working together, we were all a happier military family — that was the biggest thing." (Arnews)

(Editor's note: This story was written by members of the 201st Public Affairs Detachment in Bad Kreuznach.)

1997

Continued from page 1

4488.

"We can also look to 1997 as a great year once again to live and work at Redstone Arsenal. We will maintain our special focus on quality in both our base operations and business practices," Link said.

The command will compete in 1998 for the presidential quality award. Officials here decided last year to focus on improvements in 1997 rather than trying for the annual award. In 1996 Redstone was recognized by the Army through this competition for the fifth consecutive year.

"It was a great year for MICOM. It was a great year for Redstone Arsenal," Link said. Team Redstone's accomplishments during 1996 included achieving a 10-year high for readiness of missile systems; progressing in acquisition reform such as reducing cycle times, i.e., administration and production lead times; and doing more with less through multifunctional teams. It was also an important year in research and development operations for such systems as Theater High Altitude Area Defense, Patriot PAC-3, Javelin, and Army Tactical Missile System. The first unit received Javelin last June at Fort Benning, Ga.

Redstone continued its excellent support to the soldiers and family members who live here, Link said. "And we continued to ensure the Arsenal is a place where people can work free of sexual or racial harassment. And our goal for 1997 is that we continue to ensure we maintain high standards in this area."

Link has been the commander here for two and a half years, longer than most of his predecessors. "I'm hoping I'll be allowed to stay well into this summer to ensure we have AMCOM well on its way," he said. "And then I anticipate being reassigned most probably to the Washington, D.C. area."

WORTH REPEATING

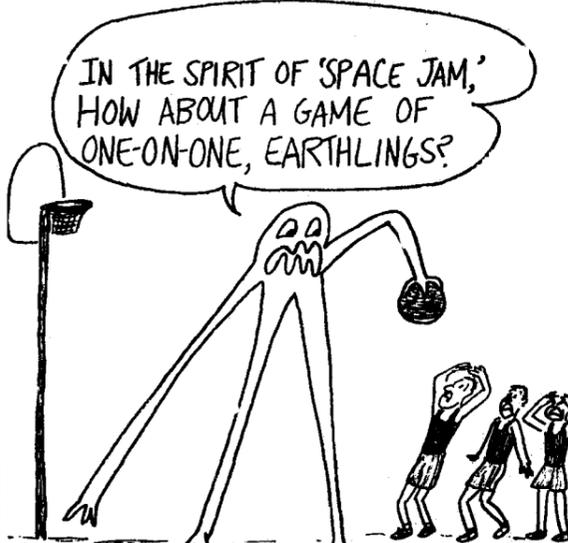


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—Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803-1882)
U.S. philosopher

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FAIR

Continued from page 6

an old-fashioned saw mill. The farm keeps him busy feeding the cattle in the winter and keeping them out of the neighbor's garden, but the land also provides timber for use in his saw mill. His childhood dream became reality a few years ago when he located a 1928 saw mill in Tennessee that was for sale. He worked for months to restore it in working condition.

While in high school, he became interested in round track racing and that interest was rekindled in the 1970s. Although he did not win many races, he spent a lot of time and money on cars, worked hard, had plenty of fun, and did tear up many 1965 Chevrolet Chevelles, he said. He once held the track record for time trials. When his son and daughter got old enough, they also participated in the racing. He believes that experience helped teach them how to handle vehicles under a variety of treacherous conditions.

McMurry met his wife, Judy, at MICOM. "Hooking up with her is my greatest accomplishment," he said. "It was an office romance that people thought would never last." Their son, Russ, is a lawyer in the office of the General Counsel here; and their daughter, Cindy, is in merchandise retailing in Atlanta.

Retiring was a difficult decision for him, but he believes now is the right time. McMurry said he has no regrets except for missing the people with whom he worked.

"Be flexible in your professional career, challenge what does not make sense, but abide by a decision when it is made," he advised. "Change what you can and accept what you can't.... Fairness to the contractor, fairness to the taxpayer and fairness to the soldier is the key."

(Editor's note: Carr and Masucci work at the Acquisition Center.)



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Announcements

Retirement ceremony

— The quarterly retirement ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. Jan. 16 at the Youth Center gymnasium. Rehearsal will be held at 7 a.m. Jan. 15 at the Youth Center gymnasium. If you wish to participate call Support Operations, SFC Jones 842-2500 by Jan. 3.

St. Barbara's Day

— Brig. Gen. Willie Nance will host the annual St. Barbara's Day Ball at 6 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Officers Club. The scheduled guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Leo Baxter, commander of the Total Army Personnel Command. For more information, call Renee McArdle 876-1142.

Apprentice program

— Applications are available for the 1997 Department of Defense Science and Engineering Apprentice Program (SEAP) and the College Apprentice Program. Applications will be mailed to the senior counselors at area public, private, and parochial high schools. MICOM placements include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering, and mathematics. The SEAP is designed for students in grades 10 to graduating seniors who have demonstrated above-average academic achievement in science, mathematics and engineering courses. Interested students must be at

least 15 by the beginning date of the program, June 16, 1997. The College Program (CAP) is designed for undergraduate students who have completed the SEAP, and are enrolled in a scientific or technical major. Other criteria are stated on the applications. Both programs are fast-paced, and require discipline and professional work habits. Junior and senior scientists and engineers serve as mentors who guide students through an interactive research project. The deadline for postmarking applications is Feb. 14. If your child is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the senior counselor, you may receive one from the Academic Affairs Office, room 230, building 7804, phone 876-9296.

Defense privatization conference

— Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logisticians will hold a "Defense Privatization Conference" Jan. 21 at the Research Park Holiday Inn at Madison Square Mall. A luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m., and the conference session follows. For reservations call 922-5364, 955-0576 or 955-7492.

Reservists needed

— The Army Reserve is looking for applicants for the USAR Technical Warrant

Officer Program in a Troop Program Unit status. If you are a motivated noncommissioned officer or a specialist (promotable) and want to see if your military occupational specialty or civilian acquired skills qualify you for this program, call SFC Beverly DeGratia, U.S. Army Reserve warrant officer recruiter, at (334) 277-7530 or Capt. Eric Udouj, Montgomery Recruiting Battalion, (334) 271-0655.

New gym opens

— The public is invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Physical Fitness Center at 10 a.m. Jan. 14 on the east side of the facility. The gym is located on Aerobee Road on the east side of Patton Road next to the Bowling Alley. This ceremony will officially open the new 21,000 square foot facility which includes a full-size gymnasium/basketball court, volleyball courts, three racquetball courts, weight room, saunas, locker rooms and full dressing facilities. The \$2.8 million gym was constructed by Consolidated Construction Company of Huntsville.

Redstone Village planning

— The Redstone Military Retirement Residence Association will meet at 3

p.m. Jan. 15 at the Officers Club to update those people interested in Redstone Village. Redstone Village will be a continuing care retirement community in a quality environment for retired officers and NCOs of the uniformed services and qualified spouses or widow(er)s. Representatives from the Greystone/Brown and Root Construction Team will be there to answer questions following the meeting.

Alcoholics Anonymous

— The Redstone Arsenal Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 of the Bicentennial Chapel.

Security reminder

— Government employees who have security clearances are required to execute a security termination statement before leaving government service. The purpose of the debriefing is to acknowledge that you are familiar with the Espionage Act and DoD regulations applicable to the safeguarding of classified information which you have had access to, and understand the implications of knowingly di-

See ANNOUNCEMENTS on page 18

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 17

vulging this information. The debriefing will only take about five minutes of your time. For more information on out-briefing procedures, call Carl Woodard 876-4542 or visit the Intelligence and Security Personnel Security team, building 5300, room 5170.

Spot bid sale— A sealed spot-bid sale of government surplus property will be held at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 13 at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), building 7427 on Chestnut Road. Items to be offered include safes, chairs, tables, desks, bookcases, lawn mowers, filing cabinets, refrigerators, camera equipment, personal computers and more. To view material for sale or for more information, report to building 7408 on Warehouse Road or call Bill Neppel or Donna Davis 842-2570.

Credit union— A federal appeals court agreed Dec. 24 that federal credit unions may add new members from existing companies within their field of membership, who were recently determined ineligible. This latest decision is due to the appeal court's partial stay of a ruling against federal credit unions issued in October. Redstone Federal Credit Union said it is "pleased to inform and encourage potential members from all of its employer groups that they can open accounts with RFCU and should do so as soon as possible, if they or their family members are not already members at this time." RFCU President Gerald Toland encourages potential members who may have been turned away in recent weeks to recontact the credit union to join at this time.

Music hall of fame— The seventh Alabama Music Hall of Fame induction banquet and awards show will be held Jan. 17 at the Von Braun Civic Center. Performers scheduled to appear include Lionel Richie, the Oak Ridge Boys, Percy Sledge, the Speer Family, Baker & Myers, Claire Lynch, Thrasher Shiver, Jimmy Hall (of the group

Wet Willie), and Lorraine-Morris Brown. The event is open to the public, with banquet seats beginning at \$125 a seat. Reserved gallery tickets, for the music/awards show, are \$12.50 and \$15 and can be purchased at the VBCC, Ticket Link outlets and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. For more information, call the Alabama Music Hall of Fame 1-800-239-2643 or (205) 381-4417.

Grief support groups— In addition to its care of the terminally ill, Hospice Cares Inc. offers many services to the community at no charge. These include the Bridges Grief Support Group, Young Adults in Grief Support Group, and Madison Grief Support Group. For more information, call Hospice Cares Inc. 880-9898.

Severe weather notification— The following broadcast stations will be notified of Arsenal closings and delayed openings due to severe weather: Television—WHNT-TV, Channel 19; WAAY-TV, Channel 31; and WAFF-TV, Channel 48. Radio—WAHR, 99.1 FM; WLRH, 89.3 FM; WZYP, 104.3 FM; WBHP, 1230 AM; WEUP, 1600 AM; WRSA, 96.9 FM; WJAB, 90.0 FM; WTKI, AM 1450; and WDRM, FM 102.1. You should tune to one of these stations if weather is severe to hear the open/closed status of Redstone.

Benefit concert— Heartland, a country band from Madison County, and Nuthin' Fancy, a southern and classic rock band featuring local musicians, will perform in concert at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the new Bob Jones Auditorium on Hughes Road in Madison. The concert, presented by Kid's Kingdom and WDRM, will benefit Kid's Kingdom, a new super playground being built at Dublin Park in Madison. Advance tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students. All tickets are \$10 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Madison City Hall and at Kroger in Madison or by sending checks or money orders to Kid's Kingdom Concert, P.O. Box 561, Madison

35758. Mail orders must be received by Jan. 10.

Plastic modelers— The Huntsville Plastic Modeler's Society will meet at 7 tonight at the Recreation Center. "Annual swap meet— bring all those old kits you thought you'd have time to build last year!" For more information, call 461-8307.

Carpool wanted— Worker wants to join or form carpool from Rogersville to the Sparkman Center, hours flexible. Call Frances 247-5113.

Telephone book recycling— The Solid Waste Disposal Authority announces that the annual telephone book recycling program will be held from Jan. 2-31. By recycling old phone books, residents and businesses can help local schools qualify for cash awards. BellSouth Advertising and Publishing Company is providing five cash prizes— ranging from \$200 to \$1,000 — to the public or private schools collecting the most books per student. Books should be delivered to BFI, 4704 Commercial Drive, or BFI's Recyclery, 1004 A Cleaner Way. Be sure to count your books and to fill out a short form at the drop-site. Books must be unwrapped and dry. Only books taken to the drop-sites will be credited to schools. Other recycling options include: Put old phone books beside Coca-Cola vending machines; put books in your blue curbside recycling bin; or put books in the newspaper containers throughout the county.

Carpool permits— The 1996 carpool permits will expire Jan. 31. The new 1997 permits are available. To obtain a 1997 permit, send SMI Form 1231 to AMSMI-RA-DPW-IM (Noles). To qualify for carpool: (1.) Three persons sharing ride; persons can be government employees, contractors or a combina-

tion of both. (2.) Must work on Redstone or in a government owned or leased facility off post. (3.) All persons must sign back of SMI 1231 Form.

Marine Corps league— The Marine Corps League will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at the American Legion Post on Drake Avenue. All Marines, both present and past, are invited.

Family Symposium back-brief— The Redstone Arsenal Family Symposium backbrief session will be held 1-4 p.m. Jan. 15 at the Bicentennial Chapel. Results of the staff's research and their recommendations on the issues raised at the November 1996 Family Symposium will be briefed. Some of the topics include medical health care issues, commissary privileges and operating hours, morale and welfare activities and programs, employment options, flexi-place, child care, housing, in/out processing, and badges and vehicle registration. Delegates and other symposium participants should plan to attend. Members of Team Redstone and the total Army family are invited to hear the results of this dynamic process.

Take off pounds— Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) recommends the following steps to lose weight: Make gradual, realistic changes; find incentives that are meaningful to you; think positive; and seek support. If you want to lose weight, joining a TOPS chapter provides a ready-made group of supportive friends who have taken on the same challenge. To find out about chapters in your area, call Betty Bailey 852-4957 or toll-free at 800-932-8677.

MEARS open house— The CALS & Automation Division of Integrated Materiel Management Center welcomes all Redstone personnel to a MEARS open house 1-3 p.m. Jan. 14 in

conference room 5140 in building 5300 of the Sparkman Center. MEARS stands for Multi-User ECP Automated Review System, a paperless review process designed to save time and money. "If you have wondered about MEARS and how it works, now is your chance to check it out." Refreshments will be served. For more information, call 876-4930.

Toastmasters— Toastmasters Club 4562 will meet today from 11:30-12:30 in building 5304. "If you are interested in improving your communications and leadership skills while having fun, drop in for a visit." For more information, call James Marr 837-5282, extension 2214.

Recreation Center hours— Due to the retirement of a Recreation Center employee the center, building 3711, is forced to reduce its operating hours. Effective immediately the center's new permanent operating hours are 1:30-10 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and closed Monday and Tuesday.

Sergeants major— The Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association breakfast will be held Jan. 16 at 6:30 a.m. at Radisson Suite on South Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Luis Maymi 876-4160.

Fox Army Community

Hospital— Social support is one of the most important factors in successfully quitting smoking. Join Fox Army Community Hospital's smoking cessation program to assist you in using this important success factor. The schedule is as follows: 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 9; 9-10 a.m. Jan. 14, 21, 23 and 28; and 9-10:15 a.m. Feb. 6. Group support sessions, from 11-noon, are scheduled Feb. 11, Feb. 18, March 4 and March 18. These classes are free and open to all military beneficiaries and Civil Service workers. To register call Preventive Medicine Service 876-8831. For more information, call Susan Goodman 876-8831.

Medical support groups— Breathe Easy Support Group meets 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at Therapy and Fitness Center, Huntsville Hospital Medical Mall. For more information, call 517-7102.... Care and Share meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Comprehensive Cancer Institute at Huntsville Hospital. For information call 551-6591.... Children with Diabetes and Their Parents Support Group meets 3:30-4:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month at Optimal Health, 910 Adams St.... Second Chance: Transplant Support Group meets 6:30-8:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Blackwell Medical Tower, Suite 30. For information call 837-9575 or 539-1217.

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Federal law makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion or national origin. The Redstone Rocket will not knowingly accept advertising that is in violation of the law, and readers and advertisers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this paper are available on an equal opportunity basis. According to the Inspector General, the use of office phone numbers in classified advertising is contrary to regulation. Please submit home phone numbers only.

• Auto •

'95 Buick Skylark, 4 dr, auto, air, stereo/cassette, cruise control, auto locks, hunter green, 54K mi. Sell for NADA-\$10,250. 461-4174.

'95 Cougar XR7. V8, handling pkg., loaded, approx. 20K mi, like new. \$15,900 OBO. 883-1345.

'93 Buick Skylark, 4 dr, auto, air, stereo/cassette, cruise control, auto. locks, 79K mi. NADA Value \$7,900. Selling for \$7,200. Call 880-9039.

'93 Chevrolet, extended cab, short whl base, matching top, teal green, 51K mi, 350 eng, PB, PS, cruise, tilt, stereo, PW, PL. Mint cond. Extended warranty. \$15,500. Decatur 205-340-9570.

'92 Taurus SHO, 220 HP Yamaha eng., 4 dr., sports sedan, 5 sd, 54K mi, red, leather int., fully loaded, immc, looks brand new. \$11,500. 721-0887.

'92 Volkswagon Jetta, 4 dr, 5 sp, alloy rims, pwr pkg., sunroof, 66K mi. \$6,500; Sofa sleeper \$100; Computer desk \$65; Patio furn. \$25. 721-1115.

'91 New Yorker Salon, blue, V6, 73K mi, loaded, exc. cond. \$6,000. 851-0689, lv. msg.

'91 Nissan Stanza XE, 4 dr., auto, am/fm cass., PW/PL/PM, 90K mi. \$5,750 OBO. 430-

0168.
'90 Maxima SE, 4 door. Auto. Pwr moonroof, PW & PL. 74K mi. Exc. cond. \$10,775. 895-4103.

'90 Maxima SE, 4 door. Auto. cruise, sunroof, security, 69K mi. Exc. cond. 1 owner \$10,775. 883-8285.

'90 Dodge Caravan, exc. shape. All extras. New tires. After 5pm. 883-0977.

'89 Ford F150 Lariat XLT, LWB 4x4, auto, loaded, 1 owner. \$8,000. 379-4508.

'87 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme, 77K mi, clean 1 owner. \$3,450. 881-5925.

'86 Mustang GT Conv. Never wrecked or overhauled. 1 owner. Red/Black & white leather. Dave 881-8254.

'86 Plymouth Colt, 4 dr, auto, AC. PB/PS. Stereo. Premiere pkg. 1.5 L eng. Asking \$1,200. 883-6115.

'85 Ford LTD II, good dependable transportation. See at PX parking lot. \$1,000 OBO. 859-8787.

'85 Suburban, .75 ton, C20, 454, loaded, towing pkg., etc. Only 58K mi (orig.) Near perfect cond. \$11,000 cost reduced. 851-9909.

'75 Lincoln Mark IV, exc. cond. \$2,295 OBO. 536-6929.

'73 Corvette classic, mint cond. All orig. equip. collector's car. \$13,800. Serious inquiries only. (205) 582-2024.

'68 Chevy II Nova LS-6 454 TH 350, 12 Bolt 4.10. Call with cash offer or good trade plus cash. JD 837-3256 on RSA.

• Miscellaneous •

Apple Iic Plus, Image Writer II, Color composite monitor, complete owner's guide. New cond. \$500 OBO. 883-8919.

Boston Acoustics "T380" Home Stereo Speakers. 90 db sensitivity. Dimen. 10"x9.5"x32"

Walnut finish. \$360. 776-3860.
Computer games: PQ Swat, Phantasmagoria, PQ3, many others. Call for complete listing. \$10-\$30. 722-0921.

Computer parts: VGA monitor \$75; multisync monitor \$100, 30 pin 1 MB memory SIMMS trade for 4 MB SIMMS or offer. Call 882-0407.

Framed art after Georgia O'Keefe, Calla Lilly, 16"x20", orig. By appt. only. Exc. buy \$500. 882-0173.

Free cat to good home. 9 mo old male, black cat. All shots and neutered. Call 880-9258, lv. msg.

Free to good home. Black lab mix breed, good w/kids, outside dog pcing. Must find good home. 830-2292.

Horse ridding saddles: 2 brand new western style w/2 pads and 2 saw horses. \$245 and \$400 ea. or \$800 for both. 430-3205.

King-sized water bed, w/bottom drawers and waveless mattress, \$150. Call (205) 721-3821.

Mess dress uniform, mens, ordinance, 40 regular, access., never worn \$100. 830-0197.

Minolta Freedom Zoom 105; APZ Quartz date camera, \$75; Rowing machine \$15. 233-8928.

NASA employee, new iron-on patches 12 pair \$3.50, new TV cabinet for 32-35" \$55, new boys navy slacks various sizes \$7.50, black vinyl sofa & chair. \$250. 850-3303.

Need to join or form carpool from Athens to Sparkman Ctr. 7-4:30, AWS. Call Lisa at 205-230-0451.

New upright Kenmore Freezer, Sears best, auto defrost. Capacity 14.6 cu ft. Almond color. Asking \$350. Call 772-7118.

Oak coffee table w/4 lead glass panels. 48" x 34" x 16.5". \$200 OBO. 859-9416.

Ruger .45 Cal KP90 stainless semi-auto pistol, w/xtra 8 & 10 rd mags and holster. As new in box \$350. 881-6773.

Sailboat, 16 ft, AMF Sunbird II, 1976, big day sailer, big cuddy cabin, spinnaker, 2 HP motor, \$1,600. 881-5790.

Sears 27" console RC TV, stereo, cable ready, input/output jacks, \$250. 729-1325 after 5pm.

'76 Starcraft 14' fishing boat, 30HP, Johnson engine. Runs great. Has extras. Asking \$800. See to appreciate. Call 534-3667.

Sewing machine. Works but needs 'tweeking.' \$30. 883-6894.

Sunbeam Propane gas grill (\$45), Zoom 14.4 internal fax-modem (\$20), exercise bike (\$20), singer vacuum cleaner (\$75), sewing machine (\$100), humidifier (\$10), PC keyboard (\$20), 3.5" disk drive (\$15). 461-0258.

Surround sound speakers: Design acoustics 10" passive subwoofer, \$120; 5.25" main & central channel speakers, \$150; or all for \$250. 883-6951.

Used vented gas log set. Very good cond. \$50; 2 cocker spaniel dogs (male), \$20 ea; 2 igloo dog houses, feeder, make offer. Call 539-7915.

Want to buy: 9 inch color tv in good cond. Will pay \$50. Call 881-1810 after 6pm.

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An Absolute Beauty! Great home if you wk. in Madison or surrounding area. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, GR w/tile FP, DR, rec. room, eat-in kit., lg tiled glamour BA, wood floors, sprinkler system, lg. lot. \$142,500. Call Mary Marsh- Golden Real Estate 533-5917 or 707-1429. (6L-24400C).

Apartment for rent: 1 BR, recently renovated, new DW, carpet, paint. Spacious. Convenient to shopping and Arsenal. Kitchen appls. furnished. W/D hook-ups. Must see to appreciate. \$295/mo \$150 dep. Call 828-9846.

For Rent: 3400 Freda Lane NW. 3 BR, 2 BA, garage, central gas, fenced yard \$485/mo. \$200 deposit. Lynn Shirley. 350-2454.

For Sale: 3400 Freda Lane NW. 3 BR, 2 BA, garage, central gas heat. \$2,100 down FHA. \$430/mo. \$52,500. Lynn Shirley. 350-2454.

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Non qual. assumable. 3 BR, 2 BA, GR w/FP, 1 gar. Lg treed lot in cul-de- sac. \$63,000. Dave 881-8254.

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• Business Opportunity •

Computer demonstrator for Redstone Main Exchange. 10 hrs. weekly, Saturday and Sunday. For information/interview call Fred Bass at 1-800-517-7112 ext. 158.

3 military/civilian entrepreneurs needed. Qualifications: ambitious, smart, able to devote 10 hrs. per week. Unlimited income potential. No sales required. For details call 512-5356.

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'95 Lincoln Town Car Signature, Green/Tan Leather \$23,850	'91 Chevy Silverado 8,995	'95 Jeep Wrangler Red/White Soft Top, "Automatic" \$12,450	'96 Ford F150 18,995	'94 Toyota Corolla DX 4 Dr., Auto, A/C, Spoiler \$10,995
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'92 GMC Sierra \$11,495	'93 Dodge Ram 150 SWB, V6, Auto, A/C \$7,995	'95 Ford \$7,995	'95 Ford F150 Supercab, XL, Local Trade-In \$15,995	'95 Olds Acheiva \$9,995

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