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1998 brings challenging personnel matters for AMCOM

By Skip Vaughn

The commanding general expects 1998 to be a challenging but productive year for the Aviation and Missile Command.

Maj. Gen. Emmitt Gibson said the two most significant challenges include continuing to implement AMCOM's personnel reconstitution plan which started in 1997, and planning for future reductions from the Quadrennial Defense Review.

Those QDR reductions begin with the loss of nine job spaces in 1999 but ultimately will reach a total of 1,300 spaces by 2004. "In 2000 and 2001, the reductions are manageable," Gibson said. "The significant reductions begin in 2002."

The command will try to meet these future cuts through attrition, but eventually forced layoffs are expected. "We do not anticipate having to do a

reduction in force in '98," Gibson said, but he can make no such promise for the turn of the century.

"Although we will attempt to achieve the reductions without a RIF, the magnitude of the reductions will probably, at some point in time, result in a requirement for a RIF," he said. "I can't predict right now what that year will be. But both Army Materiel Command and AMCOM leadership have been consistent in saying we anticipate there will be RIFs associated with the QDR reductions."

Two large commercial activities studies for possible contracting of services will begin this year: possible outsourcing of some base operations functions within Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, and possible outsourcing of a portion of the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment mission. Those initiatives are part of the projected



GIBSON

QDR reductions, but the studies will begin this year.

The command starts the new year with the 1997 merger of aviation and missile functions nearly complete. Some 1,673 workers from the Program Executive

Office for Aviation and the former Aviation and Troop Command have arrived from St. Louis. The former ATCOM merged here with the former Missile Command.

"I would say that we are

about 99 percent complete as far as the moving is concerned. We only have six civilians left in St. Louis to move and they will move down in early February," Gibson said. The last piece of the merger is to complete the implementation of the AMCOM personnel reconstitution plan. This means trying to match people with jobs for their particular grades and skills.

Gibson has deemed the merger a success for the following reasons:

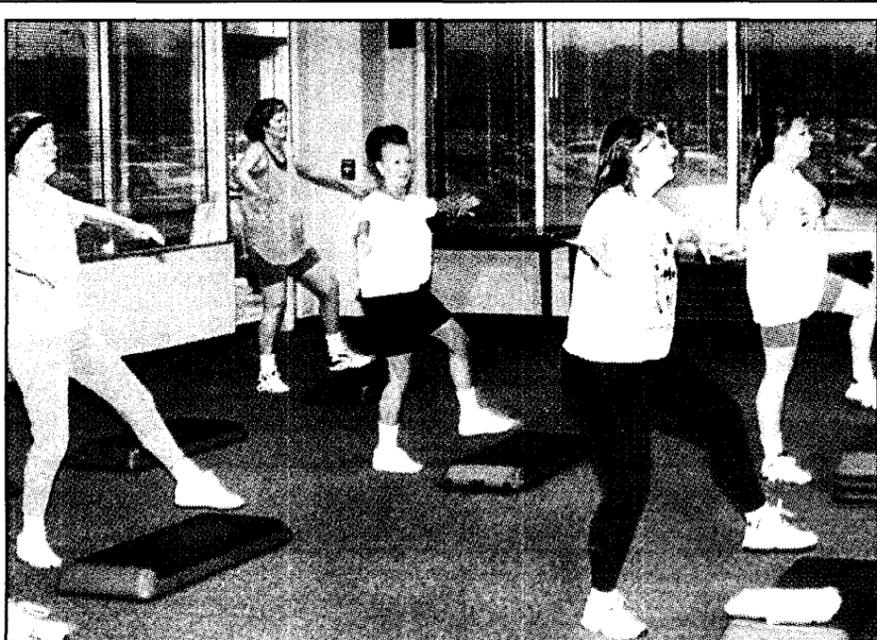
- There has been no degradation of readiness in either the aviation or missile mission areas. This is important because AMCOM is responsible for eight of the 16 systems that the Army uses to measure the equipment readiness of the Army.
- One of the major organizational changes in the merger was establishment of a deputy for sys-

tems acquisition. This involved not only consolidation of the weapon systems management directorates from both MICOM and ATCOM, but also moving several programs from the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles and the Program Executive Office for Aviation. "All of that has been accomplished on schedule and the new organization is operating very smoothly," Gibson said.

The yearend closeout of financial records, which had to be done separately for ATCOM and MICOM, was accomplished on time and with success.

Gibson, 53, the former ATCOM commander, spent the Christmas holidays at home with his wife, Mary. Their children both visited from North Carolina. Their

See AMCOM on page 12



Working out ...

Gyms like the Sparkman Fitness Center are expected to be busy with folks resolving to get fit for the new year. Effective Jan. 5 the fitness center offers an early-morning Aerobic class

from 5:45-6:30. The center also offers classes Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., and Monday through Thursday at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. For more information, call 313-6091.

Canine detail goes to front lines of War on Drugs

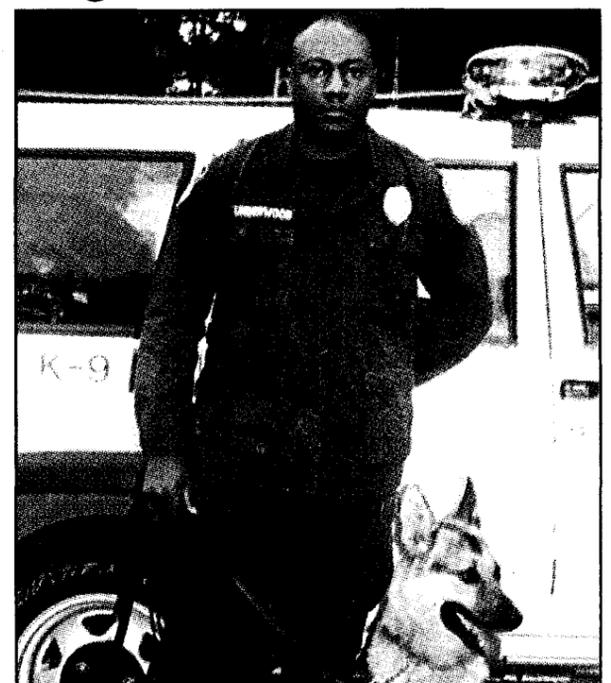
By Skip Vaughn

The narcotics dog handler from Redstone was suspicious of the guy in the pickup truck trying to cross the border from Mexico into El Paso. The guy was just acting too nervous.

Sure enough Arthur Underwood and his working dog, Jimmy, discovered 80 pounds of marijuana concealed on the tires of the Ford F-150. Each tire had a packet of 20 pounds of the stuff inside a metal casing which was welded to the rim, the scent disguised with detergent. The driver, a man in his mid-30s from Juarez, was arrested by U.S. Customs inspectors.

This was the fifth find by

See DRUGS on page 14



BACK HOME— Underwood and Jimmy are back at Redstone after serving on a border detail.



Letters To The Editor

Pet peeve

Recently during the snow and very cold temperatures, there was a poor dog on Simpson Street with no shelter at all, chained to a tree and the surrounding area was all mud. It was sad to see this animal curled up next to the chainlinked fence by his food dish as his only protection. A wild animal at least could run around or find a place to nest to keep warm. Several people have called the post vet clinic and housing—so why is it that a Redstone resident can ignore the regulations and no one does a thing? Is it because it's officer's quarters?

The recent housing newsletter outlined pet owners responsibilities. These are no different than the county or city ordinances: to provide food, water and shelter from the elements. This isn't the first case and it won't be the last, so when will someone make a policy that works—one to deal with irresponsible pet owners who neglect or abuse their animals. Whatever the policy is, it needs to be enforced. If someone calls the MPs, the post vet, or housing, the complaint is passed around and not much of anything, if at all, is done.

Name withheld by request

(Editor's note: Sgt. Maj. Dennis J. Smith of Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "It is my responsibility as the RASA Command Group representative to ensure that all housing tenants and their family members abide by the stated rules and regulations in order to keep good conduct in the government quarters. I would like to direct the attention to animal abuse and neglect.

"When abuse of an animal is noticed by an individual, the first step will be to report it to the Military Police who will then investigate. Once that investigation is complete, the Military Police will notify the Veterinary Department. The Veterinarian will then provide a medical diagnosis to the RASA Sergeant Major's office.

"When the formal complaint is received of suspected animal abuse or neglect and ensuring that Housing has documentation of complaint and the investigation has been completed by the Military Police with the Veterinarian medical diagnosis, we will pursue any formal charges which may result if an owner is suspected of the animal abuse or neglect based on the medical diagnosis.

"We will initiate procedures to remove the animal from the installation if deemed a threat to the community or if apprehended as a stray.

"A letter will be sent by the RASA Sergeant Major's office to the individual. A file copy of the incident will be kept in the office and will be tracked each time it happens."

Payment for leave

It was real nice of the Government to "hurry-up" and make sure I received my restored annual leave check just in time to pay taxes on it in 1997. Thanks a lot!

When ATCOM was first placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list, some genius decided it would be a good idea to let the employees accumulate as much annual leave as they wanted and not be limited by the normal 240 hour maximum. The idea was that employees might need to take extra time off for handling the move to another state.

In January 1997 the Government in their infinite wisdom decided this wasn't a good idea, that they couldn't afford to have everyone taking all this time off at their new locations. They therefore decided that everyone should be paid for their restored annual leave and not be allowed to use it. But could we get paid in January 1997 when they made this decision? Oh no, we would have to wait almost a whole year to get paid, even though we might be owed a considerable amount of money. We would have to wait until the stand-up of AMCOM. AMCOM became a "Provisional Command," which I don't fully understand. You are either a Command or you aren't. Anyway, I noted sometime in August '97 that the word "Provisional" was taken off the Command letterhead. I kind of thought this meant the Command stood-up at this time, but I was wrong. I understand the Command officially stood-up on 1 Oct. '97. Unfortunately this was in the middle of a pay period. Heaven forbid we would have to pay someone in the "middle" of a pay period, totally impossible. We would have to wait to the end of a pay period to get paid. Could we get paid at the end of this first pay period? Oh no, we would have to wait two or three pay periods because DFAS has to do everything manually. Gee, I thought we were in the computer age. It seems like it would be real tough to just program the computer to multiply my lump sum leave balance times my hourly salary and cut me a check. They only had a year to plan for this — since January.

Did I receive my check within the promised three pay periods? Oh no, only after calling Resource Management was I told that someone in St. Louis screwed-up. They didn't send the list of employees due restored leave to DFAS-Denver. Apparently no one ever heard of management controls. Didn't someone in AMCOM Resource Management double check to make sure this got done, especially since AMCOM RM promised we would get paid by 4 Dec. '97? Didn't the individual responsible for sending the list to Denver have a supervisor? Why didn't the supervisor double check to make sure it got done?

We were then promised we would receive our check within three pay periods after Dec 4. Remember, it still had to be handled manually. We were then told that the Government was really going to be nice and help us out

by making sure we all got paid within two pay periods instead of three pay periods.

They dated my check on 31 Dec '97. Well thanks a lot! You held my money interest free for a whole year. You screwed-up paying within the promised three pay periods of AMCOM stand-up. Then cut me a check on the very last day of the year to make sure I have to pay taxes on it in '97. What a morale booster.

It's just one screw-up after another. The payroll system was screwed-up, people not getting paid, getting paid incorrect amounts, not receiving leave and earnings statements. Paying of PCS vouchers is also screwed-up. None of my four outstanding PCS vouchers have been paid to date, the earliest being in August '97. If there is a committee at AMCOM for boosting morale, it's sure not working!

What's going on?

Name withheld by request

(Editor's note: Resource Management Directorate provided the following response. "When ATCOM was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list (1995), employees were offered an opportunity to save their annual leave that exceed the normal 240 maximum. Section 1611 of Public Law 104-201, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, requires a lump-sum payment to any DoD employee who moves to a position in any Federal agency or department outside of DoD or to any position within DoD not located at an installation being closed or realigned as described in 5 U.S.C. 6304 (d) (3). Employees were informed by CPO Employee Assistance Bulletin, 02-97, 08-97, and 12-97, that they had until their official Transfer of Function date (11 Oct. '97 for most employees) to use the restored leave or to then receive payment for this leave.

"This was made available for several reasons. One reason was, some employees were asked or required to work (without taking leave) to take on additional duties. This was necessary because other ATCOM employees quit or retired. A second reason, as you stated, was for employees to have the opportunity to use this restored leave for reasons associated with moving. Another reason, was for employees who wanted to, could receive payment for this leave after they were officially transferred. Employees were able to use their restored leave, if they wished, in St. Louis or from the time they arrived at Redstone until 11 Oct. '97. They also could use their normal leave they accumulated in 1997 until 3 Jan. '98.

"Unfortunately, employees did not receive their payment as planned. However, everyone involved (DFAS, CPAC, CPOC, and Resource Management) worked hard to get it accomplished as soon as possible. Because of the hard work, payments were made in two pay periods instead of three.

"According to DFAS-St. Louis, all PCS vouchers for house hunting trips and real estate expenses have been processed and paid. All PCS vouchers, involving travel advances, received prior to 18 Aug. '97 have been paid. All PCS vouchers, that do not involve travel advances, received prior to 21 Oct. '97 have been paid. DFAS has a new procedure for processing PCS vouchers. Employees who did not get an advance are being processed first because they are using their own money. Employees who received an advance are being processed next because they are using the government's money. However, orders are not being processed until the last PCS voucher is received. If you believe that your voucher should have already been processed, please call the DFAS POC, Kathy Losse, at DSN 490-2963.

"The Resource Management Directorate's staff has worked and will continue to work to make corrections and adjustments until every employees' leave, deductions and pay are correct."

See LETTERS on page 15

Commander's letter: Dr. King observance

The 12th national legal observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be celebrated on Jan. 19.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission has designated the period Jan. 16-31 for special activities and programs. The national theme developed by the Commission for the 1998 observance is "Remember, Celebrate, Act: A Day On, Not a Day Off."

As we are all aware, Dr. King was an American clergyman and civil rights leader who worked untiringly to bring about social, political and economic equality for all people through peaceful means.

Local observances will be held throughout the community to commemorate this great American. I encourage soldiers, civilian workers, and family members of Team Redstone to join with the Huntsville community in making these events successful.

The observance of Dr. King's birthday is a time for each of us to examine the past and prepare for the future consistent with his dream that all people have the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Maj. Gen. Emmitt Gibson
Commander,
AMCOM and Redstone

Redstone Rocket

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Army Family Team Building workshop slated Saturday

By Skip Vaughn

An Armywide program in which families learn from each other about Army life and preparing for deployments is addressed at Redstone through AFTB workshops on the third Saturday of each month.

AFTB, Army Family Team Building, was among the lessons learned from Operation Desert Storm. Many Army family members experienced problems resulting from the long-term deployment of their soldier sponsors. The Army's answer was an ongoing program designed to prepare spouses and other family members for such separations.

"It's a program that prepares the families and the spouse to take care of themselves and be self-sustained at the time when the soldier is deployed. It empowers them," Jonnie Nance, an AFTB master trainer and adviser, said.

"In fact it's been called readiness training for the families," Brenetia Adams-Robinson, master trainer and training coordinator, added.

The voluntary program, operated by volunteers, began at Redstone in 1993. Various schedules were tried here, including evening classes, but the workshop concept seemed to work best.

The next AFTB workshop will be held from 8:15 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 17 at building 3447 on Zeus Road. Prospective participants should call Army

Community Service 876-5397. Free child care is provided with preregistration.

Scheduled classes for Saturday's workshop include the following:

- Level I— Family and Military Expectations; Impact of the Mission; Military Terms, Acronyms, Customs and Courtesies; and Benefits, Entitlements and Compensation.
- Level II— Enhancing Relationships; Intro to Effective Leadership; Adapting to Change; and Stress Management.
- Level III— Effective Communications; Listening Skills; Motivation; and Leadership Skills.

"I think it's a tremendous opportunity to pick up some personal development skills and to increase your self-confidence," Sherry Macklin, master trainer and publicity coordinator, said.

The free program is open to the total Army including military, reservists, civilians and family members. Level I classes are geared toward family members with 0-5 years experience with Army life; level II, 5-10 years; and Level III, more than 10 years. "But there are things in Level I people with over 10 years experience may have never come across," Nance said. "So there's something for everybody."

This is a funded program from Department of Army for such things as materials and textbooks. Locally, through the generosity of contributors, AFTB can

provide child support for its participants. Donors have included the Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club, the Thrift Shop, The Retired Officers Association, the Military Retiree Council, and the Officer and Civilian Women's Club. "Those are the donors to date; and we do continue to need funding for the program and support," Nance said.

There were more than 100 participants at the last workshop which was held in October, according to Debra Jefferson of Army Community Service. She serves as the program's administrator and provides logistical support.

Besides learning about Army life, the participants "also get the opportunity to



INSTRUCTORS— Some of the 12 volunteer AFTB instructors include, from left, Adams-Robinson, Nance, Sherry Masters, and Macklin.

interface with other military families," Jefferson said.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help should attend the workshop or call ACS at 876-5397.



CLASS IN SESSION— AFTB classes can benefit the total Army family.

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Computer system reducing thousands of paper reports

By Dale James

Linda Livingston and Joel Jordan knew things had gotten out of hand when the stacks of daily reports they must slog through began taking up so much space that their work area was declared a safety hazard.

"The safety folks said it was a fire hazard and made us get rid of it," sighed Livingston, a supply systems analyst with the Integrated Materiel Management Center. "They actually wrote us up."

Still, when Henry Earl Smith, a computer specialist and systems programmer with the Corporate Information Center, offered to show them a computer system that could greatly reduce their burden of paperwork, they were skeptical.

Recalled Smith, "Linda said, 'You'll have to prove it to me.'"

That was back in September. Since then, CIC and IMMC have teamed together in an effort to do just that.

Now Smith is out to convince others, as well. For a year and a half he's been waging a crusade to stem the rising flood tide of computer-generated hard copy that threatens to engulf many Redstone Arsenal offices.

With all the fervor of the recently converted, Smith is urging fellow workers to abandon their wasteful and inefficient hard-copy ways and to "think online viewing and printing at the PC."

"Back in the days of MICOM," Smith said, "we had 5,000 possible reports being generated each month on a command-wide basis. Five thousand. And we were printing 3,000 of those that we know of — often printing multiple copies."

He shook his head, as if trying to exorcise the sound made by hundreds of printers in scores of offices inexorably consuming the ink, paper and electricity required to print such a magnitude of reports.

"And," here he paused to indicate a point about chest high to which an imaginary stack of paper might reach, "some of those reports were huge. Huge."

The merging of the Army's aviation and missile commands, Smith added, has only worsened the problem of too much paper. The various centers, directorates and program offices that make up AMCOM now generate a staggering 10,000 possible reports each month.

"Before AMCOM," Smith said, "we were printing 3.8 million pages a month. Now we're printing 9 million pages a month. That's a lot of paper."

The reports, known as Commodity Command Standard System reports, or CCSS, range from daily parts manifests for every missile and aviation system managed by AMCOM to financial reports to budgets to procurement requests.

Few would argue that computers can keep up with the information in CCSS reports far more efficiently than maintaining hard copies. Virtually all CCSS reports, in fact, are generated by computer.

The challenge to date has been to devise a system which allows end users to manipulate and share that information electronically. In part, the problem stemmed from incompatibility among the different systems used by various agencies, a limited networking capability and a stubborn reluctance on the part

of many users to do away with hard copies.

"We've never been able to do client-server to mainframe from the PC at MICOM until just recently," Smith pointed out. "We've been able to do it to UNIX, but not to mainframe. Now we have the technology in place to do that."

The keystone of that new technology is Infopac, a "full-enterprise software" program by the Mobius company. Smith estimated that the new system will be fully in place by June, giving any AMCOM worker with access to a computer the ability to view and print CCSS reports online for the first time.

Boasted Smith, "This is the same system that's used by Blue Cross-Blue Shield and by Ford."

Turning to his own computer, Smith demonstrated just a few of the new system's capabilities.

"In the old days," he pointed out, talking over his shoulder as he typed, "it could take you as much as three or four days to get a printout — and that's if it didn't get lost somewhere along the way. By then, the data was often out of date. Now watch this."

A few keystrokes later, Smith has tapped into the mainframe "across the street" and called a report created scarcely 20 minutes earlier up on the screen of his computer.

"I'm not doing it on my PC," he emphasized. "I'm viewing it on my PC, but the pages reside on the mainframe. So I'm not using my computer's



PRINTOUT PORTION— Henry Earl Smith stands next to Linda Livingston and a small portion of the hard-copy printouts she used to have to go through in her job as supply systems analyst.

resources."

Recalling the chest-high line Smith indicated earlier, that could be an important consideration for many users.

Infopac does not make the data interactive. That is, users may view data on the mainframe but they may not make changes to it.

"That," Smith explained, "is so everybody is working off the same sheet of music. It's known as 'data integrity.' I hate to say it, but once some people got access to data under the old system, they sometimes came up with their own version of the truth. On the mainframe you have a repository of information that is archived."

While not interactive, the new system does allow users to integrate CCSS

data on the mainframe with the power of the word processing, database and e-mail applications residing on their own desktop computers.

Users can now take CCSS data, plug it into a database, make any changes they want, and e-mail the results to another user — all without having to re-key the information.

Said Smith, "Before, if people wanted to separate out part of a report, they had to key it all back in. Now it's just cut and paste, cut and paste. I'm a programmer, OK? I've had to go back four, five, six months before and reload a database because somebody wanted to play with the figures. That's one of the reasons I love what this new system does."

"We're changing a business process. This makes a database information system out of our existing reports."

Best of all, perhaps, Smith insisted the new technology has the potential to pay for itself — if he can convince people to use it.

"If we could get all our reports online this year, and get everybody using it, we could save 50 percent of the system's costs in paper alone," he said.

But weaning some people from their reliance on hard copies won't be easy.

"Look," Smith admitted, "no matter what system you devise, reports don't go away. This will not do away with all hard copy. But I figure if I reduce it by a third, I'll have done my job."

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NCO students make impact with community project

By Dale James

The goal of the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course, according to SFC Julian Johnson, is to teach young buck sergeants how to be effective leaders.

"It's like basic training for sergeants," explained Johnson, BNCOC senior small group leader at Redstone Arsenal's NCO Academy.

To that end, BNCOC participants learn the Army way of doing everything from counseling a soldier to leading physical training to carrying out a battle order.

The first part of the course focuses on common leadership training, the second part on a soldier's specific military occupation specialty. Along the way participants also receive extensive instruction in "battle-focused training," the latest Army buzzword in training.

Said Johnson, "In order to pass the course, these sergeants must go through a three-hour situational test in which they're evaluated on 13 separate tasks, from leading a foot patrol to reacting to an air strike."

It's not easy. The class lasts four months. Graduation is a requirement for any NCO who wants to make the Army a career.

"You have to have BNCOC in order to be promoted to staff sergeant," Johnson said.

Johnson, a 17-year veteran, has seen a lot of changes over the years in what the Army looks for in its non-commissioned officers.

"Back when I came in, in the early '80s," he said, "if you could march, if you could run, if you could shoot — and you looked good — then you were con-

sidered a good sergeant.

"Today, the Army is looking for sergeants who are — I don't want to say 'smarter.'" He paused. "They're looking for sergeants who are 'educated.' Sergeants who can communicate effectively, and who can perform a much wider variety of tasks. And I think that's good. I think we're moving in the right direction."

That's why it might surprise some people that BNCOC training includes an emphasis on community involvement, as well as the skills that go with being a good soldier.

That's because the Army recognizes that its soldiers don't live in a vacuum. They have interests and concerns and commitments outside the immediate sphere of their chosen profession.

The best soldier, the Army reasons, is a well rounded soldier.

As part of their community involvement, the members of BNCOC class No. 645-55B30-010-97, which graduates Friday, chose to work with the city's Phoenix Program, a program for troubled youth.

Said Johnson, "These are kids who have found their way into the juvenile court system for one reason or another and who, essentially, have eight weeks to show the court they can turn it around. As a project, this class took it upon themselves to put on a skit based on self-esteem for these kids, in an effort to show them that they can turn it around — if they try."

Johnson noted that a number of class members faced similar situations in their own lives before they

"turned it around," before they joined the Army and found their own place in which to excel.

Indeed, as class members discussed their experiences with the youth in the Phoenix Program, there was a subtle but unmistakable note of pride in their voices.

"It made me feel good when they came back after the skit and asked me, 'How did you do it?' 'How did you get where you are?'" said one class member.

"By taking this opportunity to speak to these kids," said another, "we got to touch a lot of people's lives. Because the ones we talked to will go back and talk to others."

Yet another summed up the feelings for many in the class by saying, "Look, we're NCOs. Sure. But we're people first. And people make up the Army. And by doing something like this it not only helps us grow as people, it helps the community as well."

Johnson listened in



CLASS MEMBERS— Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course class members will graduate Friday.

silence as class members voiced their different thoughts in turn and then slowly smiled to himself.

Quietly, he said, "We feel like we made an impact." (Editor's note: Basic Non-Commissioned Officer

Class 645-55B30-010-97 will hold its graduation ceremony Friday at 9 a.m. at the NCO Academy.)

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	7:30 Richard Chesnut	How to Buy or Sell Real Estate
February 9	6:30 Justice Mark Kennedy	The Supreme Court of Alabama
	7:30 Catherine Sumrall	Women's Rights
February 16	6:30 Gusto Yearout	Corporate Litigation, Attorney's Fees
	7:30 Jack Drake	Civil Rights
February 23	6:30 Jare Beasley	Alabama Tort Law Update
	7:30 Steve Heninger	Medical Malpractice
March 2	6:30 Ernie Cory	Breast Implants & Such Class Actions
	7:30 Ken Hooks	Products Liability
March 9	6:30 Bill Smith	Crash Worthiness
	7:30 Mike Wisner	Wills, Estates and Taxes
March 16	6:30 Scott Powell	Trial Tactics
	7:30 David Marsh	Car & Truck Accidents
March 23	6:30 Daniel Banks	Mediation
	7:00 Kirk Davenport	Arbitration
	7:30 George Moore	Worker's Compensation
March 30	6:30 Dea Thomas	Divorce
	7:30 Greg Cusimano	Juries of the 90's
April 6	6:30 Ralph Hornsby	Suing the Government
	7:30 Joe Cloud	Drugs, Alcohol and the Law
April 13	6:30 Buck Watson	Evidence
	7:30 Lynn Jinks	Rights of Consumers
April 20	6:30 Bobby Prince	You and your insurance
	7:30 Ed Hardin	Recent Trends
April 27	6:30 Larry Morris	Practical Considerations
	7:30 Judge Jeri Blankenship	Observations of a Trial Judge
May 4	6:30 Cunningham, Bounds	Questions and Answers
	7:30 To be announced	



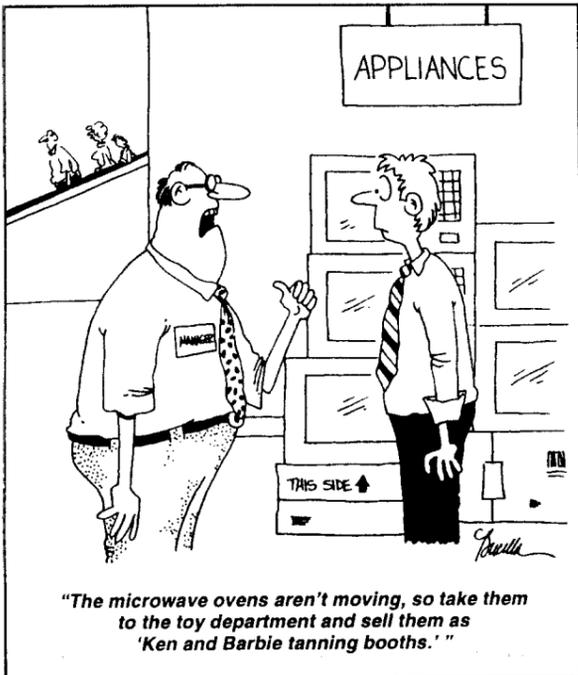
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Army TACMS-BAT helps out local shelter, nursing homes

By Gloria Barone

A little over a year ago Connie Crabtree and Bonnie Walker, two security specialists from the Army TACMS-BAT Project Office, were on TDY to New Mexico. Walker read an article in a local newspaper about people collecting toiletries from hotels when traveling, and then donating them to various shelters and nursing homes where they could be put to good use.

Walker said she thought, "As much travel as this project office does, it would be a great project for the Security Office to undertake." She and Crabtree sent an e-mail message to project office personnel, asking for their help, and the two of them served as the collection point for this under-

taking for an entire year.

The response from Army TACMS-BAT personnel was phenomenal! They managed to collect five large Xerox boxes full of soap, shampoo, conditioners, lotions, razors, toothbrushes and pastes, mouthwash, shower caps, shoe mits, and shoe polish.

Before Christmas, the Security Office treated the Project Office to hot cider and cookies. At this event, volunteers pitched in to fill the gift bags. Around 250 gift bags were delivered to Hope Place (a shelter for battered women and children), the Tut Fann State Veterans Home, and the Windsor House Nursing Home. Representatives of the recipients expressed their appreciation for the very useful items.



WORTHY CAUSE— Army TACMS-BAT employees fill gift bags of toiletries for local shelter and nursing homes. From left are Jo Vornauf, Beryl Cutts, Eileen Foley, Annette Hunt, Crabtree, Jane Nix, Walker, and Tracy Christopher.

Crabtree and Walker thank all the Army TACMS-BAT personnel for their support, and plan to make this collection an annual

event. (Editor's note: Barone is a program analyst at Army TACMS-BAT Project Office.)

Keeping healthy lifestyle can help prevent birth defects

By Susan Goodman

January is a time for resolutions. It is also the National Birth Defects Month.

According to the March of Dimes, neural tube defects (NTD) are among the most serious and common birth defects in the U.S. Each year, an estimated 2,500 babies are born with these defects and many additional affected pregnancies result in miscarriage. The most common NTD is spinal bifida, which is a leading cause of childhood paralysis. Another NTD is anencephaly, a usually fatal condition in which a baby is born with a severely undeveloped skull and brain.

The good news is that for those who are thinking about having a baby, there are a number of steps you can take before pregnancy to increase your chance of having a healthy baby. Follow these steps.

Try to achieve your ideal weight before becoming pregnant. Studies have found that obese women are two to four times more likely to have a baby with neural tube defect than women who are not significantly overweight.

The B vitamin, folic acid, has been found to protect against NTD. Benefits from folic acid are highest during the month before you conceive and through the early months of pregnancy. Therefore, it is recommended that you take folic acid if you are a woman in your reproductive years, capable of becoming pregnant or planning a pregnancy. The Public Health Service recommends that you consume 400 micrograms of folic acid every day. Folic acid is found mainly in orange juice, green leafy vegetables, beans, broccoli, and fortified breakfast cereals. As it is difficult to get enough

folic acid through diet alone, taking a multivitamin supplement daily may make up the difference.

Have a medical checkup before conceiving so your physician can evaluate your health and identify any health risks. If you have had problem pregnancies or have birth defects in your family, discuss these concerns at this appointment.

Practice a healthy lifestyle. As nutrition plays an important part in the health of your baby, eat a nutritious and balanced diet. Get plenty of exercise, and do not drink or use drugs. Excessive alcohol intake during pregnancy can lead to retardation in growth and mental development of the infant. Even moderate drinking may contribute to miscarriages and a baby's low birth weight. Ask your health care provider if the prescription or over-the-counter drugs you use are safe to take during pregnancy.

Quit smoking if you smoke. Smoking during pregnancy decreases the baby's birth weight and increases stillbirth and infant death in the four weeks after birth. Smoking during pregnancy may mean that the child will have more colds and other lung problems. These children may also be slower learners in school and may be shorter and smaller than children of non-smokers. If you are pregnant, quitting within the first three or four months of your pregnancy can lower your baby's chance of being born too small and having numerous health problems.

If you are not immune to measles and rubella, talk with your health care provider about getting vaccinated before you conceive.

Avoid exposure to toxic substances and chemicals—such as cleaning solvents,

lead and mercury, some insecticides, paint thinners and removers. Such exposure can cause miscarriage, defects noticed at birth, or problems that appear later in life.

Do not eat undercooked meat or handle cat litter. They can cause toxoplasmosis, which can seriously harm a developing fetus. During pregnancy, remember what to avoid. X-rays should not be done unless critical to the health of the mother or the baby. Too much caffeine may not be safe for your baby. Caffeine is found in tea, coffee, chocolate, colas, and other soft drinks. Finally, avoid saunas, hot tubs or steam rooms.

For military beneficiaries: To help you during your pregnancy, the Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center is offering the American Red Cross program, "Healthy Pregnancy, Healthy Baby." Class information includes early pregnancy, labor and child birth, breast feeding, and bringing your baby home. The course is for both new and experienced parents. A program begins Jan. 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. Call 842-0196 for the schedule or to register.

(Editor's note: Goodman is a community health nurse with the Public Health and Education Center which is part of Fox Army Health Center.)

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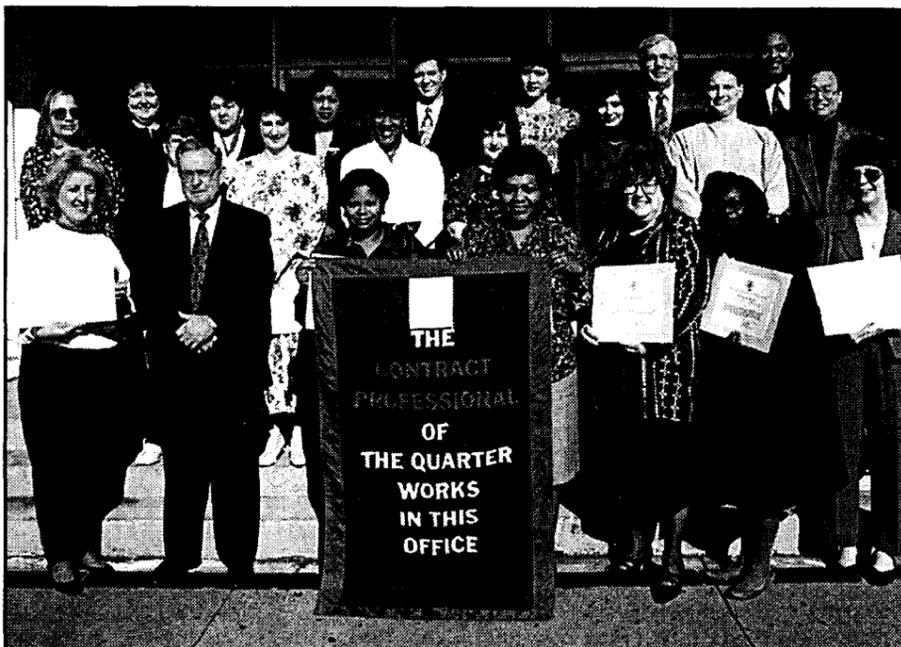
Mission Support Services Division wins Acquisition Center recognition

The Mission Support Services Division of the Base Support Services Directorate has won a quarterly award at the Acquisition Center.

The division received the Contract Professional of the Quarter Award for the fourth quarter of fiscal 1997. "They are recognized for their success in helping to merge a missile and an aviation team to award 1,089 contractual actions, obligating \$198 million in FY '97," a prepared release said.

Members of the division are also "recognized for using new and innovative ways to award seven contracts with a 50 percent Procurement Administrative Lead Time," the release said.

The honorees included Terri Adams, Cassandra Boyd, Pat Lewis-Goss, Glenda Blake, Queen Miller, Dana Holmes, Elizabeth Moulder, Georgia Reimer, Donna Smith, Valeria Johnson, Judy Lundy,



CONTRACT PROFESSIONALS— In front row, from left, are Adams; Ernie Young, deputy to the commanding general; Boyd, Lewis-Goss, Blake, Miller and Holmes. In middle row are Moulder,

Vickey Campbell, Aubrey Sealy, Chang S. Yi, Janice Daniels, Barbara Jones, Bertha Porter, Steven Hayes, Shirley Childers, Russel Hickman, Anthony Grayson, Marty Martinez, Lori Moore, Gail Thomas, Jo Ann Martinez, Elaine Battise, Nancy Knight, Virginia Coonrod, Maria Ven-cil, and Van E. Pinion.

Cost reduction projects could save \$438 million over the next decade

By John Hale

The AMCOM Value Engineering Office recently received early FY '98 funding for five aviation and missile Operating and Support Cost Reduction (OSCR) projects. The 10-year gross savings from them are estimated at \$438 million.

The projects are: AH-64 Tail Rotor Gearbox Output Shaft Lip Seal; CH-47 Battery Improvement; UH-60 Engine External Air Particle Separator; Patriot PAC-3 Power Supplies with High Density Modules; and the Patriot Low Noise Exciter, LO1.

Funding for the five projects totaled \$5.546 million. The five projects were approved for implementation but never funded in FY '97 due to a shortfall of funds in the Army Working Capital Fund (AWCF) account. They were delayed until the start of FY '98 and funded prior to considering any new initiatives.

Additionally, five more projects, two aviation and three missile, were submitted to the Army Materiel Command recently for the first round of projects due funding consideration. Initial redesign funding

required for these five projects is \$5.789 million. If all are funded, the savings over the next 10 years are projected to exceed \$487 million.

The two aviation projects are the UH-60 T700 Engine Gas Generator Blade Improvement and the OH-58 Mast Mounted Sight Thermal Imaging Sensor. The missile projects are: MLRS Integrated Electronic Unit (IEU) Main Processor Circuit Card Assembly (MPCCA); Patriot Solid State Data Storage; and the Patriot Launcher Station Test Set.

The OSCR program funds initiatives that will reduce the overall operating costs of fielded systems. Projects requiring investments beyond \$100,000 require the approval of AMC while those projects needing less than that amount may be approved by AMCOM. During FY '98, AMC plans to provide \$20 million in funding expressly for OSCR initiatives. Projects must compete with all other projects submitted with only the most promising ones receiving funds. Cost reductions are expected to fund DoD's equipment modernization program in

the near future as well as meet already promised budget reductions.

For more information on the AMCOM OSCR program call Alan Greene,

OSCR team leader, 842-9398.

(Editor's note: Hale is a senior analyst for SAIC, contractor with the program.)

Defense and VA combine physicals for disability comp

WASHINGTON— Separating or retiring service members expecting to file a claim for VA disability compensation will undergo a single physical exam prior to discharge under a new agreement between DoD and Department of Veterans Affairs.

When fully implemented, the new national policy will meet VA requirements for claims determinations and DoD needs for a separation medical examination. The new policy will be phased in as soon as possible while details are worked out at the local level, according to DoD health officials.

Previous procedures required two separate examinations several months apart. Military personnel had to get a DoD physical exam prior to discharge from active duty. Because of differences between VA and DoD protocols, they usually had to undergo a second exam by VA after filing claims for disability compensation. The results of these examinations are a determining factor in eligibility for VA health care.

"This change will help us avoid unnecessary or redundant physical exams, improve the quality of the examination process and improve service for separating personnel by eliminating lengthy delays in claims decisions and health-care eligibility determinations," said Dr. Kenneth Kizer, VA undersecretary for health. "We are hopeful the new policy also will enhance ongoing efforts to reduce the time it takes to process compensation claims, and further, it should reduce costs."

The Pentagon's top doctor also lauded the initiative. "By re-engineering the system to require only one physical, we are making life easier for our beneficiaries," said Dr. Edward Martin, acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

In pilot tests of the dual-purpose exam at VA and Army medical facilities, claims processing time was reduced to less than one-third of national levels under the existing system. The current national average for processing an original compensation claim is 133 days. Under the new policy, VA physicians generally will conduct the pre-discharge exams. In areas where VA physicians are not available, DoD physicians will conduct the exams according to VA protocols. **(From a DVA release)**

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Teen project contributes gifts to Redstone youngsters

By Laurie Jordan

During the season of giving, members of the Redstone Arsenal community reached out to brighten Christmas for more than 60 Redstone youngsters.

The Youth Center Teen Project sponsored the "Redstone Caring Tree Project" in December, placing 67 stars on the Caring Tree in the lobby of the Post Exchange.

"We put the stars on the tree on Nov. 19. Each star represented one Redstone military needy child," Russell Litz, Youth Services director, said. "By Dec. 1, all of the stars were gone from the tree. Post Exchange patrons were asked to take a star and buy gifts for the child specified on the star."

Each star provided basic information about each child and was numbered to provide for anonymity.

"Names of needy children were provided by each unit on Redstone Arsenal," Litz said. "As people filled the bags with gifts, they turned them into the Redstone Post

Exchange Customer Service Department and Youth Services picked up the bags and stored them at the Youth Center."

When it came time for wrapping and delivery of the packages, several organizations got involved.

"The YS Teens want to thank everyone who went out of their way to show they cared this Christmas," Litz said. "And a special thanks goes to the Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club for all the gifts they wrapped free. We had more than 600 gifts turned in and a lot of assistance. Each military unit picked up their bags and delivered them to the children."

According to Litz, without the assistance of the Post Exchange this never would have been as successful.

"We also want to thank the Post Exchange for allowing us to put up the tree, and for holding the filled gift bags until we picked them up," he said. "Like one teenager said: 'This has really made my Christmas so much better'; and 'Man, just look at



GIFTS APLENTY— Litz, left, and Missy Richards, sports director at Youth Services, pose with the many gifts contributed to the Redstone Caring Tree Project.

what we did, I can't believe it."

specialist with Directorate of Community

(Editor's note: Jordan is an advertising and Family Activities.)



MUSCH

Defense Megacenter, Huntsville director concludes 36-year government career

James Musch, director of the Defense Megacenter, Huntsville has retired with more than 36 years of service with the Department of Defense.

At his retirement ceremony, Musch was presented the Exceptional Civilian Service Award for his cost-saving initiatives in domain consolidation, technology improvements and hardware upgrades. He was also cited for his efforts in workload migration into the

Open Systems Environment.

During his last two assignments, as director of the Defense Megacenter in St. Louis and then as director in Huntsville, he was accountable for managing and budgeting the organizations' missions by providing state-of-the-art data processing and data communications systems to worldwide DoD components, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The systems process

wholesale and retail logistics, military and civilian personnel and manpower and financial data.

Musch began his federal career by enlisting in the Army in 1961.

Immediately following his discharge from active duty in 1964, he began work with the Army Security Agency, Arlington, Va.

During his career, Musch has received numerous awards and decorations including the four Com-

manders Awards for Civilian Service and two Meritorious Civilian Service Awards.

Musch is married to the former Anna McDaniel of Hamilton, Ohio. They have three children: Cheryl Ann, a registered nurse at Huntsville Hospital, James Karl, who is in the Marine Corps, and Daniel Howard, a student at Auburn University.

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Surgery team ranked No. 1 in patient satisfaction report

The most recent results of the Department of Defense "Patient Satisfaction Report" show that the surgical team at Fox Army Health Center outranks all other clinics at the health center, as well as all other general surgery clinics throughout the military healthcare system in DoD.

The patient satisfaction report is a survey sent out by the Department of Defense to evaluate the patients' overall satisfaction with the clinic in which they were seen, as well as, their overall satisfaction with the medical care they received.

The most recent data is from June-August 1997 since it takes a number of months for DoD to receive responses, tabulate the results and compare them within the facility itself, as well as against all similar clinics throughout the military healthcare system. On

a scale of 1-7 (7 is the highest score), the surgical team scored 6.63 for satisfaction with the clinic and 6.72 for satisfaction with medical care. These results were significantly different in comparison with other clinics.

"This is certainly a proud achievement for everyone on the surgical team here at Fox," Dr. (Maj.) David Cancelada, chief of the surgical team, said. "Though the satisfaction report is titled for the general surgery clinic, it is a reflection of the entire team. This includes my colleague, Maj. James Fox, the surgical clinic staff with its nurse-manager, Ms. Mary Bailey and our nurses Ms. Dorothy Ledet, Ms. Joan Taylor and our clerks, Ms. Craig and Ms. Young; the PACU (recovery room) led by Lt. Nancy Pixton, and her staff of SSgt. Payne, Sgt. Scott,

Ms. Lorrie Ridings and Ms. Nirvalene Porter; the OR led by Maj. Kathy King, and her staff of Capt. Oscar Rivera, Ms. Donna Groce, SSgt. Jerry Vanvactor, Spec. Jerry Ross, Spec. Francisco Hurtado; the endoscopy suite run by Mrs. Sue Wargo and our anesthesiologists Maj. Jack Powell and Capt. France-Parsons.

"The patients who rate us in these reports usually will have had a procedure performed by us. Therefore, any of their encounters with the clerks, nurses and physicians in their pathway from clinic to OR to recovery and back to the clinic for followup are going to mold their opinion of the care they received from us," Cancelada said.

(Editor's note: Cancelada, chief of surgery, provided this article.)



Contract award...

Lisa Conley, contracting officer, seated right, and Richard Russell, president of Longbow Limited Liability Company, sign a five-year, \$565 million contract for the production of 207 Longbow Apache Fire Control Radar Systems. Standing, from left, are Gene Thompson, vice president of Longbow Limited Liability Company; Fred Marion, vice president, fire control systems for Lockheed Martin Electronics

and Missiles; Bob Deppe, chief of Apache Acquisition Office; Col. Stephen Kee, project manager for Apache Attack Helicopter; Paul Bogosian, deputy program executive officer for aviation; and Lt. Col. John Burke, product manager for Fire Control Radar. The Fire Control Radar detects, classifies and prioritizes ground targets, day or night, for the Apache Longbow's Hellfire missiles.

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SMDC plans Army Space Conference at Redstone Arsenal

As the Army's newest major command and designated specified proponent for space, the Space and Missile Defense Command will host its inaugural Army Space Conference on Jan. 27-28 at the Sparkman Center.

Soldiers from all branches of the Army are invited, from division and corps operators to combat developers and a representative sampling of some brigade commanders within the Army. The conference, which is to become an annual event, is modeled after Army branch conferences.

"Since there is no such thing as a space branch in the Army, we want to create a forum where space issues can be put on the table," Col. John Hoffman, conference organizer, said.

The conference will address Army space doctrine, training, leader development, organization, materiel, and soldier structure with respect to warfighting requirements. The purpose is to inform the Army of space issues and provide users of space throughout the Army the opportunity to make sure SMDC is pursuing those things important to the Army.

Scheduled speakers include Gen. W. W. Hartzog, commander, Training and Doctrine Command; Lt. Gen. Paul Kern, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for research, development, and acquisition; and Gil Klinger, deputy undersecretary of defense for space.

Specifically, the conference sessions will cover requirements and doctrinal issues, communications, remote sensing and situational awareness, and current capabilities. In addition, a classified session on the second day will focus on current Technical Exploitation of National Capabilities, or TENCAP, activities. Concurrent demonstrations of current capabilities and tools supporting these efforts are also planned.

In conjunction with the Army Space Conference, a ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the nation's first launch of a satellite — Explorer I — upon a U.S. Army Redstone Rocket will be held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center on the evening of Jan. 27.

Military judge drops one specification against former Sergeant Major of Army McKinney

By Gerry J. Gilmore

WASHINGTON— Military judge Col. Ferdinand D. Clervi reduced the number of specifications of alleged misconduct against former Sergeant Major of the Army Gene C. McKinney by one and upheld the jury selection process during a Jan. 6 pre-trial motions hearing at Fort Belvoir, Va.

McKinney, now a command sergeant major after being reassigned from his duties Oct. 9 as the Army's top ranking enlisted person, faces court-martial for misconduct as the result of allegations made by six female servicemembers. His trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 3 at Belvoir.

At the Jan. 6 hearing, Clervi granted a defense motion to dismiss a charge of alleged assault against McKinney made by a female servicemember that duplicated another charge made by her. As a result, McKinney is now charged with 19 specifications of alleged misconduct, instead of 20. If convicted of all charges, McKinney faces a maximum of 55.5 years confinement.

Defense counsel contended that the list of panel members or jurors selected by the general court-martial convening authority, Maj. Gen. Robert F. Foley, contained too many women and senior officers. According to defense counsel, such a group of jurors could be less inclined to be sympathetic toward McKinney.

Foley, the commanding general of the Military District of Washington, took the stand and was questioned by defense counsel Lt. Col. V. Montgomery Forrester. Foley testified that he had decided to retain the primary and alternate jurors he had selected from a list provided by the MDW Staff Judge Advocate's Office in November 1996, rather than referring

McKinney's court-martial case to a new group of jurors chosen in November '97. Once selected, such jurors are usually available for service for a year, although this may be changed at the commander's discretion.

The November 1996 group of jurors was selected almost a year before Foley decided on Oct. 8, 1997 to refer alleged misconduct charges against McKinney for general court-martial after a 27-day Article 32 or grand-jury-like hearing at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. The November group, Foley reasoned, would be more impartial, and would demonstrate that the command had no intention of "stacking" the jury.

"I'm convinced they [group of jurors] are fully qualified ... the staff judge advocate and I discussed what would be the best thing to do, [in light of] due process and impartiality," Foley said.

Clervi ruled that Foley acted properly under Article 25 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice in selecting panel or jury members for McKinney's court-martial.

"I'm convinced the [general court-martial] convening authority was sensitive in selecting the panel," Clervi said.

The current group of primary panel members or jurors for McKinney's trial includes six officers: two male colonels; three lieutenant colonels, one male, two females; and one major, male.

In addition, the panel or jury has six male command sergeants major, all senior in date of rank to McKinney. There are officer and enlisted alternates. Defense and prosecution attorneys will question the panel members for suitability early during the court-martial.

McKinney had the option to be tried

by a military judge alone, or a panel consisting of all officers, or a panel consisting of at least one-third enlisted members, according to military legal officials. For a general court-martial, the most serious type of court-martial, the least amount of jurors or panel members required is five.

There is no maximum limit in the amount of jurors for a general court-martial, military legal authorities said, although practical considerations such as time, money, and court size often limit this amount to 12.

Around mid-afternoon, Charles Gittins, McKinney's lead defense attorney, told Clervi he was concerned because the defense had just received from the prosecution counsel an unedited Criminal Investigation Command investigative report about alleged threats made against one of McKinney's female accusers by persons as yet unknown.

Gittins said to Clervi that the defense lost time while waiting for the report.

"We didn't get the [unedited] report ... we're going to ask for additional time to prepare [for the trial]," Gittins said.

Clervi wouldn't consider another continuance. At the request of both defense and prosecution counsels at a Dec. 10-13 pre-trial hearing at Belvoir, he had rescheduled the start of the court-martial from Jan. 6 to Feb. 3.

"You should focus on [preparing] to bring the case to trial on its merits on Feb. 3," Clervi said to Gittins. "[Originally] you and prosecuting counsel agreed to try this case starting today. Nothing has occurred that requires a delay [in trial]. I only granted [the original] delay because both sides asked for it." (Arnews)

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Crime reported at Redstone Arsenal experiences 25 percent drop in 1997

By Dale James

The number of crimes reported on Redstone Arsenal in 1997 declined 25 percent from the previous year, according to statistics provided by the Provost Marshal Office.

As has long been the case, traffic offenses continue to far outweigh all other crimes committed on Arsenal property. There were 471 traffic offenses reported for the fiscal year from October 1996 through September 1997.

That compares with 208 crimes against property, 48 crimes against persons, 31 military offenses, 19 drug offenses and 45 other criminal offenses reported during the same period.

"That," said Bobby Blackwell, chief criminal investigator, "is an outstanding record when you consider that we have a daily population of somewhere between 25,000 and 26,000 people."

Capt. Ellis Andrew, chief of police operations, echoed that sentiment.

"Traffic is always our biggest problem," Ellis said.

According to Provost Marshal statistics, there were 278 vehicle accidents reported for calendar year 1997 vs. 269 accidents the previous year.

Said Ellis, "I think that's due primarily to the fact we

have more people on post, what with the transfers from St. Louis."

Twenty-six of those accidents, or 10 percent, involved cars striking deer. "The drivers on post probably get more deer than the hunters do," Ellis observed.

He estimated that 90 percent of reported accidents can be traced to driver carelessness and inattention. Because of the number of accidents, he added, the Provost Marshal Office continues to make traffic enforcement a priority.

"The Arsenal has a reputation, 'If you're going to speed, don't do it here,'" Ellis said.

The task of combatting crime of all types on the Arsenal is made more difficult by the fact that the Provost Marshal Office has only some 120 people — and that includes the guards at each of the gates into and out of the facility.

"That's a lot of area to cover," Ellis pointed out. "A lot of people don't realize we have 305 miles of blacktop highway within the Arsenal boundaries."

To make its job easier, the Provost Marshal Office places an emphasis on crime prevention. Provost Marshal Office personnel participate in an average of 30 to 40 crime prevention activities each week — from driver safety classes to



BUSY LINE— Andrew fields one of countless phone calls he receives each day in his job as chief of operations for the Provost Marshal Office.

drug awareness classes to K-9 demonstrations.

"The safety and security of the installation is everybody's business, not just the police," Ellis said. "We enforce the laws, but it's everybody's business."

He urged anyone witnessing a crime or any suspicious activity to call the police operations desk at 876-2222, anytime day or night. Or, in the case of an emergency, to call 9-1-1.

Blackwell concurred. "A lot of people are embarrassed to call," Blackwell said. "They're afraid they may see some-

thing suspicious and make the call and it turns out to be perfectly innocent. Then they've caused all this commotion for nothing. But that's OK. That's our job. "That's what we're here for."

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— Anonymous

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— Herman Melville
(1819-1891)
U.S. writer

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— Moliere
(1622-1673)
French playwright

"The most common lie is that with which one lies to oneself; lying to others is relatively an exception."

— Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche
(1844-1900)
German philosopher, poet

"The only limits to our realization of tomorrow will be the doubts of today."

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt
(1882-1945)
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— Sun Tzu
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Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities include the following:

- **Officers Club special**— Every Thursday night, the Officers Club offers a Dining Room Chef Special of the Day for \$4.95 for club members. The special includes entree, salad bar, and coffee or tea. Non-members can purchase the Thursday Night Special for \$7.95. Dinner hours are from 6-8:30 p.m. For more information, call 830-2582.... The Officers Club offers an every Saturday night Prime Rib Special featuring prime rib, soup, cheese, and salad bar. All for \$10.95. Dinner hours are 6-9 p.m. For more information, call 830-2582.... The Officers Club is open for lunch Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1

p.m. The entire Redstone community is welcome. Members receive a 10 percent discount when they present their membership card. For more information, call 830-2582.

- **Golf Course hours**— The Redstone Golf Course, Pro Shop, and Snack Bar are closed on Mondays. For more information, call 883-7977.

- **Youth Services gymnas-tics**— Youth Services is now offering Gymnastics Classes for age groups 5-8 and 9-12 on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Each participant will learn gymnastics through the use of bars, beams and mats. Techniques such as cart-wheels, roundoffs, walkovers, and back handsprings will be taught. Cost for one night a week for one month is \$25; and cost for two

nights a week for one month is \$45. The instructor, Mrs. Pooler, is USGF certified. The skill levels are 1-7. To sign up your child today, call 876-2255.

- **Challenger bingo**— The Challenger holds its Bingo Program Tuesday through Saturday nights from 6:45-10 p.m. and 1:45-5:30 p.m. on Sunday. This program is open to the entire Redstone community. Package games are guaranteed a payout of \$2,000; specialty games are guaranteed to pay out \$1,175; and four major jackpots are offered at \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$12,000 with numbers increasing weekly. For more information, call Ann Hudson 837-0750/0751.

- **Arts and crafts classes**— Arts & Crafts Center operating hours: Tuesdays and

Wednesdays 1:30-10 p.m., Thursdays 5-10 p.m., Fridays 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and closed on Sundays and Mondays. Located at 3615 Gray Road, this multicrafts shop provides instruction, equipment and supplies for the hobbyist that is interested in stained glass, painting, ceramics, woodworking, engraving, or matting and framing. Specialty classes are held often, including holiday crafts and basket weaving. For more information, call 876-7951.

- **Wellness center**— The Wellness Center is offering classes on Relaxation Therapy every other week in January. Learn simple techniques to managing stress anytime during your hectic day or week. To register call 955-6844.

- **Bowling center**— Open bowling special is held every Saturday from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m.; \$1 per line. Snack bar is open for breakfast and lunch every Saturday.... Youth leagues play every Saturday morning at 9; openings are still available for all ages 6-21.... Adult leagues play every night; openings are still available in most leagues.

- **Just Our Club**— The JOC will feature Latin dance music from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Jan. 24. For more information, call 830-2582.

- **Leisure travel**— The Carlson Wagonlit Travel office is now offering "incredible" winter/spring cruise rates aboard Holland America Line to retired, active duty personnel plus your family and friends. These special rates start at

\$699 for the seven-day Eastern Caribbean Cruise aboard the Westerdam and \$1,292 for the 10-day Caribbean sailing's aboard the Ryndam. These rates will save you up to 50 percent off the brochure rates plus you will receive a free cabin category upgrade and tote bag. For more information, call 880-8158.

- **New Parent Support Group**— Under partnering guidelines, Army Community Service is now sponsoring the New Parent Support Group Program. The program focuses on three areas and is open to all military families with children ages 6 and under. The three areas of focus include Home Visits, Play Mornings, and Parenting Classes. For more information, call Karl Dunnigan 876-2798.

AMCOM

Continued from page 1

children both visited from North Carolina. Their son, Frank, from Emerald Isle, spent a week. So did their daughter, Mary Anna Jor-

dan, from Durham, who brought her husband and the Gibson's first grandchild. "So Mary and I had, I think, the best Christmas we've ever had," Gibson said.

"It's a real pleasure being the first AMCOM

commander," he said. "I'm thoroughly enjoying the Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville, Madison, Madison County community. I find the relationship between the military and civilian communities the

best relationship I have ever experienced in my 31 years in the Army. And I look forward to working with everyone to enhance our communities and the quality of life for our employees and families."

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Sports & Recreation

Motorcycle Safety Foundation refresher course teaches mental strategies of motorcycle riding

By Meloney Jones

Redstone's Army Education Center can provide motorcycle safety information and arrange training for new and experienced motorcyclists.

Motorcyclists are required to successfully complete the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Experienced Rider Course before they can register their motorcycles on-post and get decals. So, remember to take and complete the course before you ride your bike on post.

The eight-hour course is taught at Drake Technical Institute in Huntsville. It is sponsored by the Alabama Traffic Safety Center. Military personnel and civilian employees who are interested in taking the course can contact the Education Center to register. The class is free and is filled on a first-come basis based on funding availability.

The course is divided into classroom discussion and range skill evaluations. In the classroom students discuss mental and physical aspects of safe riding, risk management, protective gear, rider responsibility, motorcycle inspection and care. On the range, students demonstrate how to control the motorcycle and ride safely.

John Zibell, technical editor, LOGSA, is an experienced rider and a certified instructor who teaches the course to military and civilian personnel at Drake.



JUST CRUISIN'— Hamblin, a 30-year experienced rider, took a refresher course on motorcycle riding at Drake Technical Institute.

"Ninety percent of motorcycle operation is mental riding strategy and 10 percent is physical skills," Zibell said. The main objective of the course is to improve the rider's mental skills.

"On the range, the students use their own motorcycles and practice the techniques for managing traction, controlling rear-wheel skids, stopping quickly, cornering and swerving," Zibell said. "Both for the course and on-post, motorcyclists are required to wear Department of Transportation approved helmets, eye protection, long sleeves, gloves, long pants, and over-the-ankle foot gear."

There is no mandatory renewal or refresher course required. However, the mental strategies learned in the course are transferred to everyday automotive driving, Zibell said.

Don Hamblin, logistics management specialist, IMMC, is a 30-year experienced rider. Hamblin first took the rider course in 1983 at Fort McPherson, Ga. "The skills you learn in the course are different from riding a bicycle; if you don't use it you lose it," Hamblin said.

When Hamblin tried to register his scooter on post, he found that he was required to retake the course. So, this fall he took a refresher course at Drake. "The course was a great opportunity for me to brush up on my rusted skills, and unlearn some bad habits," he said.

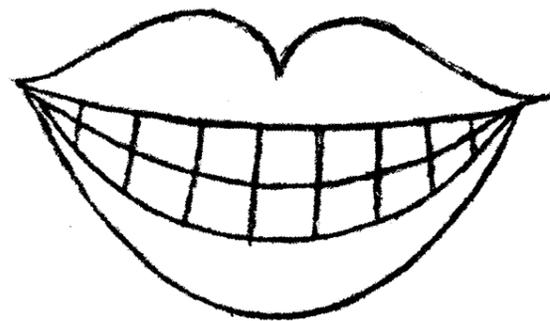
Successfully completing course can save you a little pocket change; insurance companies give riders 5-20 percent discounts on their insurance premium. "Besides the insurance break, the course gives you a chance to play and learn at the same time," Hamblin said.

The next course will be offered in the spring depending on funding availability.

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DRUGS

Continued from page 1

Underwood, and Jimmy, during his temporary assignment with the U.S. Customs Service in El Paso. Redstone was represented on an 11-member detail of narcotics dog handlers from throughout the Defense Department from mid-October to mid-December. Underwood was the only civilian of the detail which included soldiers, sailors and airmen.

"We've supported it in the past, the military has," Jack Rush, kennel master of the military working dog section at Redstone, said. "This was the first support of U.S. Customs by one of our civilian handlers."

Underwood discovered 317 pounds of marijuana and 11 pounds of cocaine in five finds from Oct. 20 through Dec. 17. Altogether, the 11-member detail found more than 2,000 pounds of illegal drugs during their work on the border.

This was harvest time for drug traffickers; and the

U.S. Customs inspectors could use the extra help from the military.

"It was funny: All of them had the same excuse for doing it," Underwood said. "They said it was Christmas time and they needed some money, you know."

The experience opened his eyes to the lengths that cartels go to transport their illegal drugs. They use women—including attractive ladies to try to divert attention of Customs inspectors—and children. They use detergent to try to conceal the scent from dope sniffing dogs. They use older vehicles that they don't mind losing if caught.

The military detail included nine men and two women. There was a soldier from Fort Stewart, Ga., a soldier from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., two sailors, and six Air Force personnel. They all brought their working dogs to check for narcotics in vehicles and cargo during their shifts on the three bridges.

On Oct. 20, Underwood and Jimmy found 25 pounds of marijuana in the spare

tire on the back of a van. The occupant, a man in his mid-30s from Juarez, turned out to be an alleged border runner and fugitive.

They found 11 pounds of cocaine Nov. 26 in the dash of a Jeep Cherokee driven by a woman from Juarez accompanied by four children. The woman was arrested; and child services had to come get the kids.

Their third find came Dec. 3 when 108 pounds of marijuana was discovered in the false floor of a van driven by a Juarez woman. The fourth was Dec. 8 when 104 pounds of marijuana got uncovered in the false floor of a van, driven by a young woman from Oklahoma.

Underwood's final find, the pickup truck with loaded tires Dec. 17, came after another handler initially didn't discover anything. Underwood's suspicions proved correct.

"It was great," Underwood said of the whole experience. "I got to meet a lot of interesting people and actually see how the cartels disguise the narcotics. I had never been exposed to that."



WEIGHING IN— While in El Paso, trying to cross the border from Mexico. The narcotics are being weighed on a digital scale. Underwood and his working dog, Jimmy, pose next to 108 pounds of marijuana they found in a van

Underwood, 36, originally from Birmingham, left Redstone Oct. 12 and returned Dec. 19. He has worked with the Provost Marshal Office since August 1996 after four years with Tennessee Valley

Authority security and 10 years in the Air Force. He received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Customs Service for his work on the detail. "You and your canine partner helped to provide an

increased anti-smuggling posture within the Port of El Paso, Texas and contributed to reducing the ever increasing flow of illicit narcotics coming across our border," the certificate said.

Identification cards to go green soon for entire active force

WASHINGTON— Identification cards for all active status service members will share the common green color of the cards active duty members carry now.

Defense Secretary William Cohen announced the change will be phased in over two to five years, beginning as early as June 1998.

The modifications include changing the reserve active status forces identification card [DD Form 2 (Reserve)] from red to green. Reserve active status forces include members of the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve and the active Standby Reserve.

Only the color will change. Current service benefits, privileges and entitlements remain the same, unless a change in status occurs.

The change responds to a pledge made by Cohen in a recent policy memorandum calling on the civilian and military leadership of the Defense Department to eliminate "all residual barriers structural and cultural" to effective integration of the reserve and active components into a "seamless

total force."

Implementing instructions from the services must be coordinated and published prior to issuing green ID cards to reserve component members. The only ID card being affected is the DD Form 2 (Reserve). The color of all other Uniformed Services Identification Cards will remain the same.

Red identification cards (DD Form 2 (reserve retired)) will continue to be issued to "gray-area

retirees" members of the retired reserve who have not reached age 60. Family members of reservists will also continue to receive the red (DD Form 1173-1) ID card.

The cards will identify the member's reserve component service in the upper righthand corner. The seven components are Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air National Guard, Air Force

Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve.

Among the many considerations of DoD officials when authorizing the change were medical benefits and commissary privileges — two primary areas in which active and reserve component personnel have

different entitlements. An ID card alone does not automatically authorize access to medical benefits or commissary privileges; both will continue to require additional documentation to allow members of the reserve components to use them. (From a DoD release)

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Extraordinary service gets world-class award

FORT LEE, Va.— They saved a baby from choking to death, personally delivered a bag of groceries left at a store, and returned lost wallets with large sums of cash. These deeds not only got the attention of commissary customers, but also received special "world class" recognition.

Commissary employees Terry Zook, Vermell Jones, Claudia Tellone, Jim Clark and Estela Bennett received the Defense Commissary Agency's World Class Customer Service awards from Director Richard E. Beale Jr. during ceremonies here Dec. 9 at agency headquarters.

Zook, a store customer service manager at Bangor Naval Submarine Base, Wash., saved a baby's life on a busy payday in May. Zook noticed the silent child was limp and turning purple while the mother stood in line to check out. Zook saw the child's abnormal color, quickly took it

from the mother's arms and turned the child's head so the baby could release vomit. The mother, unaware her baby had been dying in her arms, was extremely grateful to Zook, who went about her duties guiding customers to checkout stands as if what she had done was simply routine.

Jones, a support clerk at Mayport Naval Station, Fla., made a customer very happy when she found his wallet containing \$3,000 cash. The customer had been preparing to leave Mayport for his new duty station in California when the incident occurred.

Tellone, a cashier at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., recovered a lost bank envelope containing \$120 in March. A customer had left the envelope on the cashier's counter and didn't discover the loss until the next day. Tellone had turned it into the manager.

"I was very grateful to Claudia. She is indeed a

worthy employee, and is to be commended for her honorable service," wrote customer Lory Smith.

Bennett, a cashier at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, discovered a wallet containing \$1,600 at her register in April. She turned in the wallet to a supervisor, who called the owner. The customer offered Bennett a \$100 reward, but she politely declined.

"You are fortunate to be in charge of trustworthy personnel who bring credit and recognition to the Base," customer Myron Sees wrote.

Clark, commissary officer at Fort Meade, Md., literally went the extra mile in customer service in November 1996. On his way home, Clark delivered a bag of groceries left behind at the register counter earlier that day.

Clark and Zook's awards were in a category created

this year to recognize managers and supervisors whose service spawns customer compliments to DeCA officials, said Steve Randol, head of DeCA's Quality Improvement Division.

"The prime strategic goal of DeCA is to satisfy the customer," Randol said. "We have many outstanding employees who have gone beyond the daily standards of excellence in serving our customers."

The presentation highlighted the annual meeting of DeCA's Quality Council, which sets goals in line with the agency's vision statement: "Dedicated professionals providing the marketplace of choice."

It's the second year the awards have been given. They are primarily based on individual incidents of service and determined by a review of letters and notes from customers. (From a DeCA release)

Announcements

Red Cross blood program— Here's the Red Cross blood schedule for the remainder of this month: Jan. 15— from 7-noon, building 7613, Cathy Brown 313-6910; and from 7-10 a.m., building 7770, Kim Andrews 876-8071. Jan. 16— from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., building 4752 (NASA), Francee Logston 544-7534. Jan. 23— from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., SMDC on Wynn Drive, room 1C400, Al Longhi 955-5901; from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., building 4505, Linda Keel 955-0900; from 7-noon, Corps of Engineers, Linda Merschman 895-1580; and from 4-8 a.m., building 3411 (832nd Ordnance Battalion), Capt. Richardson 842-0606.

6161.... Teen Rape Support Group meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at a confidential location. For more information, call 539-6161.

Marriage seminar— Calvary Bible Church, 607 Drake Ave., will conduct a marriage seminar Jan. 16-18. "Dr. Louis Hill of Colorado Springs will give practical, biblical instruction on such topics as husband/wife roles and responsibilities, communication, conflict resolution, keeping the relationship alive, finances, and child training," a prepared release said. For more information, call Calvary Bible Church 881-4381.

Dancers wanted— Open auditions will be held Saturday for Danz Artz Company's presentation of "Cinderella." All dancers age 8

Survivors of rape— Helpline's Survivors of Rape Support Group meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For more information or for confidential help, call 539-

See ANNOUNCEMENTS on page 16

LETTERS

Continued from page 2

Affirmative action

Now that affirmative action has been effectively overturned, we must not forget the realities that led to such legislation in the first place; minorities not being given opportunities commensurate with white contemporaries, regardless of qualifications. As a black American, having lived through the turbulent '60s and '70s, I can personally appreciate the changes that have occurred since those times, however, I have concerns as to whether trends toward equity and fairness will continue without intervention of government.

Corporate America only became sensitized to demographic concerns/issues when it was dictated by the government. It will be interesting to see if these trends continue without being federally dictated, or will it be a return to the good ol' days— when opportunities were based more upon who and what you were, rather than experience and qualifications. Groups that were outside the parameters of the status quo, white-male, were systematically being denied opportunities regardless of experience and qualifications and had to be extended "affirmative action" protections against the de facto discriminations of the time. Since that time, affirmative action driven practices have led to more representativeness of all groups, in all walks of life. However, it's sad that such legislation had to be drafted and executed in the first place, all because some thought that all men/women are "NOT" created equal and are "NOT" endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights.

Roderick L. Bolden

Latest rumor

The latest rumor in my part of the world is about the additional people that will be settling in at Redstone. You know how rumors are, until there is proof then it's just idle talk. Like I said, the talk here was based on the latest scandal in our capital about Arlington Cemetery. It was said that the government needed a back-up location for those of a less-priority and Redstone is it. I thought they were kidding until I drove by the Sparkman Center on Martin Road and just happened to look between the Patriot missile and the Helicopter. To my amazement, there it was— the first tombstone.

Name withheld by request

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Announcements

Continued from page 15 and up. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Saturday at Performing Arts Inc., 1405 Weatherly Plaza Circle, Suite C. Independent judges. The performance will be held June 20 at the Von Braun Center. For more information, call 881-9189.

NCO spouses— The Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club will have its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Challenger Bingo Club. "Bring a friend and become involved in your community," a prepared release said.

Uniformed services association— The North Alabama Chapter of the National Association for Uniformed Services will hold its inaugural meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday at Bicentennial Chapel. Scheduled speaker is retired Maj. Gen. Jim Pennington, president of the National Association for Uniformed Services. Charter officers for the North Alabama Chapter will be installed at this meeting. "Anyone interested in learning how to participate effectively in the legislative process and influence laws impacting on the military is invited to attend," a prepared release said.

Drug awareness program— Huntsville City Schools and the Huntsville Council of PTAs will hold a two-part drug awareness program titled, "Drugs of the '90s: What's Hot/What's Not." The first part of the program will be presented 7-9 p.m. Thursday in the Butler High School Auditorium with scheduled speaker Ron Stark, senior special agent with the Drug Enforcement

Administration, U.S. Department of Justice- New Orleans Field Division. Huntsville Police Chief Compton Owens and Angela Camp from Bradford Health Services are to present the second part of the program 7-9 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Butler auditorium.

Family care— Hospice Family Care will offer "Half a Couple," a grief support program for widows and widowers of all ages, at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 15, 29, Feb. 12 and 26 at Hospice Family Care office, 2225 Drake Ave. Suite 8. This free program is available to anyone in the community. For more information, call 650-1212.

Merit awards— The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will present one or more Merit Awards to eligible graduating high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or vocational school and to undergraduate or graduate students who are presently enrolled in a college and working toward a degree. Applicants must be family members of active duty, retired, Reserve, or deceased commissioned or warrant officers. All applicants must hold a valid military identification card. Their primary residence must be with parents or parent residing in the Huntsville area. Students on fully paid scholarships or who have previously received this award are not eligible to apply. Merit Award applications are also available for spouses of active duty, retired, Reserve, or deceased commissioned or warrant officers who have been accepted or are presently attending an accredited college or university as an undergraduate

or graduate student. All applicants must hold a valid military identification card and their primary residence must be in the Huntsville area. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible to apply. The deadline to apply for Merit awards is March 9. Applications can be obtained by written request to Kitty Ware, Merit Awards chairman, 140 Hunington Chase Drive, Madison, 35758. Include your phone number and the type of merit award you are applying for (i.e., high school, college or spouse) on all requests.

Science/engineering apprentices— Applications are available for the 1998 Department of Defense Science and Engineering Apprentice Program (SEAP) and the College Apprentice Program (CAP-SQL). Applications have been mailed to senior counselors at area public, private, and parochial high schools. Aviation and Missile Command placements include: physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering, and mathematics. The SEAP is designed for students in grades 10 through graduating seniors who have demonstrated above average academic achievement in science, mathematics and engineering courses. Interested students must be at least 15 years old by the start of the program June 15. 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 pro-

grams 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 Jan. 31. If your child is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the senior counselor, you may receive one from the Aviation and Missile Command Academic Affairs Office, building 7804, room 244, phone 876-9296 or the Sparkman Learning Center, building 5304, room 4319, phone 876-1061.

Enlisted personnel— Personnel from Department of the Army, Personnel Command, Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate, Ordnance Enlisted Branch will visit Redstone Arsenal from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Thursday. Soldiers in Career Management Fields 35/55 are encouraged to attend one of these briefings in the Post Theater. Supervisors should ensure all soldiers have an opportu-

nity to attend; interested civilians are welcomed. Topics to be discussed will include assignment possibilities, reclassification options, and developmental goals affecting Ordnance soldiers. If soldiers desire one-on-one appointments, call SFC Augustus 842-6870. Discussions will be held in the Leader Development Personnel Proponent Conference Room, building 3301 from 8-10 a.m. Friday.

Love bowl 1998— "Love Bowl," a bowling fund-raiser in which teams of 4-5 people obtain pledges from various sponsors based on their individual scores from one game of bowling, will be held Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at Plamor Lanes in Huntsville. All proceeds benefit the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program of North Alabama. Free food and beverages will be available to all participants. Love bowlers will also be eligible for a number of door prizes. The government or military team which raises the most money will receive a trophy and a free pizza party.

"What's more, feel wonderful knowing you made a difference in a child's life." To obtain team packets or for more information, call 880-2123.

Resource managers— The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Marriott, Huntsville. Cost is \$10 for members, \$11 for non-members. Scheduled speaker is Ernie Gregory from DA Financial Management. For reservations call Cherry Hovik 876-3590 or Bill Richardson 842-6943.

Contract managers— Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA) will hold its luncheon meeting Jan. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. Dwight B. Clark of Marshall Space Flight Center is to speak on "Web Sites for Procurement Professional." Registration will begin at 11:15. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for guests. For reservations call 533-3954 by Jan. 19.

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Announcements

Hail/farewell—The Team Redstone Hail and Farewell will be held Jan. 27 from 4-6 p.m. at the Officers Club. All AMCOM civilian and military personnel, regardless of grade or rank, are invited to attend. The honorees will include all military officers and civilian employees GM/GS-11 and above, who have joined this command within the past three months, and those scheduled to depart prior to March 31. Dress will be duty uniform for military and normal duty attire for civilians. Cost is \$4 per person. For more information, call Gaila Kelso of Protocol Office 876-9857.

Wine tasting fund-raiser—Rare wines, dinner parties, exotic trips and art treasures will be auctioned Jan. 23 during Wine Tasting 1998, a benefit for the Huntsville Museum of Art. The annual event, sponsored by the Museum Women's Guild, will be from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's North Hall. Tickets cost \$50 per person. For more information, call the Museum 535-4350.

Education committee—The Army Community Service (ACS) Education Com-

mittee will meet at noon Jan. 28 at ACS, building 3491. It is helpful to call in advance concerning problem areas that need to be put on the agenda. Any parent interested in the educational needs of their child is invited to attend. This meeting is open to everyone. For more information, call Virginia Dempsey 876-5397.

Fashion show—Tickets are now on sale for the third annual Designers Against Breast Cancer '98 Fashion Extravaganza. The Extravaganza is slated for Feb. 28 at the Huntsville Marriott with the reception at 5:30 p.m. and runway fashion show at 7. Special features will include live entertainment, fashion/jewelry designer exhibits, art displays and fashion show segments highlighting models who are breast cancer survivors, local TV celebrities, political figures, and community leaders. General admission is \$25, reserve seating \$30. Proceeds will go to the American Cancer

Society. Designers Against Breast Cancer is an all volunteer group of individuals who pool together their talents to raise consciousness to breast cancer. This event is hosted by the Huntsville Council of Fashion Designers. For ticket locations/information, call 772-9710 or 539-0001.

Prayer breakfast—The January non-denominational prayer breakfast sponsored by IMMC will be held Jan. 27 from 7-7:30 a.m. in the conference room, 9128, at building 5309, located east of the Sparkman Center Food Court. Scheduled speaker is Dianne Cooney.

Transition workshop—The Military Personnel Office is sponsoring a three-day Transition Assistance Workshop on Jan. 27-29 in building 3222, room 10. The workshop is mandatory for all military personnel leaving the service within the next 180 days unless they have attended a previous workshop. These work-

shops are available to all branches of service including National Guard and Reserves. DoD civilians, military retirees, veterans and spouses of all are also encouraged to attend. Seating is limited so you must register to attend. To register call Marie Adams 842-0870.

Financial management workshop—“Taking Control: A Financial Management Workshop for Women” will be held in four sessions from Tuesday, Jan. 20 through Thursday, Jan. 29 at 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Real Life Fitness for Women, 2312 South Memorial Parkway. For reservations call 539-8333 or fax 539-8885.

Officer/civilian women—The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is accepting requests from organizations seeking financial assistance.

Written requests should outline the group's programs, reasons for requesting help, how funds will be used, and whether other groups or organizations have been solicited for the same donations. Mail requests to RSA OCWC Welfare Chairman, P.O. Box 8110, Redstone Arsenal 35808. Requests must be postmarked by March 1. The awards will be presented in early May.

Cerebral Palsy telethon—Star Fest '98, the local telethon benefiting United Cerebral Palsy's regional center in Huntsville, will be telecast live from the Jaycee's Building at the Old Airport on WAAY-TV Channel 31 from 7 p.m. Saturday through 6 p.m. Sunday.

IG session for residents—The AMCOM Inspector General Office is conducting an assessment

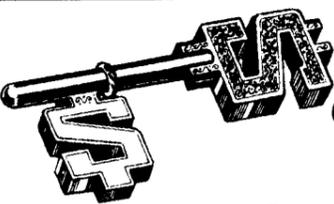
of Military Housing services provided on Redstone Arsenal. The IG office will conduct its final sensing session with military and family members living on Redstone Arsenal. Personnel interested in speaking with the IG are encouraged to attend this session. It will provide a unique opportunity for military and family members to express their views regarding any housing issue. The final session will be Jan. 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the Bicentennial Chapel's Activity Room. Children are welcome. For more information, call Beth Jorgensen of the IG office 876-9704.

Merit awards—The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will present one or more Merit Awards to eligible graduating high school

See ANNOUNCEMENTS on page 18

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued from page 17

seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or vocational school and to undergraduate or graduate students who are presently enrolled in a college and working toward a degree. Applicants must be family members of active duty, retired, Reserve, or deceased commissioned or warrant officers. All applicants must hold a valid military identification card. Their primary residence must be with parents or parent residing in the Huntsville area. Students on fully paid scholarships or who have previously received this award are not eligible to apply. Merit Award applications are also available for spouses of active duty, retired, Reserve, or deceased commissioned or warrant officers who have been accepted or are presently attending an accredited college or university as an undergraduate or graduate student. All applicants must hold a valid military identification card and their primary residence must be in the Huntsville area. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible to apply. The deadline to apply for Merit Awards is March 9. Applications can be obtained by written request to Kitty Ware, Merit Awards chairman, 140 Huntington Chase Drive, Madison 35758. Include your phone number and the type of Merit Award you are applying for (i.e.

high school, college or spouse) on all requests.

Green to gold— The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program is looking for highly-qualified and motivated individuals to become commissioned officers in the Army. Capt. Lovell Sample, enrollment officer with Alabama A&M University, will visit the Redstone Arsenal Educational Center, building 3222, Snooper Road, at 9 a.m. Jan. 26. The purpose of this visit is to brief permanent party personnel interested in becoming a second lieutenant about the Green to Gold program. The Army's Green to Gold program offers four-, three-, and two-year scholarships to those who qualify. These scholarships furnish: money for tuition, books, fees and a \$150 monthly allowance. Joining an ROTC program gives soldiers the opportunity to learn how to be future leaders in today's Army. ROTC teaches leadership, planning and organizing, problem analysis, technical skills and the ability to make good decisions. If you feel you have what it takes to be an Army officer, then accept the ROTC challenge. The briefing is open to all Redstone personnel. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Langford or 2nd Lt. Cain at 851-5775/5776.

Parenting classes— ACS and the New Parent Support Program are offering free parenting classes starting Jan. 28. The classes

will be held at the Child Development Center on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8. The classes will run for six weeks. Free child care will be provided for military families and on a space available basis for civilians. To register or for more information, call Karla Dunnigan 876-2798.

Sealed bid sale— A sealed bid sale of government surplus items will be held Jan. 26 at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, 7405 Warehouse Road, Redstone Arsenal. Property inspection and bid submission is scheduled 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 21, 22 and 23. Methods of bidding include faxed, hand-carried and mailed. The bid receipt deadline is 8 a.m. Jan. 26. Verbal bids will not be accepted. To view material for the sale and to submit bids, report to building 7413 or for more information, call Edmund Russell 955-0297 or Donna Davis 842-2570.

Logistics engineers— Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics (SOLE) will have a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 20 at Holiday Inn, Madison Square Mall. Scheduled speaker is Gary Dobbs, director of weather services for WAAY-TV Channel 31. For reservations call any of the following by 4 p.m. Friday: Louise W. Cooper 955-0576, E. Louise Cooper 955-7492 or Jim Schaaf 922-5159.



Classifieds



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.

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'98 Mercury Mistique. Under 1K mi., loaded, moonroof, black, leather seats, stereo, CD. \$17,800 obo. 233-0076.

'98 Oldsmobile Intrigue. Loaded, PW, PDL, PM, power seat, spoiler, sporty sedan. \$22,500. Kelly, 882-7409.

'97 Chevy Camaro Z28. 6 sp., T-Tops, fully loaded, 17K mi., like new, warranty. 859-9504.

'96 Chevrolet Silverado. 29K mi., loaded, ext. cab, PL, PW, 6 way pwr. seat, cassette, CD. \$18,800 obo. 233-0076.

'96 Pontiac Bonneville SSE. White, teal, leather int., sunroof, CD, fully loaded, new tires, 46K mi. Asking \$22,500. 885-4322.

'96 Toyota Tercel. 2 dr., red, auto, air, AM/FM cassette, 12K mi. 461-9831 after 6 pm.

'95 Camaro Z28 pkg. Auto., T-Tops, alarm, keyless entry, power windows, doors, new tires, immaculate cond. \$13,900. 882-1930

'94 Honda Passport LX. 2WD, low mi. (23K), midnight blue, PS, PB, PW, PDL. Exc. cond. \$15,400. 880-3767.

'93 Mitsubishi Eclipse. Auto., PS, air, Kenwood AM/FM cassette and Blaupunkt CD changer, red, new paint, battery, 62K mi. \$6,800 obo. 650-2144.

'92 Pontiac Bonneville SSE. Drk. blue, custom wheels, all options, exc. cond., 77K mi. \$10,100 obo. 650-5146 after 6 pm.

'91 Ford Thunderbird Super Coupe, loaded, leather, moonroof, auto., exc. cond. \$3,950 obo. 895-9200.

'91 Mazda 626 LE. 1 owner, fully loaded with leather and moonroof, high mileage but very good cond. \$3,600. (205) 931-4517.

'90 Mercury Sable station wagon. PW, air, 5th seat. \$4,000. Fireplace insert, Rockwood, \$75. 859-9610 evenings.

'88 Crown Victoria. V8, auto., 119K mi., white w/blue int., 1 owner. \$1,750 obo. 881-2979.

'87 Olds Cutlass Supreme Brougham. 2 dr., loaded, 305 V8. 1 owner, good cond. Asking \$2,000. (205) 582-2853.

'89 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x2, 4.0L, 115K mi., new tires. Looks, runs great. \$4,900. Leroy at E & E Garage. 880-0637.

'89 Lincoln Towncar. Reduced, blue ext., navy leather int., well maintained. \$4,800. 539-2771 after 5pm.

'87 Olds Regency 98. Immaculate, like new, 2nd owner, garaged, never wrecked, loaded. 84K mi., light chestnut. 232-3540.

'86 Corvette Hatchback. 95K mi., red with red int. NADA value \$11,400, asking \$10,500. 533-0038.

'84 Honda CRX. 1.3L, 4 cyl., 5 sp., runs, some parts new, Great spare parts for CRX owners. \$250. John, 722-9674 after 5 pm.

'84 Nissan 300ZX Turbo. Auto, air, runs good, interior bad, some rust. \$1,200. (205) 586-0252.

'76 Triumph TR6, green, orig. owner, less than 60K, garaged, new tires, newly rebuilt carburetor/generator, factory hardtop, rollbar fits under top. 851-7286.

'68 Ford Mustang convertible deluxe. red with beige top, good cond., very sharp. \$8,700 firm. (205) 934-0354.

'30 Model "A" Ford Tudor with new car hauler. All original. \$8,000 firm. 859-7457 after 6 pm.

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Cars for \$100. Seized and sold locally this month. Trucks, 4x4's, etc. 800-522-2730 x4410.

• Miscellaneous •

Akai tuner/receiver, cassette decks, CD player. Pair Bose 901 speakers w/stands. \$1,100 for all, will sell separately. 882-6026 after 6 pm.

Antique secretary, \$150. Kitchen aid dryer, \$75. Baby bed with mattress and bedding, \$75. (205) 586-8433.

Apartment size washing machine. Great for apartment without washer hookup or for RV use. \$100. 837-9026.

Bayliner 2A50 Cigra Sunbridge cruiser. 25 ft., 350 hp., depth finder, trim tabs, sleeps 6, equipped with all the options, low hrs. \$14,000. 852-5099.

Camper, '96 21' Innsbruck, sleeps 4, gas and electric, heat and air, bath w/shower, used 1 time. \$9,600. 420-8338.

Car seats, infant and toddler, \$29 ea. High chair, \$15. Swing \$30. Bassinet, \$35. Food dehydrator, \$20. 895-0142.

Class II trailer for '85-'95 Dodge Caravans, \$40. 3 pass. bench seat for '85-95 Dodge Caravan, \$150. Genie garage door opener, \$30. 883-2541.

'85 Alfa gold 32 ft. 5th wheel. Front twin beds, center kitchen, air, clean, sleeps 6. \$4,900. (931) 937-8704.

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Need a Job!!!

Ford

Ford/Lincoln/Mercury Dealers in association with the veterans from Hire Quality are looking for the following Positions:

Automotive Service Technicians
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- All Aircraft Maintenance
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Hire Quality

Brought to you by your Ford / Lincoln / Mercury Dealers

Classifieds

'84 Honda V45-750 motorcycle, great cond., new tires, been stored for 2 years. Asking \$2100 obo. or trade. 888-438-5672.

5'x3'x2' doghouse, \$25. (205) 892-2102.

48" round oak table, 2 leaves, \$150. Solid cherry Jelly cupboard, \$350. Computer desk with printer table, antique oak jr. hi-chair, \$40. 971-0410.

German cornerbench (Eckbank) with padded storage seats, table w/leaf and two matching chairs. \$350. 837-8418, 9 am- 8 pm.

Jaguar dressed skin. 971-5008 after 5pm.

Jenn-Aire dropin cooktop w/Corning white cook units. Has grill and griddle, \$250. Fluke model 8020 DVM, \$50. Hitch-mount dual bike rack, \$35. 533-4672.

Life Gear Super Climber exercise machine w/ electronics, \$50. 233-1068.

Little Tykes house bed, like new, asking \$250. 883-6773.

Longaberger basket. Holly basket, Christmas 1984, \$300. 881-2747.

Maltese puppies (white). 2 females, 2 males, AKC Maltese mother and father. Female, \$400. Male, \$325. Available 1 week before Valentines Day. Jim Sr., 885-0521.

'97 Kawasaki 220 4 wheeler. Same as new only less \$. \$2,950. (205) 728-2397.

'92 Honda CT 70 trail/dirt bike, \$500. Computer, \$150. Monitor, \$100. Panasonic printer, \$75. (205) 233-2924.

Pro-Scan laser disc and CD player with remote. Auto. 2 sided playback, last memory, program playback, many more features, \$299. 883-6951.

Sailboat. 75 22 ft. MacGregor, sails, motor, accessories and trailer. \$3,000. (205) 747-2786.

Scuba gear. Man's USD Calypso BC, like new, \$125. Used only 5 times. Women's medium wet suit, \$50. Booties, \$15. Gloves, \$12. 883-1510.

Secret revealed! How to slash dental costs up to 80%, Vision 60% and prescription 50%. Free details. Call now. (615) 452-0071.

Seized cars for pennies on the \$100. Trucks, vans, 4x4's, motorcycles, sport utilities, jeeps, RV's and more! Being liquidated in your area! Call 800-522-2730 x 4411.

Solid wood red bunk bed. 2 twin mattresses, baseball theme comforters and window valances included, \$125. 851-0622.

Stainless sink, \$25. Electric in-the-wall oven, \$80. Electric cook top/burners/grill, \$50. Queen waterbed, \$50. 880-0317.

Super Nintendo Entertainment System, 2 controllers, all necessary parts and wires, 7 games, cleaning kit. \$125. 721-0360.

The New Zoo Beanie Babies is now open at 3551 Macon Rd., Columbus, GA. Most current Beanies priced below \$5.95/. For information call (706) 563-7111.

386-33 computer. Sound blaster card, 2 hard drives, Windows, Wordperfect, Excel, Publisher, Quicken, Commanche printer. \$300. 837-2604.

2 Macintosh Pluses. 4 MB, keyboard, mouse, 1 30 MB hard drive, all in great cond. \$100 for everything. 722-0552.

2 13" color TV's, \$30 ea. Sharp VCR, \$10. Miami Dolphin jacket, adult small, \$25. Upright freezer, \$45. 881-1810.

Wanted pedal tractor, any age, any cond., any brand. Prefer cast alum. type. 851-6116 or 720-7600.

Homes to Rent/Sale

Available Spring. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, large eat-in kitchen, family room / fireplace, double garage. Assumable with approval. Please call (402) 274-4522.

Best buy in Big Cove! 4 BR, 3 story, large lot. 518-9045.

Budget pleaser. if you are paying \$400 to rent you could pay less and own your own home. this 3 BR Bungalow is in excellent condition with lots of new stuff. No down payment for qualified buyers. Call Keith Hall at 337-HALL (4255). 1st REALTY ERA. (215S-02).

Fleming Hills: Brick rancher w/full unfinished basement 10 min. from RSA. 1750 sq.ft. with 3 BR, 2.25 BA, deck, and many extras. Chaffee / Whitesburg / Grissom schools. \$105,000. See at 7601 Teal Dr., 539-0111.

For rent, new building ofc./retail. South Parkway location, 800 to 2400 sq.ft. Great for new shop or office. 881-8069.

For sale/lease by owner: A super deal! Condo, Emerald Forest in Madison. 2 BR, 2 BA, sunroom, racquetball. \$47,000. Call 883-0778 lv. msg.

Hud & V.A. Repossessed homes. Hud pays closing costs, \$500 down on VA homes. Joe Jensen Realty. 830-0821.

Large 1 BR apartment for rent. very clean, quiet complex. basic cable and garbage pickup furnished. no pets! Unfurnished \$245, furnished \$265. Phone 837-2680 or 882-7295.

No gimmicks- just a nice solid 4 BR, 3 BA, 2 story brick home on a large corner lot in a nice neighborhood. A real value in the mid 70's. Call Keith Hall at 337-HALL (4255). 1st REALTY ERA. (13106n-01)

Owner must sell! English Village. 2150+ sq.ft., 3 BR, LR/DR, den, huge rec. room, appraised for \$111,500. Asking \$104,000. 882-3579.

For sale "Red" time share week 44 (end of October - start of November) at Enchanted Isle Resort in Hollywood, Florida (near Fort Lauderdale). Unit 204, 1 R, 2 to 4 occupancy. \$5,000. Call Alfred Krebsbach. 544-2263 or 882-2369.

3 BR brick rancher, large corner lot, fenced back yard, garage, carport and deck. Owner financing. \$1500 down, \$525 a month. 851-7811.

2 BR, washer/dryer included. Walking distance to RSA. \$300 mo. + \$300 deposit. 533-4543.

Waterfront cottage, Gunterville. Large GR, large MBR with walk-in closet and BA plus extra closet. Smaller 2nd BR or sunroom with .5 BA. Large enclosed carpeted porch. Carport. 1-205-582-8577.

Services

Avoid Bankruptcy. Free debt consolidation application with service. Cut payments to 65%, 24-hr. approval 1-800-873-8207.

Bus to New Grand Casino and others every Saturday. Bus fare \$20. For reservations, call (205) 536-0205.

Deer Processing. Rocket City Meats and Seafood. \$25 standard cut (skinning available) Call 533-9744 for after hours drop off information.

Licensed baby-sitter. full time during the day, SW, walking distance to Ridgecrest school, any age. 539-6037.

Need quality work? Mathews Home Improvements. Decks, painting, hanging doors, trim work, sheet rock, carpentry, replace siding and wood, framing, total preparations and repairs. Residential and commercial. Free estimates. Licensed and insured. Call Calvin Mathews. 830-8167, 509-4059, 564-1400.

Are you into it? Are you into it? Are you into it?

The Fabulous Smokey Mtn Christmas Lights

Thru Feb. '98, Visit the casinos in Cherokee, just over the Mtn. Shop at 100's of Outlet Stores in Pigeon Forge. Stay in this completely furnished condo w/big stone fireplace. 2BR w/king size beds, 2 BA, completely furnished. 1-800-436-9538 ask for unit 219

Business Opportunities

Looking for serious part-time residual income? Total financial security? Early retirement? Career change? Free training for right 4 people. (615) 452-0071.

Help Wanted

Baby sitter needed for Friday nights from 5 pm-12am in my home starting Jan. 23. Must live on post. 603-5746.

Getting out? Retiring? Downsized? Ex Army officer in search of people with leadership experience. High earning potential, training and travel available. Call Mr. Burnett, 534-8994.

Leadership. Due to corporate expansion ex Army officer needs to fill leadership roles by 31 Jan. '98. High earning potential, training and travel available. Call Mr. Burnett, 534-8994.

Looking for ambitious military minded individuals ready to earn one's worth instead of slave wages. Serious inquiries only. (205) 851-6570.

Want an enjoyable part-time job with flexible daytime hours (mostly am) M-F and above min. wage? If you like working with the public then apply at the Espresso Coffee Stand, Sparkman Center Cafeteria Bldg. 5302, Patton and Martin Rd., M-F 7-3 pm. 721-7772 eves. for more info.

HOW TO PLACE Redstone Rocket CLASSIFIED ADS

Free classifieds (limited to 20 words)

are provided to all Redstone Arsenal personnel. PERSONAL ITEMS ONLY REAL ESTATE, BUSINESS AND "FOR PROFIT" DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THIS FREE OFFER.

Only one ad per week from an individual Ads must be mailed, delivered, or faxed to The Advertiser Company, 3315 Bob Wallace Ave., Suite 106, Huntsville AL 35805 FAX (205) 539-9866 by 5 p.m. Friday prior to Wednesday's paper.

FOR COMMERCIAL AD RATES CALL (205) 539-9828

Please run the following non-commercial classified ad in the next edition of the Redstone Rocket:

Please print or write legibly (including home phone no.)

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0 Down Payment With A Deed
We Finance Land, Home and Improvements *WAC

4.6 miles west of I65 on Hwy 72 in Athens.
Watch For Our Big Red Roof Building

DON'T PASS ON THESE SAVINGS



'96 Ford Explorer
4 Door, 2WD, All Power
Only
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Full Power
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'97 Ford Aerostar Extended Van XLT
Dual Air, All Power Prices Starting at
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Power Windows, Locks, Sport Wheels.
List new over 19K. Prices Starting at
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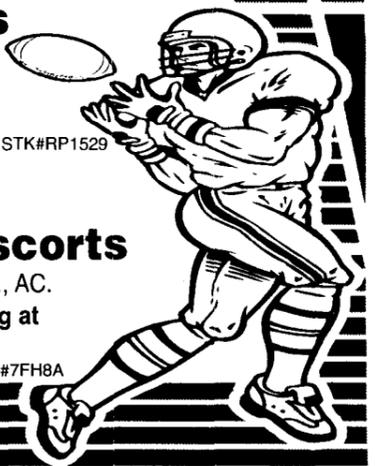
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Fully Equipped, Prices Starting at
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Nicely Equipped. Prices Starting at
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'98 Ford Windstar GL Passenger Vans
9,600 Miles, Dual Air, Full Power.
Prices Starting at **\$18,990**

'97 Ford Crown Victoria LXs
Loaded.
Prices Starting at
\$17,880 STK#RP1529

'97 Ford Escorts
All 4 Door, Auto., AC.
Prices Starting at
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'97 Ford Windstar GL Van
Dual AC, All Power, 9K Mi.
\$16,990

'98 Ford Contour GL
4 Door, Auto, Power pkg. Alum. Wheels.
\$13,990

'97 Pontiac Grand Prix SE
4 Door, Loaded!
\$17,990

'97 Mitsubishi Eclipse RS
Extra Sharp!
\$13,990

'97 Ford Thunderbird LX
Loaded!
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'97 Ford Taurus GL
All Power!
\$12,990

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Sunroof, Leather, Chrome Wheels, Loaded with Options!
\$19,990

'98 Ford Windstar GL Van
Dual AC, All Power
\$18,990

'97 Mercury Mountaineer AWD
Leather, Sunroof.
\$24,990

'97 Ford Crown Victoria LX
Full Power!
\$17,990

'97 Ford Aerostar Ext. Van
All Power!
\$17,990

'97 Ford Aerostar Ext. Van
All Wheel Drive, Dual Air, Only 11K Mi.
\$19,990

'96 Ford Explorer Sport
2 Wheel Drive
\$14,990

'94 Chevy Camaro
V-6, 5 Spd., Alloy Wheels.
\$9,995

'96 Acura Integra Special Ed.
5 Spd, Air, Power Pkg, Leather, Sunroof, 16K Mi.
\$12,880

'95 Ford Thunderbird LX
V-8, All Power, 36K Mi.
\$11,990

'96 Ford Contour GL
Sharp!
\$9,995

'97 Ford Escort LX
Auto, Air!
\$9,995

'96 Ford Honda Accord LX
4 Door, Auto, Air, 23K Mi.
\$15,990

'97 F-150 XLT Supercab 4x4
V-8, Auto, All Power!
\$22,990

'97 Ford F-150 XL Supercab Sportside
V-8, Auto, Air!
\$17,990

'97 Dodge Ram Ext. Cab Sport
SLT Pkg., All Power, 5.9L V-8!
\$19,990

'97 Ford Expedition XLT
2WD, Loaded, 15K Mi.
\$27,800

'96 F-150 LX Longbed
5 Spd, Air, Excellent Work Truck!
\$11,990

'95 Ford F-150 4x4 XLT Shortbed
V-8, Auto, Air, 24K Mi.
\$17,990

'98 Ford F-150 Supercab
Fully Equipped, Only 2K Mi.
\$16,990

'94 Chevy C-20 Custom Van Hightop
V-8, All Power, TV.
\$14,990

'94 Ranger Supercab XLT
V-6, 48K Mi.
\$9,995

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