

Redstone Rocket

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

BREAKING GROUND—From left are Georgina Melon, chief of the Housing Office; Col. J. David Norwood of the Mobile District, Corps of Engineers; Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer; Sullivan; Ivan Velasquez, president of American Renovation & Construction; and Anthony Jemison, corporate officer of American Renovation & Construction.

New millennium housing

Construction begins on replacement homes for enlisted families

By Skip Vaughn

The turn of the century will bring new and improved housing for military families at Redstone.

A ground-breaking ceremony Thursday marked the start of construction for a project to replace 118 enlisted family housing units built in 1957. The \$14 million project is to be completed in May 2001.

"This event marks the beginning of a significant quality of life improvement here at Redstone Arsenal," Col. Steven Hamilton, the deputy post commander, said. "Quality of life is something we take very seriously here at Redstone Arsenal."

"We're about to build some of the finest quarters that the Army has ever built."

The design/build project includes the demolition of the existing units, design and construction of the replacement units to include landscaping, driveways, streets,

street lighting, utility systems, recreational areas and walks. The replacement units are all single-story and consist of 86 houses (units) and 16 duplexes (32 units).

The contract was awarded to American Renovation & Construction Company of San Diego.

"For too many years the families here at Redstone have lived in cramped, and in my opinion, very substandard quarters," Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, said. "Well, ladies and gentlemen, that's about to change."

The new homes will be from 1400-1900 square feet per house, each with a garage. They will be constructed on the south side of Goss Road at Benet and Hof Circles (area 2), and on the north side of Goss Road at Wesson Circle, Dyer Circle and Niblo Drive (area 4). Six of the units will be handicap-accessible.

Montgomery steps down as program executive officer and into civilian life

By Sandy Riebeling

It was a simple yet heartfelt goodbye as Brig. Gen. Daniel Montgomery stepped down as Program Executive Officer for Air and Missile Defense and welcomed Col. John Urias as the new PEO.

"I've searched for just the right words to describe what it's been like," Montgomery said. "The best I can come up with are privileged and honored—privileged and honored to be a part of this team and a part of the greatest army the world has ever seen."

In his remarks Friday to the crowd at the Sparkman Auditorium, Paul Hooper, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, called the change of position ceremony a "solemn event, with good reason."

"We are embarking on a change of leadership with this ceremony," Hooper said. "A leader must become more than he was yesterday. Dan Montgomery lived up to the

hopes of those who witnessed the ceremony three and a half years ago when he accepted this role. I've had the privilege of working with Dan on MEADS when it was first beginning. There were times it seemed doomed to failure but Dan never gave up. This is the hallmark of the man—he never gives up.

"He will say his success is a team success, which is true," Hooper said. "What he will not say is that nothing happens without a great leader."

True to Hooper's words, Montgomery did give his team credit for the great accomplishments of the PEO, which programs include Patriot, Theater High Altitude Area Defense, National Missile Defense Ground Based Elements, Medium Extended Air Defense System, Joint Tactical Ground Station and Arrow.

"It's not been particularly easy these

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Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SAYING GOOBYE—Montgomery, center, talks with old friends before the Change of Position Ceremony for PEO Air and Missile Defense.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TAKING CHARGE—Urias with his wife, Heidi, accepts congratulations from well-wishers on his new assignment as the PEO for Air and Missile Defense.

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Letters to the editor

Soldiers make hit

It was great that RSA bought out the Huntsville Stars baseball game on Sept. 3. I was sitting at a table selling chances on the 1999 Huntsville Stars Signature Quilt for the Booster Club when a young girl stopped to buy a chance. She asked if "the people with the hats" had signed the quilt. I said the baseball players signed the quilt. She said not the baseball players, those other people with hats. "The people with the hats" were the soldiers! She wished the soldiers had signed the quilt instead of the baseball players! Go soldiers! What a shame someone got tired and made the soldiers leave before the game ended—claimed they had bed check!

Doris Dam
Security specialist,
JTUAV Project Office

DoD to promote family coping skills

By Linda Kozaryn

WASHINGTON -- When servicemembers deploy to world trouble spots, it's tough on the spouses and children they leave behind.

Toddlers don't understand why Mom or Dad has left, but only that they're gone. Frequent separations are equally hard on spouses. Not only are they left to deal with the home front, they also fear for their loved ones' safety since media coverage often features each deployment's dangerous realities.

As a result of the increasing level of military operations, defense officials want to better prepare servicemembers and spouses for their intermittent role as single parents.

Officials here say the unique challenges associated with separations may not be adequately addressed in parenting training offered at base family centers, chaplain and family advocacy programs and medical clinics.

DoD's Office of Family Policy, in partnership with the U.S. Department of

See Coping on page 14

Public meeting slated for Tuesday on environmental cleanup plans

The public is invited to the first of a series of public information sessions regarding the investigation and cleanup of the old Redstone Arsenal Rocket Engine (RARE) North Plant, scheduled for Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at Chaffee Elementary School, 7900 Whittier Road, SW. Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the Aviation and Missile Command and local health and utility providers will be present.

Between the 1940s and 1996, an area within the southeastern portion of Redstone Arsenal, called the RARE North Plant, was used by the Army and its contractors to

develop, manufacture and test rocket motors that contained propellant. This area is now also called Operable Unit 10, or OU-10. The rocket motors were cleaned with a common solvent, trichloroethene (TCE), in distiller/degreaser units to remove grit, grease and other materials.

For 10 years, the Army has been investigating and cleaning up areas where suspected spills and disposal of TCE occurred. The Army is beginning an investigation off the Arsenal to the east of the OU-10 area because TCE recently was detected in the monitoring-well network near the Arsenal's eastern boundary.

The purpose of this public meeting is to present information on the ongoing

investigation and remediation efforts within OU-10 and to announce a need to further expand the groundwater monitoring network off the Arsenal to the east. This public meeting is the first in a series of meetings planned to keep the public informed on the expanded investigation, the sampling results and the proposed cleanup activities, if any are deemed necessary.

The public is also invited to review documents relating to OU-10 activities as well as materials about other environmental program sites at one of five information repositories. For locations of the repositories or for more information about this meeting, call Pam Rogers 842-0561.

Comanche contractor office moving to Huntsville

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.— The Boeing Sikorsky RAH-66 Comanche Joint Program Office (JPO) will move to Huntsville on July 1, 2000.

According to Boeing Sikorsky program director Arthur Linden, the move will provide a closer working relationship with the Army. "The Army's Comanche Program Management Office and the Aviation Program Executive Office are both located at the Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. Our new location will facilitate closer communications with our customer as we move into the

Engineering and Manufacturing Development (EMD) phase of the Comanche program next year," Linden said. In the past, the JPO location has alternated between sites near Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Conn., and Boeing in Philadelphia.

The Comanche JPO manages the RAH-66 developmental program for Boeing and Sikorsky. Approximately 30 people from Boeing and Sikorsky work at the JPO. "Both Boeing and Sikorsky are fortunate to have many talented technical and administrative specialists who will ensure a smooth transition and keep Comanche on track dur-

ing and after our relocation," Linden added. The JPO is also reviewing the relocation of Comanche flight test activities from Sikorsky's Experimental Flight Test Facility in West Palm Beach, Fla., following Sikorsky's recent announcement that it will close the facility in mid-2000.

The RAH-66 Comanche, the Army's 21st century combat helicopter, is being developed by Army Aviation and a team of leading aerospace companies headed by Boeing and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. (Boeing Sikorsky release)

U.S. plans to support U.N. force in East Timor

By Linda Kozaryn

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. military will provide logistical and other support to an Australian-led international peacekeeping force in East Timor, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Sunday.

A U.S. military team is in Australia helping with the planning process, Cohen said Sunday while en route to Russia. The peacekeepers will be mainly Australian troops and forces from other nations in the region.

"We are not planning at this point on

putting combat troops on the ground in terms of a peacekeeping force," the secretary said. "At this point, our planning is for support activities. U.S. ships and planes will be involved in the mission, as they transport other national forces and supplies." He said planning to date has included intelligence, communications, logistics and general support activities.

Indonesian President B.J. Habibie over the weekend endorsed and invited an international peacekeeping force to help bring order and stability to the island of East Timor. Cohen said Indonesian lead-

ers have harshly criticized the actions of military elements alleged to be involved in the violence sweeping the island. He said Habibie and other Indonesian leaders understand their country's economic future and position in the world community are at stake.

"I think they will do everything in their power to make sure that those [military] elements that would be part of any peacekeeping mission would be those committed to working properly and constructively with a peacekeeping force," Cohen said. (American Forces Press Service)

Redstone Rocket

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Small business leaders express concerns about contracting

By Skip Vaughn

The commanding general looked around his conference room filled with leaders from local small businesses and smiled. "I genuinely am happy to have you here," he said.

Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, met with a dozen small business leaders Sept. 8 to discuss how this command can meet its goals for awarding contracts to small businesses. The command fell short in its goal for awarding 14.6 percent of its contracts to small businesses in fiscal 1998 with 12.4 percent. It is also short of its 14.7 per-

cent goal for fiscal 1999 as of Aug. 31 with 11.6 percent.

"That's why we're here today, to meet as a team to share ideas on how we can do better," Sullivan said.

About half the 25 attendees in the room were small business leaders; and the rest included AMCOM representatives. Speakers included Gerald Tucker, the command ombudsman, and John Nelson, the small business director.

"There is little that we can do without our partners in industry," Sullivan said.

"I think our goal is the same. Our goal is to provide the best that we possibly can for the taxpayer and, in my case, for the soldier," he said. "My commitment to you is that we're going to do the absolutely best that we possibly can here at AMCOM."

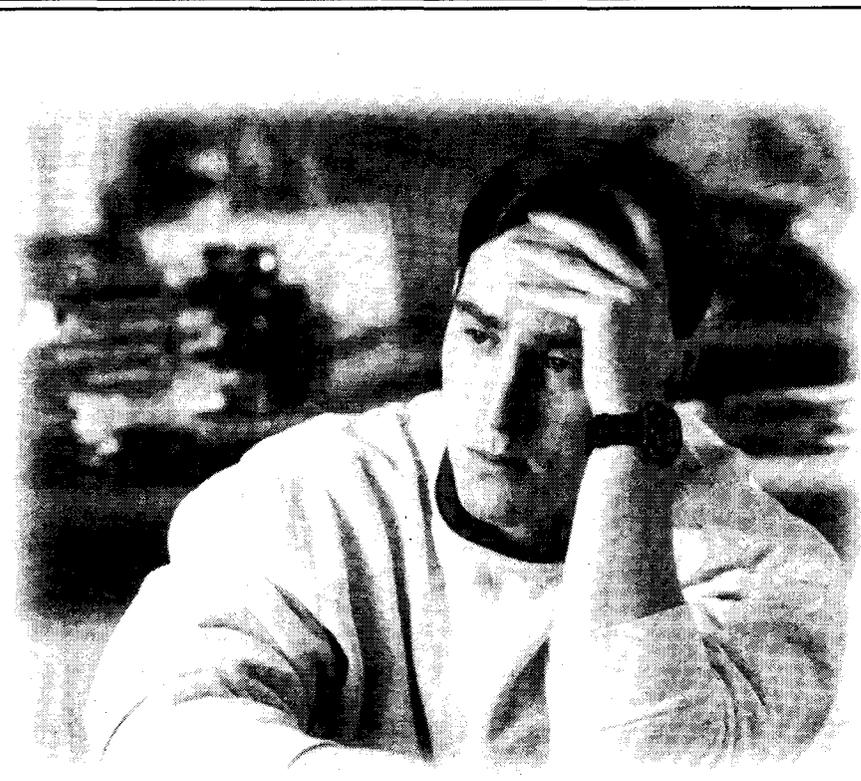
During the open discussion, several small business leaders expressed their concerns about a lack of contracting opportunities. "The low-tech things that big guys don't want to do is normally what they subcontract," business leader John Stallworth said at one point.

"That's the kind of dialogue we need," Sullivan concluded. "Again, it's got to be a team effort."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SHARING VIEWS—Sullivan addresses small business leaders Sept. 8.



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■ Urias becomes PEO for Air and Missile Defense

PEO

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past years," Montgomery said. "When I first took the job, it was 10 days before the THAAD number five intercept. I was naïve enough to think it would be an easy thing to do. We've had frustrations, setbacks and delays. We were open to a lot of scrutiny but it was a time when we all pulled together and made sure to get the job done.

"As the PEO Air and Missile Defense family, you did the hard work with little complaint. It has been an honor to serve with you," he said. "This is my tribute to you."

As he thanked his team, with the slightest quiver in his voice, the lights dimmed and the video screen came alive with snapshots of people, both government and industry, who make up the PEO Air and Missile Defense family.

While the music played and the lyrics spoke of answering the call of freedom, Montgomery offered a few words of thanks and encouragement to the people and for the mission. As the screen grew dark again, he simply asked his "family" to continue to answer the call of the soldiers and not to fail them.

Before leaving the lectern, Montgomery welcomed Urias and his

wife back to Huntsville and into the job. "The Army could not have chosen better."

While Montgomery's attitude reflected the sadness of letting go, Urias presented quite a different feeling, one of excitement and determination for the task ahead, expressed in his opening remarks. "I want to start off with a big HOO-AH!" The sentiment was energetically echoed by the green-suited audience.

"Although I come here with experience, I know I have a lot to learn about the most important organization in the Army and Department of Defense," Urias said. "The mission sounds simple—protect our forces, protect our nation, but it's a tougher mission to execute than it sounds.

"I am both honored and humbled to be given the opportunity to lead such a talented and dedicated team," he said. "Dan Montgomery is a great soldier, tremendous officer, true leader and great friend. When I first made colonel, he and his wife came over, brought a bottle of champagne and he gave me a set of his old crusty eagles. I am wearing them today. Truth be known, I wouldn't mind trading these eagles for his stars tomorrow."

He thanked Montgomery and his wife for their friendship and wished them god-speed as they begin the new civilian chapter of their lives.

First firing

Patriot National Guard Battalion will launch missiles over water

By Beth Skarupa

The 1st of the 203rd National Guard Patriot Battalion has attained many milestones in a short period of time and is about to achieve another: the battalion will be firing the Patriot missiles as a unit for the first time during training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. on Oct. 18. It will also be the first time that they fire the missiles over water.

"It will be a historical event for us," Maj. Chris Morgan, the battalion executive officer, said. "Everybody has a part in it, and we will all get to go see it. Our battalion commander has mandated that everyone will go."

Organized in 1992, the battalion was the only one of its kind until last year. They received equipment in 1995 from the Patriot Project Office under Total Package Fielding on Redstone Arsenal and achieved their activation certification that September. That's when they started collective training to do their task and to be certified for combat with their four firing batteries, HHB, Maintenance Company 211 7th and the 111 7th Ordnance Team. In the following three years, they worked to achieve their Army



Courtesy photo

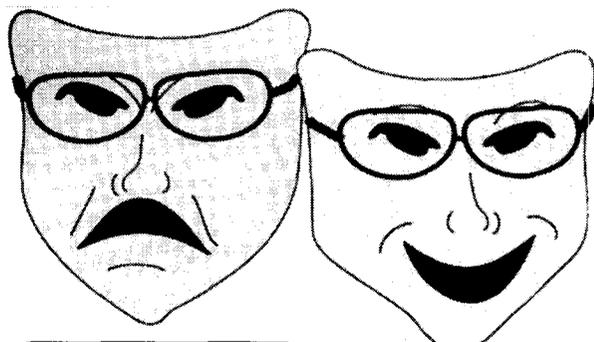
TRAINING EXERCISE— Crew members emplace the Antenna Mast Group (AMG) during a Patriot battery emplacement exercise at annual training last June.

Training Readiness Programs (ARTP). Their goal was to achieve a Patriot gunnery Table 8, the main ARTP which certifies the battalion for combat.

At annual training in 1998, two of the battalion's firing batteries accomplished Table 8 and were certified for combat. The

See Patriot on page 5

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■ Patriot National Guard Battalion prepares for milestone firing

Patriot

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battalion's goal then was to certify the other two batteries this year, but reorganization in September 1998 deactivated one firing battery. At annual training last June, HHB and the other battery achieved Table 8, accomplishing the major milestone of certifying the whole battalion for combat. The Table 8 certifications both years were done and validated by a team from the 35th ADA Brigade from Fort Bliss, Texas since it was the first time a National Guard Patriot battalion was certified.

Another milestone was accomplished at the 1999 annual training. It was the first major deployment of the entire battalion to Eglin Air Force Base with a convoy of over 350 miles. The initial training was done at Redstone in 1998, but they deployed as a battalion to Eglin for the Table 8 certification in 1999.

Sgt. Maj. Claude Hooper, the battalion operations sergeant, explained that they started with only three people in 1992 and have progressed to the point where they are today with Table 8 certification for the whole battalion. "It's been quite a transition. Everything has almost been a first," he said. "The Patriot Project Office and the 35th ADA Brigade have both been a big brother to us. We've had training and associated with them from the start."

Morgan added that the air defense com-

munity at Fort Bliss has been very supportive in helping the battalion achieve its milestones. Up until last year, the battalion was the only one in existence. But the 2 200 National Guard Patriot Battalion was activated in 1998 in Rio Rancho, N.M. That battalion actually received equipment from the battery that was deactivated here.

"For the first three years, we had no equipment. SED, the Software Engineering Directorate here, was gracious enough to let us use their PCOFT at no cost," Morgan said. "Weekends we would use that to train people who had trained at Fort Bliss and to sustain their skills."

A PCOFT is a Patriot Conduct of Fire Trainer. The battalion's vans are set up for three people to work in: an officer, an NCO, and a communications officer. The PCOFT allows the battalion to put all three crews together in one room so the instructor can watch all of them. George Scanlon, a Raytheon employee, is the Organizational Activities Interface assigned to battalion. He is the primary systems expert for training on the equipment who stays current on software, equipment changes and modifications. "It's the 'train the trainer concept.' He trains our primary trainers during the week, who in turn train our traditional guardsmen on the weekends," Hooper said.

Traditional guardsmen serve one weekend a month, with a two-week annual training period of 15 days and a 39 days per year requirement. Morgan and Hooper are full-

time administrative officers. They support the battalion on a daily basis. "Our primary goal is to get everything ready," Hooper said. "Our job is to plan, organize and resource for the drill weekend and annual training. We have a battalion commander. We aid and assist him in the decision-making process and we carry out his plan."

Lt. Col. Gary E. Sheffer, a traditional guardsman from Huntsville, is the current battalion commander. Sgt. Maj. Paul R. Moore, a traditional guardsman from Warrior, Ala., is the command sergeant. Two batteries and the 11 17th Ordnance Team are located on Johnson Road in Huntsville. The third firing battery is located in Hartselle and the battalion headquarters is located in Athens with the 21 17th Maintenance Company.

Once a quarter, the Hartselle and Athens units participate in field training exercises at the battalion's 80-acre training site at Redstone where the Patriot equipment is usually kept in a Controlled Humidity Preservation Facility. They drill in their respective locations the rest of the year. Construction is scheduled to start on a \$4.8 million maintenance facility for the battalion on the training site at Redstone in 2001.

According to Morgan, the battalion is always looking for prior servicemembers. There are officer, warrant officer, and enlisted vacancies. Women are especially encouraged to join. Out of 414 slots, only 15-16 are not open to females. There are approximately 43 females in the battalion right now. "People don't think of air defense units as having slots for women because we're con-

sidered combat support. It's true that SHORAD is restricted to only males, but we're not," Morgan said.

As do all National Guard battalions, the Patriot battalion has two missions: state and federal. The state government can call the battalion out for national disasters, and has done so for flood relief, Hurricane Opal, and ice storms. The battalion also is geared up for Y2K, although major problems are not anticipated. The federal government calls on the battalion to support the Patriot Project Office in testing of equipment, to support Change of Command ceremonies, to help the Redstone community and to participate in exercises such as the Joint Project Optic Windmill 4 multinational training exercise in the Netherlands and the Southeastern Air Defense Sector exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City Beach, Fla.

Most of the traditional guardsmen have full-time jobs or are students in addition to being part of the battalion. They must have employer support to be able to do their job for the National Guard. Morgan and Hooper agree that area employers have been very supportive, even the small businesses. Many of the battalion's guardsmen have had to make a lot of sacrifices, giving more than the 39 days required per year.

"They're not doing it for the money, they're doing it because they want to be a part of the defense of the United States," Hooper said. "The Minuteman tradition continues. We have teachers, farmers, factory workers, mothers, and all of them are prepared to go when their state or country needs them."



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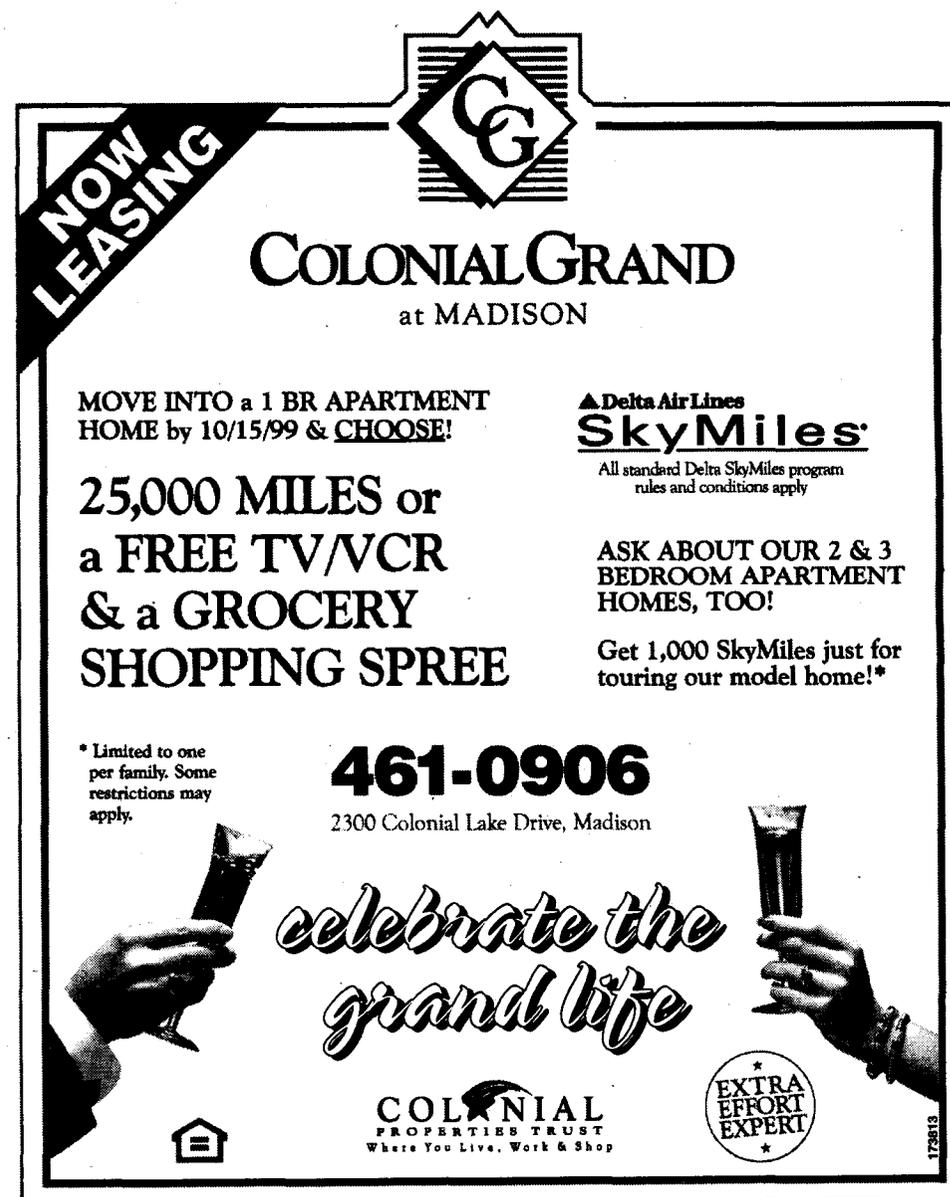
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On the up and up

Fewer IMPAC cardholders will have to file financial disclosure reports under new spending rule

By Sandy Riebeling

When it comes to spending government dollars, there have to be checks and balances in the system to assure that all deals are on the up and up. Federal employees with spending privileges, their approvers and those whose decisions affect the contracting process, are required to submit a financial disclosure report that would identify the possibility of conflict of interest issues concerning business transactions with commercial companies. Redstone has nearly 3,400 employees that are required to file these financial disclosure reports.

In an effort to reduce the number of filers, the Secretary of the Army has approved an increase in the threshold of spending which primarily affects IMPAC cardholders. Before this new rule, cardholders

spending more than \$20,000 annually had to file a FDR. Now, with the new limit, cardholders spending less than \$100,000 annually do not have to file a FDR, if their only reason for doing so was IMPAC card purchases.

"Obviously, if an employee working in acquisition happens to be an IMPAC cardholder, their job specifics may require them to file a disclosure report, even if they don't spend in excess of \$100,000. It's the same with many other positions in federal service," Bob Garfield, from the legal office, said. "But if the only reason a person is filing is because of the purchases made on the IMPAC card, it may no longer be necessary for them to file."

This new limit is expected to eliminate more than 300 filers from the system, which is a significant savings in time and manpower.

While there are two types of forms, a public and a confidential, most Redstone employees file the latter, which involves listing assets and income from all family members, real estate, outside employment, certain liabilities and outside positions.

When a FDR is filed, it is reviewed in stages, first by the employee's supervisor to ensure that it is filled out properly, including a date and signature and to identify any conflict of interest. Then it is shipped to the legal office to be checked again. If it was not filled out correctly, it is sent back to the employee. When the form is correct, lawyers review the substance of the forms to identify the possibility of conflict of interest and work to solve the problem.

"Most employees think smart when they are investing in stocks or bond and don't invest in companies that are directly related

to their work," Garfield said. "Our biggest problem really comes with their spouses working for companies in which they have direct dealings. In a city like Huntsville where the Arsenal is the largest employer and much of the industry revolves around Arsenal business, it's not uncommon to have spouses of federal employees working for defense contractors."

The only other major concern the legal office identified is that of an employee's personal business. Here again, Garfield said that most employees are wise with business dealings and will not, on purpose, have a business that would put them in conflict with their federal service.

In the case when a conflict of interest is discovered, several options are available including reassignment of certain duties to another employee or if necessary, total reassignment, depending on the problem.

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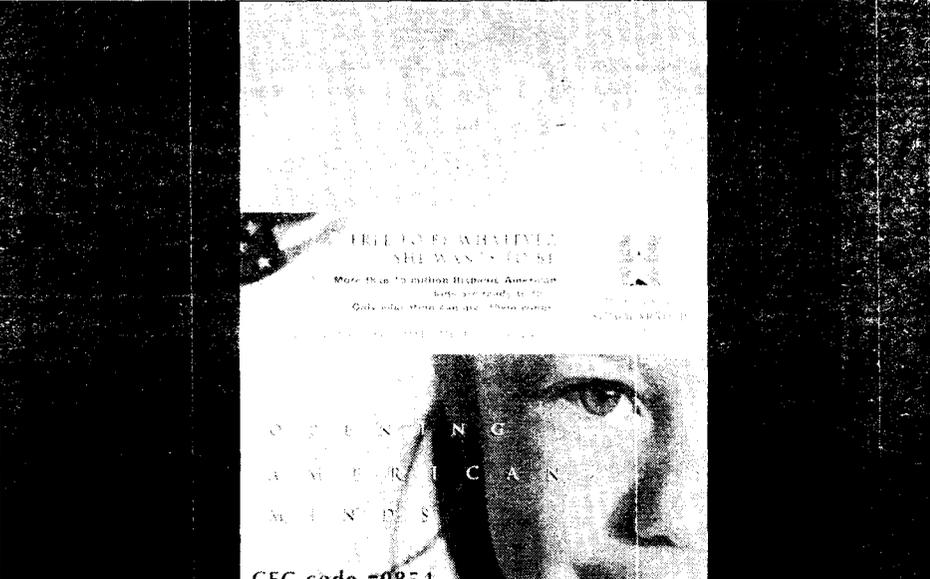
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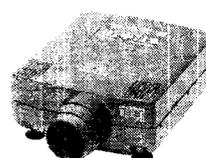
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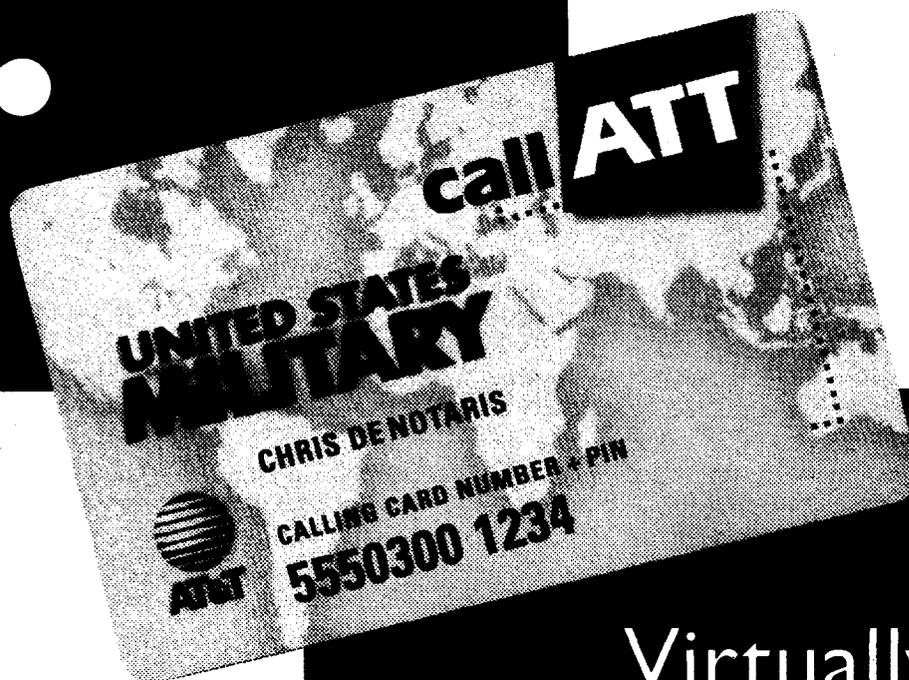
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Family action symposium scheduled for Nov. 16-17

The Aviation and Missile Command will conduct the 12th Redstone Arsenal Family Action Plan Symposium from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 16-17 in the Sparkman Center.

The Army Family Action Plan is a grassroots process which allows you to give feedback to commanders and raise issues important to the total Army family. It is a decision-making tool for Army leadership at all levels: local installation, major Army command and Headquarters, Department

of the Army.

The first step in the process is completing and returning the Quality of Life Surveys to determine what is of concern in the community. (The survey is also accessible on the AMCOM home page.) The topics identified through these surveys are discussed at the symposium.

The top quality of life issues identified through the symposium process will be incorporated and published in

the Redstone Arsenal Family Action Plan XII.

More than 100 delegates, community resource personnel, and facilitators are expected to participate in work groups such as: Medical & Dental, Commissary & PX, Youth Support, Single Soldier, Family Housing & Facilities Maintenance; Traffic, Transportation, Personnel, and Finance; Morale, Welfare and Recreational Activities; and Civilian Support.

All segments of America's Army are

represented: single soldiers, married couples, dual career/single parents, retirees, family members, youth, representatives from the Reserves and the National Guard, and DA civilians.

Designated points of contact will recommend delegates for their organization.

If you are interested in participating as a delegate and don't know who to contact, or if you would like more information, call Ivy Downs, coordinator for the Family Symposium, at 876-3376.

Quality of life survey to identify symposium issues

A customer service survey gives you a chance to provide issues for the Redstone Arsenal Family Symposium, Nov. 16-17:

"Your satisfaction with the benefits and services you receive is important to us," Col. Steven Hamilton, deputy post commander, says in an introduction accompanying the survey. "Redstone Arsenal has a reputation for delivering quality programs and services, and for continuously improving."

Consider what could be improved in the following areas: medical & dental services, AAFES, commissary, military or civilian pay, allowances, entitlements, relocation, housing, traffic, travel, transportation, education, child care, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Activities.

Your rank / grade/status: _____

How long have you been at Redstone Arsenal? _____

Do you live on or off post? _____

How would you improve the Army's programs, services, or benefits?

(Be specific and recommend solutions. Give brief examples. Issues can be anything affecting the quality of life at Redstone or impacts the total Army family. Issues must have attainable solutions. Personal complaints will not be addressed. Comments may be continued on a separate sheet. One issue per page.)

Please include the following in the event we need clarification:

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Send your completed survey to Commander, AMCOM, Attn: AMSAM-RA-DMO-B, Redstone Arsenal, 35898-5300; building 112, room 322; or fax to 842-8940.

Comments can be e-mailed to downsiv@redstone.army.mil. Surveys for the upcoming symposium will be accepted until Oct. 1. If you would like to participate as a Symposium delegate, call Ivy Downs at 876-3376.

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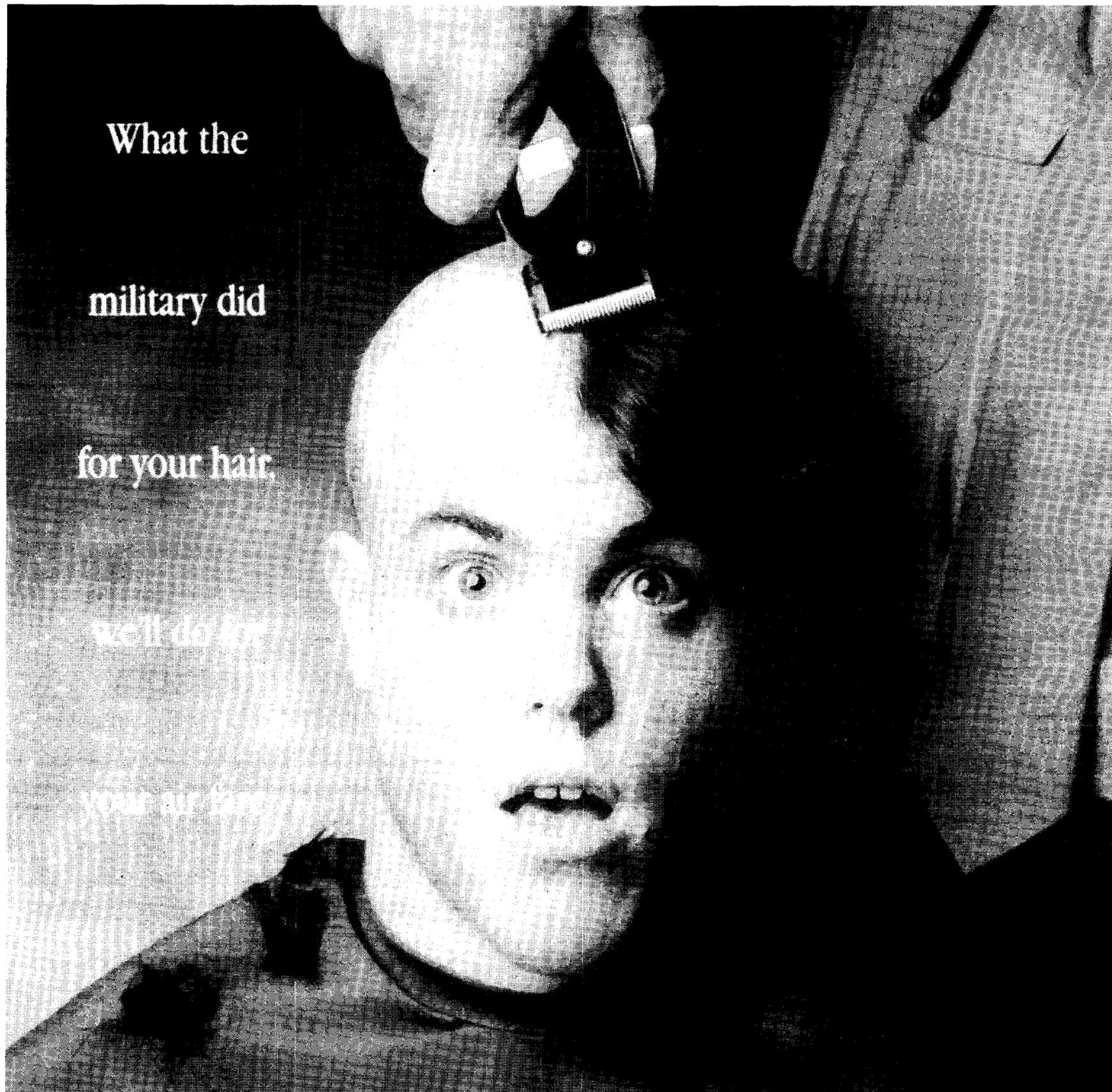
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Family Child Care providers want to get the word out

Home daycare offers flexible, affordable, professional child care at Redstone Arsenal

By Sandy Riebeling

Family Child Care providers on post have banded together to get their message out to working parents on the Arsenal and the message is: FCC isn't just another term for babysitting.

"We want parents to know that they do have quality alternatives to child care centers," said Julia Mitchell, FCC provider and the newly formed FCC Association president. "We don't just get up one day and think, maybe I'll take in a few extra kids

and make some bucks. This is a business and we take it seriously. It takes months of training and inspections to earn certification as a Family Child Care provider."

At least 20 units of training are required as a minimum for FCC certification, according to Evelyn Carnes, FCC/supplemental programs and services director. The list of child care requirements includes background checks, safety inspections, contingency plans, fire escape plans, health assessments, pet registrations and other issues that are regulated.

"People turn on the television and 20/20 shows a story about a nanny or babysitter hurting a child and it gives all of us a bad name," Mitchell said. "It's tough to get people to open their minds to all the benefits a home daycare can provide."

Mitchell describes home day care as a win-win situation for parents and children. FCC providers set their own fees, set their own hours to accommodate the parents and have the ability to offer plenty of one-on-one



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

ROMPER ROOM—Many Family Child Care providers have a room of their home devoted to their child care program. Kayleigh Mitchell is excited about her mother opening a daycare in their home.

See Family on page 11

Joe Sartain

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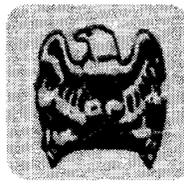
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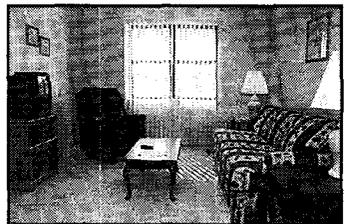
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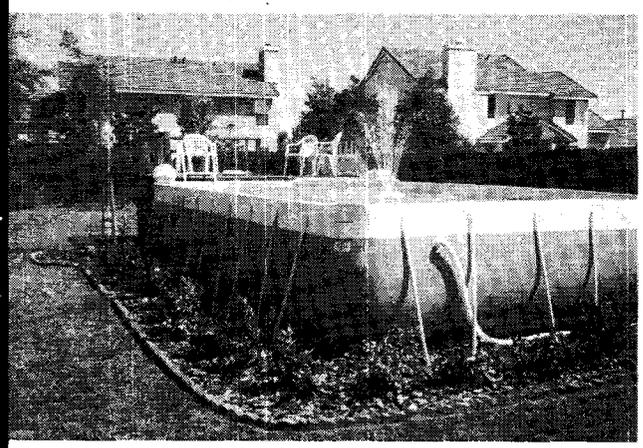
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Family

continued from page 10

attention to the children.

"The Child Development Center here on post is a good center," Mitchell said. "But we also have some great things to offer as an alternative to that environment, at very affordable rates."

Another stigma surrounding home care is the non-structure which Mitchell is quick to re-educate those who will listen. Meal plans must be made out in advance and approved by the nutritionist that works with FCC. Curriculum must also be designed to include certain aspects of child development, a variety of activities and time spent outdoors, weather permitting, all of which must again, be preapproved.

"And incidentally, we aren't just out here without anyone watching," she said. "Our doors are always open to surprise inspections from the regulators. And they are here on post, close by."

FCC providers and their family members must submit to background criminal records checks and drug and alcohol related issues. Among the courses necessary to earn certification are CPR, nutrition, child development, guidance and discipline, medicine and disease control and others.

"The providers on post have formed the association as a way to support each other through sharing ideas, talking over problems, mentoring the new providers and just lending a hand when someone needs help," Mitchell said. "And even though we are all in this together, each provider has control over what their hours are, the fees they

charge, the activities and field trips they have—and we don't discuss fees amongst ourselves. After all, we are each other's competition but we have organized to support home daycare and send a message. We are professionals. This is our business and for many, an entire career. We have a lot to offer children. It's important for parents to understand that a center environment may not be the best for their child. All children are different. We're here to provide an alternative to make the child successful and help the parents care for their children."

Carnes said there are currently six certified FCC providers open and another two homes that will be licensed this month. Anyone who works on the Arsenal is eligible to use FCC providers. Those interested in a list of providers can call Carnes at 876-7801.

Terrell is The Man

Victor Terrell is Mr. Man for 1999.

Terrell, a retired sergeant and owner of Jump Start Fitness, won the ninth annual Mr. Man Premiere held Sept. 3 at the Redstone Arsenal Club.

The other top finishers included Rich Pearce, first runner-up; Alvis Fuqua, second runner-up; Marine SSgt. Rodrick Cole, third runner-up; and Dale Carter, fourth runner-up. The nine contestants competed in the areas of finesse, personality and performance.

Terrell received cash and prizes totaling \$1,700.

About 120 people attended, according to Samuel Brown, the producer.

Tennessee takes Rocky Top to Florida Swamp this weekend

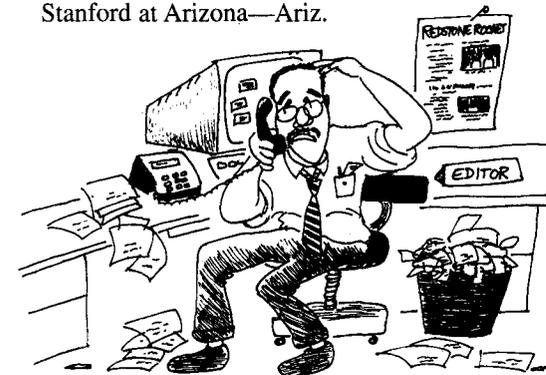
By Skip Vaughn

Skip's Picks had a 20-7 record after the first two weeks of the season. Here are my predictions for selected games in major college football this week:

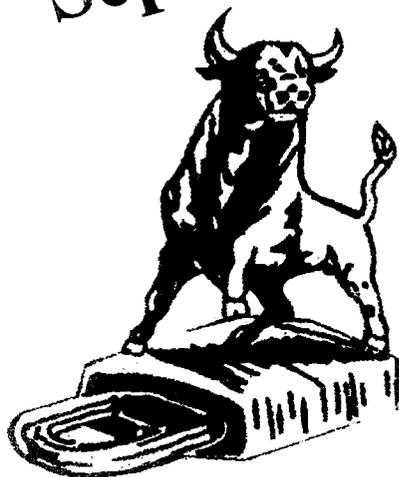
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Tennessee at Florida—Tennessee
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Vanderbilt at Ole Miss—Ole Miss
Okla. State at Miss. State—Miss. State

East Carolina at South Carolina—East
Colorado State at Brigham Young—BYU
Army at Tulane—Tulane
Boston College at Navy—BC
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Michigan State at Notre Dame—ND
Wisconsin at Cincinnati—Wis.
Kansas at Colorado—Colo.
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AFGE LOCAL 1858 FACTS

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- AFGE Local 1858 is located at Bldg. 3202, Mauler Rd., Redstone Arsenal.
- AFGE Local 1858's office is open 10 hours a day, 5 days a week.
- AFGE Local 1858 has two full time employees paid from Local 1858 member dues at Bldg. 3202 on Redstone Arsenal (A Chief Negotiator/Case Litigator and Office Secretary). Also, AFGE Local 1858 has a President, an Assistant President, an Executive Vice President, a Treasurer, a Local Secretary, 18 Vice-Presidents and some 50 Assistant Vice Presidents and Stewards all representing employees part time in each major DOD agency at Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville while performing full time DOD jobs. None of these Local officers receive a salary from AFGE.
- AFGE Local 1858 has an 80% win in Arbitration Cases.
- AFGE Local 1858 represents bargaining unit employees in grievances, EEO Complaints, Worker's Compensation Claims, Disability Retirement Claims, and Merit Systems Protection Board appeals. AFGE Local 1858 has a win rate exceeding 60% in these areas.
- AFGE Local 1858 Members voted unanimously against and stopped the Implementation of the "Civilian Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Project" (Paybanding) at Redstone Arsenal.
- AFGE Local 1858 has an excellent core contract. Amendments are negotiated at least on a yearly basis or as needed when conditions of employment change.
- CONTRACTING-OUT - AFGE Local 1858 has successfully worked against contracting out the maintenance work and the Child Development area of the Redstone Arsenal Support Activity of AMCOM. This work is still being performed by federal civil service employees.
- NOW AFGE LOCAL 1858 is working hard to keep additional corporate information center work and the test, measurement and diagnostic equipment work from being contracted-out. afge is fighting management's position where they want to waive the requirement for an a-76 study on the apache helicopter work which would allow management to mandate the contracting out of these jobs.

AFGE NATIONAL FACTS

- STRENGTH IN NUMBERS - AFGE AFL-CIO is the largest Federal employee Union for Government Employees Representing over 600,000 Federal Workers in the United States and Overseas, as well as the District of Columbia. Of the Federal Workers represented by AFGE, 300,000 are employed by the Department of Defense (DOD).
- AFGE has a full-time National President, National Secretary-Treasurer, National Director of Women's Affairs, and twelve full-time national vice-presidents (NVP's) elected by AFGE dues paying members and a full time staff consisting of



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- AFGE is lobbying for better pay for government employees and has launched a massive grassroots lobbying campaign to urge Congress to support a 6.5 percent pay increase for Federal Government employees in 2000 to make up for years of low raises.
- AFGE is financially stable and has \$1.2 million in net revenue. AFGE owns its National Headquarters Office Building located 2 blocks from the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.
- AFGE is fighting privatization and contracting out. Thanks to the work of AFGE activists, the notorious "Freedom From Government Compensation Act" was defeated. This legislation would have installed a pro-contractor system that would have jeopardized the jobs of 1.4 million employees if AFGE activists hadn't demanded that Congress GUT the contractor's legislation. Now, AFGE has called for a MORATORIUM on Contracting-Out. AFGE is urging Congress to do this until the Pentagon can prove that privatizing civilian defense jobs is the best deal for taxpayers.
- AFGE has also launched a nationwide campaign aimed at giving federal employees a greater role in privatization decisions. Dubbed "Stop Wasting America's Money on Privatization" or SWAMP, the Union initiative hopes to prove the case to the public that privatization does not save the tax payer money.
- AFGE IS GROWING - 14,000 Net membership Increase during the past 5 years. Also, more than 25 former NFFE Locals have voluntarily chosen to move to AFGE over the last several years for better representation. Many have switched to AFGE since January of 1999. They include:
NFFE Local 33, Texas Corps of Engineers in Galveston, Texas
NFFE Local 1296, Columbus Air Force Base, Columbus, MISS
NFFE Local 1432, Fort Leonard Wood, Rolla, MO
NFFE Local 1441, Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul, MINN
NFFE Local 1485, Coast Guard, Miami, FL

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Oktoberfest promises to be bigger and better than ever

By Beth Skarupa

Have you gotten your tickets for Oktoberfest yet? Better hurry! The fifth annual Redstone Arsenal Oktoberfest promises to be the best ever.

Oktoberfest will be held Thursday through Sunday at the Redstone parade field. The event will kick off with opening ceremonies at 7 p.m. Thursday. The carnival rides and arcades will be open from 5-11 p.m. that night and Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express Band will perform from 7-10 p.m. An "Early Bird Special" ticket for a reduced rate of \$6 will be available on that day and can only be purchased at the gate. The carnival will be open on Friday from 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday 12 p.m.-1 a.m., and Sunday 1-8 p.m.

Although tickets will be available at the gates, advance tickets are being sold for the first time this year. Buying in advance means you won't have to stand in long lines to get in and the price of the advance ticket includes one beverage of your choice at any Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) booth at the festival.

Both advance tickets and tickets sold at the gate will be \$8 per person. Babies in strollers will be allowed in free, but will not be permitted to ride any rides without having paid an admission fee. Tickets are available at the Sparkman Center cafeteria, the Redstone Arsenal Club, Rocket Lanes bowling center, the Recreation Center, and at Geico Direct on Old Madison Pike.

"It's the best value around. For \$8 you get free entertainment, free rides and free parking," Yvonne Coleman McGuire, sales and marketing director for the Directorate of Community and Family Activities, said. "And it's a great way to help your community. All of the proceeds go to the Morale,

Welfare, and Recreation general fund."

Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express Band will entertain each day with their "one of a kind" style ranging from Alpine yodeling to foot-stomping polkas and lots of audience interaction. "The Land," a local band formerly named "Heartland," will play a variety of music on Saturday from 2-6 p.m. Both bands will perform in a large, weatherproof "festhalle tent" complete with a dance floor, waiters bringing beverages, and seating for 1100 people. Food and beverage tickets will be available for purchase once inside the festival. Carnival rides and arcades will be open throughout the event. "It's a good, clean, large carnival. We're opening up the space so lines won't cross and we're adding additional rides. We'll have a youth area with face painting, a moon bounce, and a teen tent with teen bands playing too," McGuire said. "We'll have a bingo tent, and new this year are waiters in the festhalle tent and an area for diaper changing."

MWR will be cooking this year, after taking a break from it last year. The MWR food and beverage booths will be serving kurywurst, bratwurst, and rindwurst sandwiches (3 tickets each), rotisserie chicken (4 tickets for half, 7 tickets for whole), chablis and burgundy wine (2 tickets), Jaegermeister, Schnapps and Apple Brazentine (3 tickets), bottled German wine (10 tickets), German imported Warsteiner draft beer (3 tickets), Coors draft beer (2 tickets), Pepsi Cola (2 tickets), and water (1 ticket). Food and beverage tickets are \$1. The carnival also will offer food.

The German restaurant on the Arsenal also will be open during the event, so those who prefer to order from a full menu of German food can have a meal there. Reservations can be made at 830-2582.

"We did an on-site survey last year and got a lot of feedback from people who came to the event. They commented on food, space, and the lines. We've corrected those issues," McGuire said. "It's going to be bigger and better than ever this year."

Oktoberfest is the largest postwide event Redstone Arsenal has that's open to the public. The entire community works to put it together and support comes from many elements of the installation. As spectators have increased each year, so have sales.

"The more people we get to come out, the more money we make for the MWR fund," McGuire said. "We could not have

this event to the magnitude we do without our sponsors. They provide media coverage and a lot of support. The Huntsville Times, Coors Light, WHNT-TV 19, Star 99 WAHR-FM and Buffalo Rock Pepsi have been with us all five years."

Additional sponsors this year include Redstone Federal Credit Union, Geico Direct, Powertel, Mevatec Corporation, and Trinity Outdoor Advertising Inc. Public access phones at the main gate of the festival will be provided by Powertel this year. Star 99 WAHR is giving away family packs

See Oktoberfest on page 22

Coping

continued from page 2

Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension System, has launched a two-year, \$1.5 million initiative to develop military-specific parenting resources. The Air Force is the executive agent for the project.

The goal is to develop informational

material that can be distributed in classrooms and via the Internet, telephone, flyers, audiotapes or other means. A conference Sept. 22 to 24 in Leesburg, Va., is scheduled to design material content. Military family members and family support program specialists will attend the hands-on, working conference, aimed at meeting military parents' critical needs now and into the next decade. (American Forces Press Service)



DoD photo by Helene Stikkel

High-level briefing...

Secretary of Defense William Cohen, left, and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, center, conduct a joint press briefing as Minister of Defense David Tevzadze, right, listens at Krtsanisi, the presidential compound near Tbilisi, Georgia, on Aug. 1, 1999.

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HIMARS gets high grades in air-land, live-fire training exercise

By Bill McArdle

On Aug. 24, the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System platoon of Charlie Battery, 3rd Battalion (MLRS), 27th Field Artillery Regiment participated in a forced entry training scenario at Fort Bragg, N.C. In the exercise, two of the platoon's HIMARS launchers were strategically deployed from Pope Air Force Base, N.C. aboard C-130 aircraft, and landed under simulated tactical conditions onto a short, unimproved dirt runway at the Sicily Drop Zone on Fort Bragg.

Upon arrival at the Drop Zone the launcher crews disembarked the aircraft, prepared their two HIMARS for tactical operations, and also linked up with the platoon's pre-positioned third launcher. The platoon's launchers proceeded to their hide areas, reload points, and firing points, and successfully conducted a series of "artillery raid" fire missions.

During the exercise, the HIMARS platoon met their training objectives of quickly deploying their launchers from the C-130 tactical transport aircraft and conducting the subsequent live fire missions within time standards.

"HIMARS performed magnificently," Lt. Col. Donald Gentry, 3-27th battalion commander, said. "The first HIMARS was reconfigured for tactical operations well within our planned timeline."

Lt. Col. Max Carroll, the product manager for HIMARS, was also impressed by the event. "Today, HIMARS not only proved out its ability to meet its C-130 Roll-on/Roll-off requirement, but also demonstrated that it can provide responsive lethal fires that support the Army Chief of

Staff's intent to develop new systems that are deployable, lethal, and relevant to the combat mission," he said. "The system continues to perform as intended and is ready to transition from an Rapid Force Projection Initiative Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (RFPI ACTD) prototype system into the formal acquisition cycle that will procure and field the system in a few short years."

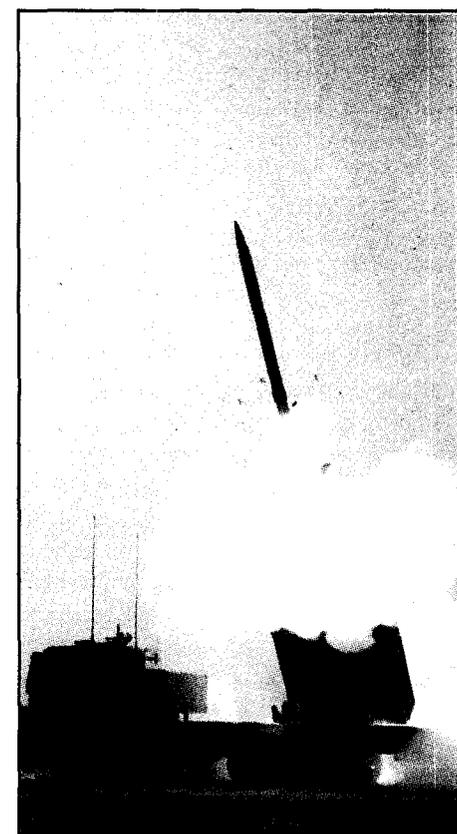
At the training exercise the unit was honored to have as its guest Rep. Robin Hayes, R-N.C., member of the House Armed Services Committee. Hayes observed the entire HIMARS deployability and live-fire training exercise and also participated in the event by substituting for one of the launcher's gunners during a fire mission sequence. The congressman participated in the digital processing of the fire mission and launched two MLRS rockets down range with the flip of the fire control panel's fire switch. Hayes commented on how well HIMARS performed and expressed his support for the program. Brig. Gen. Larry Gottardi, XVIIIth Airborne Corps Artillery commander, and Col. Pete Vangel, 18th Field Artillery Brigade commander, supervised the exercise.

Representatives from the Program Executive Office Tactical Missiles, the MLRS Project Office, and the Training and Doctrine Command System Manager, Rockets and Missiles, also observed the exercise. Representatives from the Operational Test and Evaluation Command and the Directorate of Operational Test and Evaluation observed and collected data in support of the RFPI ACTD Extended User Evaluation.

The new HIMARS was initiated as a Technology Demonstration program under the Missile Research Development and

Engineering Center's RFPI ACTD. The prototype HIMARS was jointly designed, developed, and fielded in less than three years by the Multiple Launch Rocket System Project Office, and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control-Dallas. The purpose of the RFPI ACTD was to provide relative mature technologies, like the HIMARS, to a combat unit for their direct hands-on evaluation and feedback. Preliminary reports from the field show that the HIMARS prototypes proved out the utility of the system. The prototype launchers, shortly after their fielding to Charlie Battery, 3-27th Field Artillery, successfully participated in numerous tactical training events and live firings exercises at both Fort Bragg and White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Based on both strong field artillery user community support and the system's commendable performance during the RFPI ACTD Field Experiment held at Fort Benning, Ga., in August 1998, the Army down-selected HIMARS as one of the RFPI systems to remain with a combat unit for an additional two year evaluation. The system will transition into a formal Army Acquisition program at the end of this year.

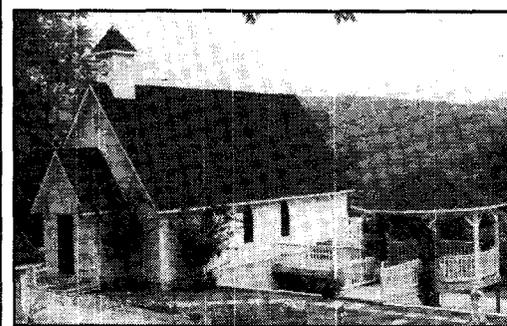
(Editor's note: McArdle is a senior staff engineer at System Studies & Simulation Inc. which supports the HIMARS product manager, MLRS Project Office.)



File photo

MISSILE AWAY—The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System is a Rapid Force Projection Initiative Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration prototype system.

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Making a difference

Redstone mentors serve as positive role models for school children

By Jim Bowne

Do you want to do something positive that doesn't take much time? Change a child's life forever? Make a difference? Then become a mentor.

What is a mentor? According to Ruby Turner, a mentor is "a positive role model, a friend, a tutor—someone you can count on to be there for you." Turner is the Aviation and Missile Command's Alcohol and Drug Control Officer and administers the Team Redstone Community Mentor Program.

Redstone Arsenal's mentoring program began several years ago. "We won a \$60,000 grant in 1995 to implement the program," Turner recalled. "When we first started, we wanted to go into all the schools in Huntsville. But we just didn't have enough volunteers."

Four years later, the Arsenal's mentoring program still does not have the number of volunteers needed to service the Madison County area. "We have kids just waiting for a mentor, but we simply don't have enough to go around," Turner said. "The program's 50 or so volunteers are able to serve only two schools in the local area, Williams Elementary and University Place Elementary."

The Team Redstone Community Mentor Program is a Command Program. Its mission is to "attract and provide volunteer soldiers,

government employees, family members, retirees, and civilians to serve as mentors on a one-to-one basis to students who are in academic and/or social at-risk situations."

"At-risk," said Turner, "defines any child who, for one reason or another, does not have the benefit of a caring one-to-one relationship with an adult. And the Huntsville area is home to a large number of at-risk children who are desperately hoping and waiting for mentors. Almost all the children want a mentor."

But according to Turner, Redstone Arsenal's mentoring program does not garner the same level of support found at many other Army installations. She pointed out, for example, that Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Fort McPherson, Ga., have about 700 and 500 mentors, respectively.

"We need that type of support here if we are to succeed in our mission," she said. "Support has to be strong and highly visible from the top down in order to attract qualified volunteers."

Turner is passionate about the impact mentoring can have on children. "Our whole reason for being is to make a difference in a child's life," she said. "To do that, we have to reach kids early in their lives. The longer that doesn't happen, the less opportunity we have to give them structure and get them moving in the right direction.

"I can't stress enough the importance of



Photo by Jim Bowne

CLASS ACT—Stephanie Cale talks with Maxine Doherty, of the Corporate Information Center, her mentor at Westlawn Middle School.

being there for a child, to provide that all important one-on-one relationship. If we don't provide it, it's just not there otherwise. There are a lot of kids out there who don't have a one-on-one relationship with an adult—and never will if we don't provide it. They need help with their academics, with their social skills. Kids need positive role models."

Turner knows a lot about the differences between "can't" and "won't" when it comes to being there for a student. "Sometimes parents simply can't spend one-on-one time with their kids," she said. "Maybe they're a single parent trying to work two jobs. Or maybe they're both so busy at their jobs trying to make enough money to pay bills and keep food on the table, they really don't have the time.

"But then there are also parents out there who simply refuse to have anything to do with their children. They don't support them in school. They don't help with homework. They don't support the teachers or the PTA. In fact, some parents never ever set foot inside their child's school. It's really sad.

"And without support, these kids sometimes simply give up. They don't have anyone to turn to. That's why I always tell mentors the main thing is to 'always do what you say you're going to do,' because these kids have already had too

many disappointments in their lives."

Mentoring does not require a special background. "They just need to use good judgment and be objective," Turner stressed. "They need to be able to relate to a child—they have to be able to communicate. And they have to be willing to spend one hour per week with a child at his or her school."

Potential mentors must first undergo a background check. Then they are interviewed by Turner and a school counselor. If selected, they receive four hours of training on how to be a mentor before being paired with a child recommended by the school. Finally, the parents must give their permission for their child to have a mentor.

"Our mentors grow very attached to the children," Turner said. "They sometimes follow their student from one school to another as the child is promoted. Sometimes mentors join the PTA just so they can attend PTA meetings with the child. They are there, too, for the child during awards ceremonies. And, in some cases, with the parent's permission, they sometimes even take the child to Sunday brunch or on some other outing."

Most of the time, however, mentors are with the child only during the child's lunch time or library time at school. "But this little bit of time means so much to the child," Turner said. "Some have never had this kind of attention—one-on-one attention—before. You would find it amazing how important a mentor becomes to a child."

The mentoring program has more women volunteers than men, but there are more little boys than girls who need mentors, according to Turner. "However, when interviewed at the end of the school year, the children (both boys and girls) who had mentors usually always said 'yes' to having a mentor again the next year," she said.

Turner plans to set up a monitoring class soon. For more information about the Team Redstone Community Mentor Program, call her at 842-9895.

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Retiree appreciation day

Military retirees can get advice on benefits at annual event Saturday

By Beth Skarupa

Retirees and their families will learn which of their rights and benefits are under the gun in Congress when they attend the Military Retiree Appreciation Day this year.

Charles Partridge, legislative director of the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) in Springfield, Va., will be the guest speaker at the event to be hosted by Redstone Arsenal and the Retiree Advisory Council on Saturday in the Sparkman Auditorium, building 5304.

"Our guest speaker will be bringing retirees up to speed on what's in front of the Senate and Congress as far as it applies to retiree services - things like Military Health Care, Survivors Benefits Improvements, Veteran's Benefits and Senior Issues," Phil Fredrich, retirement services officer, said. "These things are constantly under the gun because there are over 2 million retirees, ages 18 to 106, and that's a big chunk of the budget."

The purpose of NAUS is to support legislation which will uphold the security of the United States, sustain the morale of the armed forces, and provide fair and equitable consideration for all members of the uniformed services.

Retiree Appreciation Day will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a social hour and registration. Opening ceremonies are scheduled for 8:30. This year a Retiree Update, which includes an invitation to the event and a pre-registration form, will be mailed to approximately 35,000 - 40,000 retirees in the area. The goal is to get the Update to all retirees about two weeks before the event, but an invitation is not needed to attend.

"Anybody can come, even active duty military," Fredrich said. "There will be information that's useful to everybody."

More than 38 organizations will participate in the County Fair Exhibits and Services with booths set up from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. offering information on services provided to retirees. Redstone Federal Credit Union, Fox Army Health Center, veterans' organizations and others will be represented.

The guest speaker's presentation will begin at 9 a.m. After a break, the Redstone Arsenal Services Panel will have a question and answer period followed by an awards presentation.

"Anyone can get up and ask a question. These will be good questions, and members of the panel will get up and address them," Fredrich said. "The awards are to thank those who are providing the services the retirees deserve and expect."

Lunch will be served at noon in the Sparkman Cafeteria, building 5302. Beef tips, noodles, carrots or green beans, yeast rolls, and dessert are on the menu. Lunch tickets will be sold for \$5.50 at the event until 10:30.

Thomas L. Ryan, an attorney specializing in Living Trusts, Elder Law and Estate Planning, will speak after lunch. "He practices in downtown Huntsville, and is probably one of the better attorneys specializing in Elder Law in the state," Fredrich said. Ryan began private practice in 1979 specializing in civil and criminal litigation, then turned to Elder Law. He has lived in Alabama more than 30 years.

For more information or a pre-registration form, call Fredrich at 876-2022.

Health issue for seniors: Are you physically fit for retirement?

By Patricia Johnson

OK, it's finally here; can you say RETIREMENT, with feeling? You've prayed for it, you've planned for it, you've lived for it, but are you really prepared for it? All right, your retirement benefits are secure (for the time being, at least), your home is paid for and your children educated (hopefully). Have you considered prevention as one of the most important elements in this retirement equation? Health prevention, that is. Sure, you say, I know I should watch my diet, quit smoking, exercise, and lose those excess pounds for prevention, right? Well, that's a beginning, and a good one. However, there are other preventive measures you should consider for optimum health. Taking better care of yourself will only enhance your valued retirement years.

Consider the following diseases and how they would affect the quality of your retirement: high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, overweight, colorectal, lung, skin or prostate cancer, decayed teeth and gum disease, breast, cervix or uterine cancer, diabetes, hearing deficits, alcoholism, osteoporosis, hepatitis, HIV, thyroid or tuberculosis. Depressing, you say, and expensive. Yet realistically, your chances of contracting one or more of these diseases increases

after the age of 35, and when you reach 50 you become a risk factor for those others you may have missed. Most of these illnesses can be prevented or minimized with early detection.

Military retirees are at particular risk, as they have probably been deployed to countries that are not as vigilant as the U.S. in controlling diseases and have been exposed to more hazardous conditions than those who have not had those experiences. Fox Army Health Center (FAHC) offers an annual Military Retiree Day each year to assist the military retiree to get a good assessment of current health functioning. This may be a perfect time to get a good idea of what preventive measures to begin with retirement.

Nursing staff from all parts of the Health Center, with assistance from the Nutritional Care Division, the Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Dental and volunteers from the Veterinary Clinic, will be there Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Sparkman Center, building 5309, room 9128. Information booths, and health assessments, including blood sugar screening, body fat analysis, bone density, blood pressure, and cholesterol testing will be provided free to military retirees and their family beneficiaries.

See Health on page 20

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CCAWS project manager looks forward to challenging mission



Photo by Beth Skarupa

FIGURING IT OUT—Webster, right, discusses TOW missile with his deputy Lowe.

By Beth Skarupa

Col. Cecil Webster, the new project manager for the Close Combat Anti-Armor Weapon Systems Project Office, is looking forward to accomplishing yet another challenging and rewarding goal in his 23-year Army career.

"What I hope to do in this position is to put some products in the soldier's hand that will enable him to kill tanks," Webster said. He will be working toward developing anti-tank weapon systems such as the Line of Site Anti-tank system, a fire and forget missile, and a different version of a TOW weapon system which will not have to be guided for an extended period of time. He considers himself fortunate to have several knowledgeable and supportive individuals in the project office. In particular, Webster cited Judy Poly, secretary for the CCAWS project manager for the past 35 years, and Jon Lowe, deputy project manager for over five years.

"Jon knows all of the programs in and out. So if there are any technical issues that I need answered, he is the guy that I go to," Webster said.

Webster joins Redstone from the National Missile Defense Joint Program Office in Washington D.C. He was the director of test and evaluation for the program. It was his first opportunity to work in a joint arena with Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel, trying to pull the national missile defense capability together.

"That probably was the most exciting

program that I had worked on, especially exciting from the perspective of all the politics that you get involved with in trying to orchestrate and execute a program of that magnitude and level," he said.

"But if I had to say what was the one assignment that I've enjoyed the most in the 23 years that I've been in the Army, I would probably say it was the time that I taught at West Point."

Webster explained that he has two life-long goals. One was to be in the Army and the other was to teach. He grew up in a small town called Franklin, Texas, then moved with his family to Bryan, Texas. He laughingly attributed his desire to join the Army to "too much television when I was growing up, too many cowboy and Indian programs" because no one in his family ever served in the military. He admitted to always liking the idea of "imparting what little knowledge" he has to others and always loving to teach.

Webster was in a program in high school called Upward Bound which focused on encouraging minority children from low socio-economic backgrounds to go to college. One of Upward Bound's requirements was for the students to spend at least two months on a college campus during summer. So Webster spent several summers at Prairie View A&M University in Texas, near Houston. He said he majored in civil engineering at Prairie View because

See Webster on page 24

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Wind beneath the wings

TMDE team site in Macedonia supports Task Force Falcon

By Sandy Riebeling

The bombing is over. The treaty has been signed. Now it's up to soldiers from the multinational forces to move into the tumultuous region of Macedonia and Kosovo to ensure that peace remains. As a part of that effort, a Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment support team has been tasked to set up shop in country and supply support for the entire theater of operations.

"The team deployed with four soldiers, two shop vans, one Hummer and our power source on July 2," said SFC Glenn Lundy, NCO for TMDE Region Europe, who planned and deployed the team to Macedonia/Kosovo to support Task Force Falcon. "The mission of the team is to provide the maintenance shops and activities with a place to certify their equipment. It can be something as simple as a \$10 torque wrench used by a mechanic in a motor pool or as sophisticated as a \$500,000 test set used by an avionics technician to maintain the Army's Apache helicopters."

Lundy said that the size of the unit at CAS was both an obstacle and ally. Sometimes it was difficult to be heard while at other times, going unnoticed was advantageous.

"My duties while on the ground in theater were to get the team mission capable and ensure the soldiers are taken care of," Lundy said. "As the leader of the team that meant securing our unit's equipment from the embarkation port at Thessaloniki, Greece and convoying through Greece to Camp Able Sentry located just outside Skopje, Macedonia. Once at CAS, locating

a work site and living space on an installation originally designed to hold 500-600 soldiers and their support agencies that's ballooned up to 3,000-4,000 soldiers became the priority."

Lundy spent about 40 days in country setting up the site which made two moves before finding a stable site.

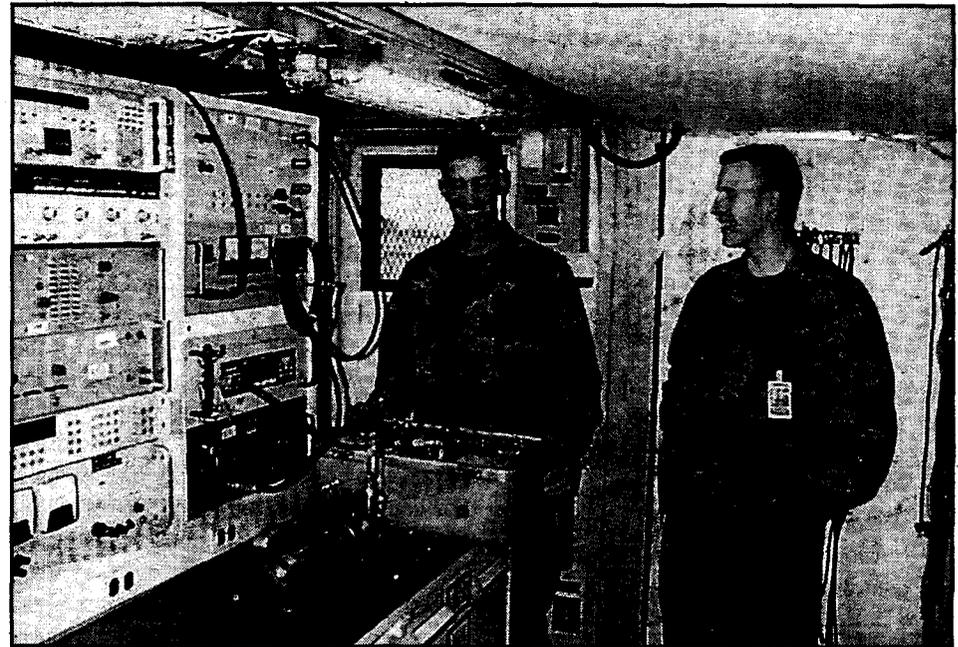
"Living conditions are pretty bad [at CAS] but there were soldiers who were worse in Kosovo," Lundy said. "The heat was bad and especially while wearing 'full battle rattle'— LCE, flack vest, Kevlar helmet and weapon. There's nothing hotter than a tent in 100-plus degree heat."

Even in the primitive conditions, it was Lundy's job to see that his team had the best there was to offer in that environment, which started with planning before deployment and depended on the "excellent" support provided by the team's home station in Germany. His previous assignments in Bosnia and Hungary had prepared him well for getting the job done. That meant coordinating communications support, billeting, logistical support and handling the many other tasks attached to the mission.

"Calibrators have a history of taking care of the mission and themselves when mobilized and this deployment was no different. We were able to talk to our families and home station regularly," Lundy said.

Within a month, the team was moved into a building, sharing a 15x25-foot room with an average of 10 people. The upgrade in amenities is only temporary though. Another site move is planned for sometime this month.

"Life down range really makes you appreciate the simple things in life that



Courtesy photo

IN COUNTRY— The TMDE team in Macedonia began setting up their support operations in July for long-term theater support.

most people take for granted," CWO 2 Warren Hughes, detachment commander and operations officer responsible for the military calibration teams in Europe, including Bosnia and Macedonia, said. "Like privacy— not having to share the toilet or shower with a few hundred other people; or having a comfortable chair to sit in; or maybe a cold glass of beer when you feel like it.

"On the other hand," he said, "it is a very interesting environment to be in with the direct understanding of why we're here and what it's all about. It is a place the soldiers are able to see the benefit of their years of training, which instills confidence in themselves and their abilities."

Although most of the time spent in Macedonia has been focused on the mission, it's difficult to be in such a place without observing the local population. During a convoy to Kosovo, Lundy saw some of

the countryside in passing. "There was what appeared to be a mass grave site and lots of burned out residential homes. I do have sympathy for the children who we did see and the plight of the innocent people affected by the events that brought us to the region. My focus, however, was on the task that my team was deployed to accomplish."

Lundy added that as the environment becomes secure and the atmosphere improves, he hopes to have the opportunity to do the "feel good" missions, devoting some time and energy rendering aid and comfort in some capacity to the local population.

"Macedonia was and still is a very immature theater," Lundy said. "Lots of changes and adjustment. We will be moving forward to Kosovo Province on Sept. 25."

A worldwide organization, TMDE command and control is located at Redstone Arsenal.

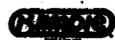
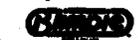
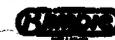
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Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Bass tournament

Tennessee Valley Chapter AAAA will hold its fall bass tournament at 6:30 a.m. Oct. 2 at Lake Guntersville, Mac's Landing. Cost is \$25 per boat; and there will be cash prizes. RSVP by Sept. 24 to Bob Vlasics 837-0005 or Tom Geoffroy 313-1614.

Pineapple Open

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club presents the fifth annual Pineapple Open on Oct. 9 at the Redstone Golf Course. This four person scramble is a \$37 contribution for Redstone Golf Course members, or a \$50 contribution for non-members. Prizes



Susan Hodga/CCAD PAO

Getting in gear...

Employees at Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas, in the Transmission Shop, check a CH-47 transmission for a flawed gear that has had the Chinook fleet grounded. The depot will be checking over 1,000 fore and aft transmissions. From left are Eric Ritters; Nick Hurta, Aviation and Missile Command engineer; and Wallace Ham. Ritters and Ham are mechanics. A cracked gear was discovered by the Royal Air Force which resulted in the grounding of the DoD and Foreign Military Sales fleets.

will be awarded; and a barbecue chicken dinner will be available for \$8.50. Deadline for entry is Oct. 1. Stop by the Redstone Golf Course for your entry form today. For more information, call Mary Bissell 837-3310.

Hunter safety orientation

The mandatory Hunter Safety Orientation will be held 4:30-6 p.m. Sept. 15, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28 and Nov. 11 in the Recreation Center, building 3711. The orientation is also available on computer at all Learning Resource Centers. Please call in advance to ensure availability of terminals. For hours and locations, call 876-9416. All first-time hunters to Redstone or those persons who have not participated in the RSA hunting program within the last three years are asked to attend one of the in-person briefings. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation 876-4868/6854.

Ala. A&M football

Active-duty military and their family members can get free admission to Alabama A&M University's football game Sept. 25 at home against Prairie View A&M. Servicemembers in uniform or civilian attire (ID card required) should be at the pass gate by 5:15 p.m. Game time is 6:30. This offer is sponsored by AUSA. Parking is \$3, with no charge for buses.



Logistics achievement award

The 1999 Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award Luncheon/Ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. Sept 21 at the Redstone Arsenal Club. The following individuals have been nominated for this prestigious award: Amy Barnett, CCAWS,

Logistics Office; O.V. Bonner, Air Defense Directorate, IMMC; Cindy Carlisle, Logistics Support Directorate, IMMC; Richard Gramly, Logistics Support Directorate, IMMC; Mark Hudgins, Air Defense Directorate, IMMC; James Lang, Aviation Logistics Support Directorate, Acquisition Center; Thomas Lavin, Aviation Systems Directorate, IMMC; Tammie Newby, Information Systems Directorate, CIC; Willie Sandifer, Business Management Directorate, IMMC; Stanley Seymour, JTUAV, Logistics Office; Martin Walsh, Aviation RDEC, Fort Eustis; and James Wasson, Business Management Directorate, IMMC. The nominees will be recognized during the ceremony and Ernest A. Young, retired deputy to the commanding general, will announce the winner of the 1999 award. Tickets for the event are \$9.50 each and are available from the following: Anne Hughes, IMMC, 876-1757; Betty Lee, IMMC, 876-5044; Brenda Parker, IMMC, 876-2392; Diane White, IMMC, 876-3393; Romona Rice, IMMC, 313-1641; Lesley Smith, IMMC, 313-1581; Debra Teamer, IMMC, 313-1653; Katie Clark, AC, 876-1093; Beverly Layne, CIC, 876-5174; Frances Ruiz, JTUAV, 895-4595; Maydel Nelson, Fort Eustis, (757)878-2208; Julie Tesi, Aviation RDEC, 313-1725; or Susan Bagby, CCAWS, 876-4500. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Anne Hughes 876-1757.

Tarquine award

Nominations for the Tarquine award are now being accepted for a deserving individual who is assigned to AMCOM and has made significant contributions to the AMCOM Value Engineering Program. This award was established in 1996 by the AMCOM VE Office in honor of the late Bob Tarquine for his significant contribu-

tions to the AMCOM VE Program. Mrs. Tarquine received the first annual award for Tarquine posthumously at the FY '97 VE Kickoff Luncheon. The 1997 award recipient was Jean Grotophorst, Army TACMS-BAT. This year's award will be presented at the FY 2000 VE Kickoff and Awards Ceremony scheduled for Nov. 17. The awardee is selected by a voting panel comprised of the AMCOM Value Engineering Office. Questions concerning the award may be directed to AMSAM-RD-SE-IO-VE, 876-8163. Nominations are due by close of business Oct. 1.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting from 6:30-7:30 Thursday morning at the Radisson Suite Hotel on South Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Marvin Whitted 842-2879.

Modelers show

The Huntsville Plastic Modelers Society will hold its 23rd annual Model Show and Contest, Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jaycees Building on Airport Road. Free public admission. Contest entry fee is \$10 (includes first two models) and \$1 for each additional model. There's a \$2 discount for IPMS members. Junior entry is \$1 per model with no other fee. For more information, call Dan Thompson 895-0250.

Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley, Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel announces the following: Rosary is recited daily at 11:30 followed either by mass or a communion service at noon. This Saturday, a Korean mass will be held at 5 p.m. and a Latin mass at 6. There is no mass Monday.

See Announcements on page 21

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Health

continued from page 17

The Public Health and Education Center of FAHC coordinates and supports this massive team project as a means of reminding the military retiree to place emphasis on health prevention through early detection of potential health problem areas before they

escalate into more serious ones. Join us Saturday to Put Prevention Into Practice for retirement and to begin your own personal prevention record. The more information you have about yourself, the more control you will have over your very precious retirement choices.

(Editor's note: Johnson is a health educator at Fox Army Health Center.)

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Announcements

Carport/yard sale

The Family Housing Fall Carport/Yard sale is scheduled for Oct. 2-3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sale will receive wide publication on the installation, however, you may consider advertising your own sale through local newspapers, bulletin boards, Bargain Hunter, Commissary, etc. The use of stake mounted signs directing traffic to your sale location are authorized for dates of sale only. All signage must be removed immediately after the sale period. A well organized and attractive display of merchandise is the key to a successful sale. You are encouraged to set up your displays in a location that will divert customers away from grassed areas. Policing of lawns, carports, and surrounding areas must be done immediately after the sale period. This is a great opportunity for some of us to dispose of those things we no longer need and others to pick up a bargain. Most importantly, it's a good time to socialize with our friends and neighbors in the military community. Good selling and shopping to all!

Prayer breakfast

The September Nondenominational Prayer

Breakfast, sponsored by the IMMC, will be held Tuesday at 7 a.m. in the Sparkman Complex, building 5309, room 9128 (conference room east end of the Sparkman Center Food Court). The scheduled speaker is Frank Tackett, a former AMCOM employee. "No food or drinks will be served, but you may bring your own or come and feast on the spiritual food that will be served," a prepared release said. "Everyone is welcome and invited, so join us for prayer, praise and fellowship." For information call Ronnie Davis 895-4181.

Transition workshop

The Military Personnel Office, in conjunction with the Alabama Employment Services Office, will hold a Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Workshop on Sept. 21-23 for transitioning military personnel and their authorized family members. This workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be oriented toward resume preparation, employment orientation, and those actions you must take prior to separation or retirement from military service. There will be presentations from Tricare, Dental Service Center, Army

Education Center, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Army Transportation Office, Transition Point, Survivor Benefits Program and the Office of Personnel Management. In addition, the local representative from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs will present briefings on VA Disability and other subjects. It is mandatory that all military personnel separating from military service within the next 180 days attend this presentation unless they have attended a previous TAP Workshop. Prior scheduling is required; securing a seat in the TAP workshop 30 to 60 days in advance is highly recommended. Fresh hot coffee and doughnuts will be served compliments of the Sergeant Majors Association. For more information, call Tanzella Jackson 842-2721.

Tobacco cessation

Fox Army Health Center/Public Health and Education Center (PHEC) is offering another round of tobacco cessation classes. The program will start the week of Sept. 23. Three classes, with various days and times will be offered. The program continues for 10 sessions over a 2 1/2 month period and is offered at Fox Army Health Center. These classes are free and limited to military eligible beneficiaries. The "pill" (Zyban) will be available for use. Recent research has shown this to be effective in helping reduce the craving for nicotine. The success rate increases to close to 50 percent when used with education and group support. To register call PHEC, Fox Army Health Center 842-0196. For more information call Eileen Bailey, registered nurse, 842-0149. Space is limited. The next class will be offered January 2000.

Retiree checkups

Military retirees are encouraged to "Put

Prevention Into Practice." Fox Army Health Center staff will be available Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Sparkman Center, building 5309, room 9128 to assist the military retiree with health information and assessments. Information booths, and health assessments, including blood sugar screening, body fat analysis, bone density, blood pressure, and cholesterol testing will be provided free to military retirees and their beneficiaries.

Government accountants

North Alabama Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at the Marriott at the Space and Rocket Center. Social begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:15 and the speaker at 7. Cost is \$12 per person. For reservations call Sandra Seymour 544-0099.

Thrift Shop job

The Thrift Shop has a vacant position for a bookkeeper. This is for 10 hours a week. Applicants should have knowledge in bookkeeping and be familiar with Quicken or Quickbooks, payroll and data entry. Applications are available at the Thrift Shop during operating hours. Deadline for applying is Sept. 30. For more information call Sheila Torongeau, manager, 881-6992.

Cancer Society donation

Dr. Gene Corfman at Corfman Chiropractic at Main Street South is donating his time and expertise to you and the American Cancer Society by providing your examination, all X-rays deemed necessary and your initial treatment in exchange for a donation. He requests a minimum donation of \$25 at the time of service paid directly to the American Cancer Society. This offer is valid Sept. 20-30. For more information call Corfman's office, 7500 Memorial Parkway SW No. 114, at 650-0051.

See Announcements on page 22

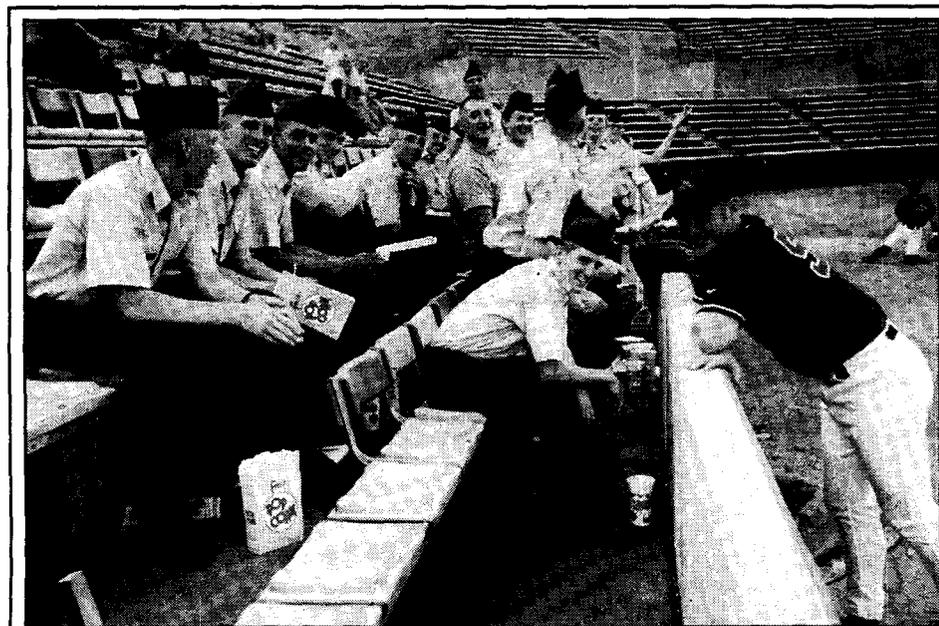
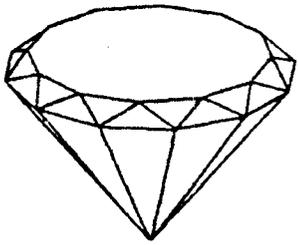


Photo by Margaret Banish-Donaldson

Bullpen chat...

Huntsville Stars relief pitcher Tim Dixon talks with Redstone soldiers before the Stars' game Sept. 3 against the Orlando Rays at Joe Davis Stadium. The Stars have since completed their 1999 season.



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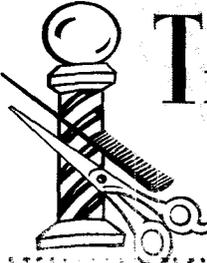
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Announcements

Education committee

The Army Community Service (ACS) Education Committee will meet at noon Sept. 22 in the ACS conference room, building 3491. Any parent interested in the educational needs of their child is invited. The committee serves as a liaison between the Redstone community and the Huntsville city schools. It is helpful to call in advance concerning problem areas that need to be put on the agenda. For more information, call Donna Scofield 876-5397.

Prenatal program

The March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. will cut the ribbon for healthier babies at the grand opening of a new prenatal program serving the greater Huntsville area at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Richard Showers Recreation Center, 4600

Blue Springs Road. Called Stork's Nest, the program is designed to increase the number of pregnant women who begin prenatal care in the first trimester, and continue regular prenatal visits until their babies are born. "Too many babies are born too small and too soon," Harriett Littlepage, president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Delta Omega Zeta Chapter, said. "The Stork's Nest program provides incentives and encouragement for women to keep prenatal care appointments, a critical factor for helping babies get a healthy start in life." For more information call Geneva Harris, project coordinator, 651-2364.

Junior League

The Junior League of Huntsville has begun pre-sales for its Apple Annie fund-raiser in which the group sells apples throughout the

community. Apple Annie Day is Oct. 29. For more information, call the Junior League office 533-3554.

Craft show

The Northeast Alabama Craftsmen's Association will hold its 1999 Fall Craft Show Friday through Sunday in the south hall of the Von Braun Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Violence hotline

The following number has been designated as a hotline for employee use in reporting potential or actual violence in the workplace: 842-9896.

1950s party

The Veterans of Foreign War, Post 2702, at 2900 North Memorial Parkway, is having a '50s party, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. until midnight. Cash door prizes and for best costumes. An Elvis impersonator will be performing. Cost is \$5. Tickets available at the door. All proceeds go to charities. For more information, call Margaret Banish-Donaldson 842-0558.

HHC AMCOM soldiers

Organizational day for Headquarters & Headquarters Company AMCOM personnel will be held at 10 a.m. Sept. 28 at the Rustic Lodge. Family members are welcome. Enjoy a day of fun and activities.

ARMY MERIT PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND THE HUNTSVILLE AREA

These announcements provided by the AMCOM CPAC can be found on the web at www.cpol.army.mil. This list includes announcements that opened prior to the Friday before Rocket publication date and close on/after the publication date. For a complete list and details on these opportunities go to the web.

PVA NUMBER	TITLE	CLOSES	LOCATION	PPSERIES	GRADE	POT
99C1233RC	Supv. Firefighter	15-Sep-99	AMCOM RASA	GS-0081	8	8
99C1274JH	Logistic Mgmt Spec	15-Sep-99	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12
99C1266IG	Secretary (OA)	15-Sep-99	IMMC	GS-0318	6	6
99C1259RC	Lead Supply Sys Anal	15-Sep-99	IMMC	GS-2003	13	13
99C1273IG	Gen. Supply Spec	16-Sep-99	IMMC	GS-2001	9	9
99C891ABR	Security Spec (Ops)	17-Sep-99	SMDC	GS-0080	13	13
99C1276RC	Log. Mgmt Spec	17-Sep-99	IMMC	GS-0346	12	12
99B1279AW	Electronics Engr.	17-Sep-99	PEO AVN	GS-0855	13	13
99C1033AFM	Computer Specialist	17-Sep-99	LOGSA	GS-334	9	9
99C1235RC	Employment Asst MGR	20-Sep-99	AMCOM RASA	GS-101	11	11
99C1282IG	Operations Control Spec	20-Sep-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-301	11	11
99D1188DW	Integration Sys Mgr	21-Sep-99	AMCOM, LAISO	GS-0301	15	15
HA99A2498	Environmental Engineer	21-Sep-99	CoFE	GS-819	11	12
99B1314SH	General Engineer	23-Sep-99	AMCOM MRDEC	DB-801	III	III
99B1315SH	Industrial Engineer	23-Sep-99	AMCOM MRDEC	DB-896	III	III
99B1221SH	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	23-Sep-99	AMCOM, AVRDEC	DB-0861	III	III
99C1281TM	General Supply Spec	23-Sep-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-2001	11	11
99C1278TM	General Supply Spec	23-Sep-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-2001	11	11
99C1290TM	Logistic Mgmt Spec	23-Sep-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-346	12	12
99C1324RC	Logistic Mgmt Spec	24-Sep-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-346	12	12
99C1142BR	Supv Ops Res Anal	24-Sep-99	SMDC	GS-1515	15	15
BKM94588	Diagnostic Rad. Tech.	30-Sep-99	MEDDAC	GS-0647	6	6
99B1214DT	Electrical Engr (DEMO)	8-Oct-99	AMCOM, AVRDEC	DB-0850	III	III
99B1220SH	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	8-Oct-99	AMCOM, AVRDEC	DB-0861	III	III
99B1222SH	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	8-Oct-99	AMCOM, AVRDEC	DB-0861	III	III
99B1316SH	Human Factors Engr/Psy	8-Oct-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-801/180	III	III
99B1084SS	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	11-Oct-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-861	III	III



Courtesy photo

READY TO RIDE—Festival-goers wait for their turn to ride the merry-go-round at last year's Oktoberfest.

Annual event offers fun for entire family

Oktoberfest

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of four tickets to the event this week. Also, anyone who dresses in authentic German attire at the festival will be able to register to win a weekend at Four Points by Sheraton.

"Customer service is very important to

us and we want to make sure people are happy so they'll come back year after year," McGuire said.

The military police ask that everyone coming to Oktoberfest enter the Arsenal through the gate on Patton Road. Event parking will be well marked.

For more information, visit the website at www.redstone.army.mil/oktoberfest or call 955-7399.

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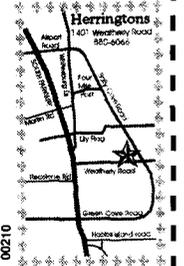
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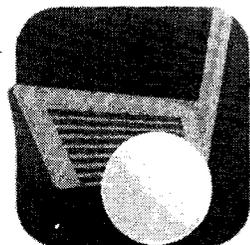
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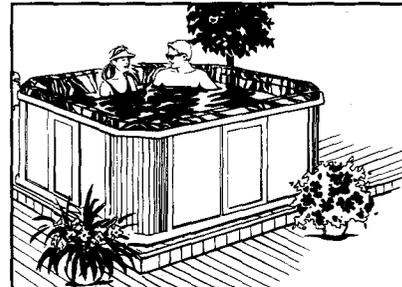
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Webster

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"it felt like home" and he was offered an engineering scholarship there. Later, he received a ROTC scholarship there and entered the Army in May 1976.

His first assignment was with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. He was an Infantry officer there. Next, he went to the Army Engineer Advance Course at Fort Belvoir, Va., to "get back in tune with the engineering side" of his background. He had met his wife, Marsha, in college and married her in 1977. They had their son, Cecil Jr., while Webster was at Fort Belvoir. After that, Webster was chosen to go to graduate school and earned a master's in engineering. That was followed by an assignment to teach in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at West Point from 1984-87.

"When I was able to bring both my two life-long goals together to serve the Army and the country as well as to teach young minds, I really enjoyed that. I had a great time," he said. "If I had the opportunity to go back and do it again, I probably would without a second thought."

Webster's wife shares his passion for teaching. She is a teacher/administrator. She started out as an industrial arts teacher, teaching woodworking, shop, and craft-related classes to high school students. Over the years she eventually taught general drafting, then earned a master's in education and became an assistant principal in the New York area when Webster was teaching at West Point. But she has not been able to find another assistant principal position since Webster left West Point in 1987, so she has ended up going back into the classroom as a teacher. She currently teaches pre-engineering courses to 9th through 12th graders at the Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria, Va.

"She really loves that job, which is why when I got the assignment here with all the travel we expect, she decided to stay in Virginia and spend her summers and holidays here," Webster said. "I'll see her at least a couple times a month, since I'll be going up to Washington a lot. I also plan to meet her in Atlanta sometimes when we visit our son."

Webster's son is a freshman majoring in biology at Morehouse College in Atlanta. He wants to be a doctor. According to Webster, his son has been to eight or nine different schools through the years, with three of them being different high schools. His last two years of high school were up in Virginia, though. Webster said his son has never had any desire to join the Army, and he suspects that is because of all the moving around involved. But his son has handled the moving well, getting involved in many kinds of extra-curricular activities such as science clubs, French clubs, and yearbook committees.

Although Webster is new to the CCAWS Project Office, he is not new to Huntsville. This is his third tour here in the past nine years. He originally came in 1990 as deputy director of the then Kinetic Energy Weapons Directorate at the Strategic Defense Command. Webster's wife taught at Johnson High School as the At Risk Program coordinator and also was the cheerleading coach there for one year in 1993 until her husband was assigned to Ottawa, Canada. He was the standardization representative between our Army and the

Canadian Land forces. The ABCA program involved the Australians, British, and Canadians as well as the Americans, and was under the direction of the Army Materiel Command in Alexandria, Va. Webster was supposed to spend several years there, but after just 11 months he was chosen to be the product manager for the THAAD launcher and they moved back to Huntsville.

"That, by the way, is the only overseas assignment that we've had. Of course when I tell folks that my overseas assignment was in Canada, they look at me and laugh and say I really don't understand. But technically it's classified as an overseas assignment," Webster said with a laugh.

He was with the THAAD Project Office for two years developing the THAAD launcher. Webster noted that in addition to contributing to the successful launching of the THAAD missile on each and every occasion, he developed a contract requirements package for THAAD moving it from what was then the demonstration and validation phase of the program, to engineering and manufacturing development. Webster left the THAAD Project Office in July 1996 and spent a year at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., before beginning his last assignment with the JPO in Alexandria.

"We've been very fortunate in that all of the assignments that I've had, my family has always been able to go with me, and so we've never been separated due to military assignments," he said.

Right now, Webster says he does not have much time for hobbies. He has a lot to do to maintain a knowledge of everything that goes on in the CCAWS Project Office. He explained that on weekends, if he is not thinking about work, he has to think about yardwork. Once that is done, the weekend is over. But he has been an avid genealogist ever since he attended a five-month management course at Fort Belvoir while his wife and son stayed in Huntsville. While he was there alone on weekends, he discovered the National Archives in Washington, D.C. "It dawned on me there was this whole pile of records just waiting to be explored, so I started looking and seeing if I could find anything about my family background," he said. "So I've been actively researching it ever since. I can establish our family roots back to the 1860 time frame. We originated near Atlanta in small place called Woodstock. John McAfee, a medical doctor, owned slaves and I found my great-great-grandmother listed in his last will and testament."

When Webster retires, he says he would love to teach at the high school or collegiate level. Although he thoroughly enjoys what he's doing now and wouldn't want to do anything else in the Army, once he leaves he wants "to try something totally different."

Webster is grateful for all the people who have worked with him and helped him to become a colonel. He said he feels especially fortunate to have so many knowledgeable people in the CCAWS Project Office who make it easy for him to come in and manage the project.

"It's been that way throughout my military career," he said. "I've been rather fortunate that I've been assigned to a number of different, challenging positions and I've worked with outstanding folks who enabled me to get promoted progressively to where I am now. So it's their promotions that I'm wearing, not mine."