

Redstone Rocket

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September 29, 1999

Drug-free workplace

Expanded drug testing includes more than 1,000 civilians

By Sandy Riebeling

Expanded drug testing for local Army civilians is expected to jump from 120 to nearly 1,000 employees. Implementation of the program will begin as soon as negotiations with the unions representing the employees is concluded.

"Sixty days prior to the drug testing, we will begin to train and educate the work force about what is going to happen," Ruby Turner, alcohol and drug control officer at Redstone, said. "A lot of people are up in the air about testing, maybe a little nervous. We have a team of people that will meet with the work force and answer any questions employees might have."

Employees working in newly deemed Testing Designated Positions will be notified and required to sign a form to submit to the testing.

Those on the TDP list are randomly selected for testing by a computer software program. Once the names are selected and the employees notified, they have two hours to report to building 3204 on Little John Road.

Testing procedures are straightforward and carried out meticulously by the testing coordinator, Paula Hagy.

"I think people are anxious because they don't know the procedures," Hagy said. "Civilians and soldiers procedures are different."

Civilian procedures include checking picture identification and social security number against the computer generated paperwork called a seven-page chain of custody, listing medications the employee is taking and the type of test taken whether it's a random test, pre-employment or a safety accident check.

"We prepare the facility before testing by putting bluing agents in the urinals and commodes and shutting off the water supply to the room," Hagy said. "There is a hand sanitizer outside the bathroom so that people can wash their hands before and after. No one goes in with the employee but someone does stand outside while the sample is being given. When the donor comes out, I put a temperature strip on the outside of the specimen bottle. The donor watches me put a label and seal on it and then initials the seal and signs off on the specimen."

Specimens are shipped to the Great Lakes Naval Screening Lab in Illinois. Results take three to five days.

"We've never, in the 13 years since the program started, had a false positive,"



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SENDING SAMPLES— Information on specimen bottles is double checked for accuracy before being shipped to the lab in Illinois for testing. This urinalysis turn-in from soldiers is being inspected by Hagy, installation bio-chemical testing coordinator and Sgt. Sandra Johnson-Parker, unit prevention leader for HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade.

Turner said. "The last civilian test to come up positive was nearly eight years ago."

The test screens for drugs, legal and illegal, but not alcohol. If a test comes back positive, it will be evaluated by a medical review officer to rule out medically induced or abuse results. If the results are positive due to prescription drugs taken appropriately, nothing happens and it is not recorded as a positive result.

"I believe the testing is a good thing," Turner said. "I think it will deter drug use

and hopefully keep more families together. Hopefully it will keep people's bank accounts in check. Hopefully, it will deter trouble for employees. Drugs may look like big fun but it's really about pain."

While the expansion involves the civilian population, the soldiers continue to be randomly tested at 20 percent a month and 100 percent annually.

Currently only those people involved with the Drug and Alcohol Abuse
See Testing on page 13



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

JUMP PREPARATION — SFC Herman Parsons, left, inspects SFC James LaPoint's gear and chutes in preparation for a practice jump by the Army National Guard Special Forces. See the story on page 18.

Logistics award suits 1999 honoree

Aviation systems director says he was surprised to be selected from among 12 nominees

By Skip Vaughn

Tom Lavin was having a good day even before the award luncheon Sept. 21.

A diabetic he has lost 15 pounds since June on a no-sugar diet. So that morning he was finally able to get into a gray suit he hadn't worn since 1992.

And at the ninth annual Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award luncheon, Lavin got an even bigger thrill. He was the 1999 winner.

"I'm really surprised because there were a lot of people that have done some special

things," Lavin said. "I just kind of come to work every day and do the job."

Lavin, director of aviation systems at the Integrated Materiel Management Center, was selected from among 12 nominees. He arrived in August 1997 from the former Aviation and Troop Command in St. Louis.

The other nominees included Amy Barnett, CCAWS, Logistics Office; O.V. Bonner, Air Defense Directorate, IMMC; Cindy Carlisle, Logistics Support Directorate, IMMC; Richard Gramly,

See Award on page 13



Photo by Skip Vaughn

VERY GOOD DAY— Lavin, left, shares a laugh with Young after the award luncheon.

Fiscal closeout brings overtime

Year-end books

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Fire prevention an ongoing goal

Burning issue

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Pineapple Open has cruise prize

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Letters to the editor

Technical library

Hel-lo-o!! Bud? Loretta? Olin? Anyone home? If so, how come y'all haven't already put together a plan to save one of Huntsville's priceless assets, namely the collection of pure math books and journals currently housed in the Redstone Scientific Information Center (RSIC)? There isn't anything in this collection that could get anyone in trouble with constituents or stockholders, e.g. evolution, literature, politics, history. This is MATHEMATICS, like you know, the foundation for the engineering formulae that make Huntsville's private sector what it is today.

Since RSIC will no longer be able to maintain the currency of this collection due to NASA/AMCOM budget cuts, surely the slack here can be picked up by some of Huntsville's many "foes of big government" who are willing to "walk the walk" as well as "talk the talk."

Put your money where your mouth is, folks, and show us how corporate donations combined with community contributions can keep the future of this invaluable collection safe via privatization. Find a home for it by a tax write-off to some company with empty space in Research Park.

Get some big good-will funding from

Mercedes (due to the German origins of this collection). Hit up Bill and Melinda's library grant program—many software algorithms are built on modern algebraic automata theory also.

Seriously—this collection could endure as a living aspect of the Von Braun legacy to Huntsville, inasmuch as it owes its stature to the famous German trait of thoroughness so much maligned in other contexts. So whether we're Zoroastrians who believe that good and evil partnered the creation (cf Orson Welles' famous line comparing Switzerland and the Borgias in Carroll Reed's film of Graham Greene's novel "The Third Man"), or Judaeo-Christians who believe that God routinely lets small miracles flower from great tragedies, we really could all get behind this one and do something lasting for the children and grandchildren of Tennessee Valley children.

David Halitsky
Thompsons Station, Tenn.

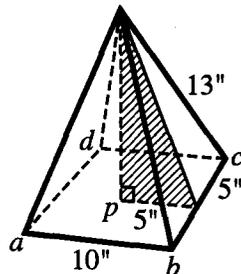


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Visiting the commander...

AFGE national president Bobby Harnage, right, meets with Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan while visiting Redstone Arsenal Sept. 22. From left are Jim Brothers, president of AFGE Local 1858; Sullivan, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal; and Harnage.

Career secretary

As I have often referred to my early days in government employ, I was this "scared little girl from the country" headed for Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Navy Department. The year was 1957 and Washington was "Big" compared to the little towns in West Virginia where I was born and Ohio where I had spent the last few years. Such big buildings, such traffic, such hustle-bustle, such important looking people. But the government offered much promise to this young woman just out of business college and the recruiting was most effective. I yearned for excitement and the prestige of telling "the folks back home" about the big world out there that we had read and heard so much about; and the spirit of the Navy won me over.

Then, in 1977, after a layoff to raise my family, I returned to an "active duty" assignment with OMMCS as a temporary GS-2 clerk typist. I end my government career Oct. 2 as the personal assistant to the OMMCS commandant, Col. Stephen C. Taylor, and I prepare to trod forward at a relaxed pace (sure I do).

My years with the government have been good to me and for me. I've had very strong military involvement along with the civilian sector. And I will tell you, there are beautiful people in all areas. In 1957, it was very easy to go to work for the government. Now, it is more difficult. Automation and downsizing have forced all of us to rethink our earlier goals and, in some cases, set more attainable and reachable goals. What was clearly within our grasp years ago now is somewhere in cyberspace awaiting touchdown on a planet yet to be discovered. Automation has lessened the need for a "secretary" or "administrative" employee. That familiar voice greeting a caller and offering assistance has given way to an automated directory that takes you through the entire telephone book before you reach your chosen recipient (if you do). Or the answering machine with its standardized greeting "I'm unavailable at this time, etc..." I recall the telephone ringing not long ago and upon my hello, the caller said "Do I really have a person?" Yes, you really have a person. And I have no problem letting you know I am a secretary even if my job description has added titles to go



Courtesy photo

PATTON

along with my more advanced responsibilities. You see, I have always been proud to be a clerk typist, or a clerk steno, or a secretary steno or whatever else I've been called. I have had several opportunities to change career fields but I felt at each opportunity that a secretary was also important. How many of us have heard that the secretary keeps the office afloat when everyone else has drifted away? I prefer to think that the office remains afloat because we all work together to reach our mission goal. A good secretary interfaces with most everyone who comes in contact with the boss; that is most important.

I have been extremely fortunate that all but one of my bosses have allowed me to do my own thing when it comes to my desk—a very high percentage, almost unthinkable when micro-managing is so prominent. But now, I go back to my earlier statement of the government being good to me and for me—self-assurance, confidence and respect; opportunities to meet folks from all walks of life, and from all echelon levels, and from many locations; how to rise again after I have fallen face down in the eye of a storm. Oh, the knowledge I have gained from my years of growing up in civil service. And I take this knowledge with me to hold on to when the bruises come and the roses follow. But the most important things I take with me are the friendships that have flourished over the years—friendships that have lasted through the rough and tumble years; long, wonderful friendships; short friendships that show much promise of steady growth. Thank you, everyone. I have learned so much from all of you.

Mary E. Patton
OMMCS

Redstone Rocket

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Red Ribbon Week

Redstone revs up for drug awareness, prevention campaign

By Sandy Riebeling

It's traditionally a time to see people wearing orange and black but the week of Oct. 18 is reserved for red—the Red Ribbon Campaign which brings awareness to the need for drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

The Campaign began in 1986 when citizens of a small community donned red ribbons in tribute and memory of Enrique Camarena, the drug enforcement agent who was slain by drug traffickers. Since then, the red ribbons have served as a reminder of the sacrifices made and the battle to be waged in the war on drugs.

"We give out the ribbons to help people be aware and continue their fight against drug abuse in America," Ruby Turner, alcohol and drug control officer for Redstone, said. "Redstone Arsenal has done an excellent job of supporting the campaign every year. The past three years we've been able to really team up with the community for the effort. Last year soldiers went down to the courthouse and helped local school children tie a red ribbon around it."

Events expected for this year's campaign include passing out red ribbons to employees, wear red day, drive with car headlights turned on, tying ribbons on trees at the Youth Center and the Post Exchange, hanging banners, and visiting the Child Development Center with ribbons and bags of goodies that deliver the message: Stay drug free.

This year's theme is to lead by example and the slogan is "Get real—real drug free."

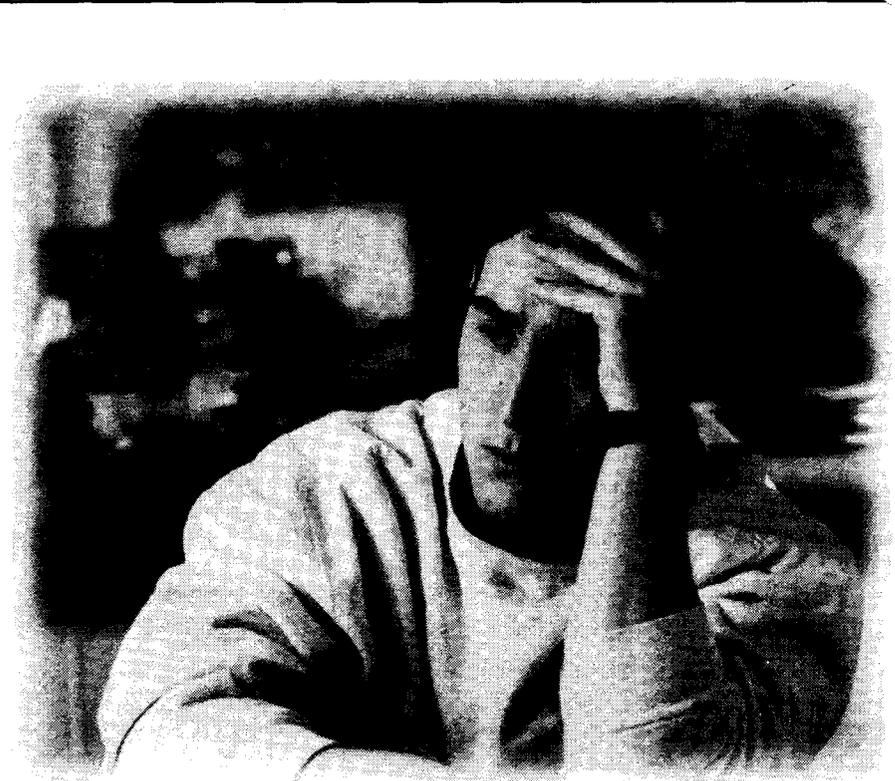
Baskets of ribbons will be placed at the PX, Commissary, Fox Army Health Center, Sparkman Cafeteria and in the troop areas. More information on the week's events will be available through e-mail.

Ribbons, banners and posters are available through the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program located in building 3204 on Little John Road. Anyone interested in picking up supplies for the campaign can call Evelyn Phariss at 842-9897.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

UNVEILING CAMPAIGN—Turner, the alcohol and drug control officer, presents red ribbons to, from left, Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, Col. John Urias, Maj. Gen. James Snider and Col. John Holly. She discussed the red ribbon campaign Thursday during the general officers' forum.



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General officers share ideas at quarterly forum

By Marilyn Craig

In establishing AMCOM's vision, mission, and goals, the Executive Steering Committee decided that one of the goals was "Foster a synergistic relationship with our partners to ensure that aviation and missile systems continue to support the Army's vision." The General Officers' Forum was an outgrowth of that goal. The forum meets quarterly to discuss issues affecting AMCOM's customers, the Program Executive Offices.

Since developing the partnership, the forum members signed a Partnership Charter, chartered an Overarching Integrated Product Team and chartered Working Level Integrated Product Teams. The forum has also signed a Partnering Charter supporting the Omnibus 2000 Program to acquire advisory and assistance services critical to the successful accomplishment of our missions.

The fall meeting was held Thursday and was hosted by the PEO, Tactical Missiles. In attendance were the AMCOM Commander, PEOs, and their deputies.

Briefings were presented to the forum on items that will enhance the customer relationships throughout Team Redstone. Briefings were presented on customer agreements, funding-overhead rates, security issues, etc.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

IN SESSION—Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, left, listens to presentations during the general officers' forum.

Col. Micheal Coleman, Joe Winston, and Ruby Turner, of Personnel and Training, presented Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, Maj. Gen. James Snider, Col. John Urias and Col. John Holly with red ribbon bouquets as a reminder of Drug Awareness Month. The deputies were given red ribbons. In 1985, Enrique Camarena, a drug enforcement agent, was slain by drug traffickers. Drug Awareness Week was created in his memory in 1988 to establish and maintain community coalitions to enact positive change against drug abuse. Secretary of Defense William Cohen has designated October as Drug Awareness Month for Department of Defense. The week of Oct. 18-22 is designated Drug Awareness Week at Redstone Arsenal. Since 1988, Team Redstone has made an annual, dedicated campaign to the community, that the government is against drug abuse.

(Editor's note: Craig is a procurement analyst in the Strategic Planning Office.)

Fall Fest on tap Oct. 9 at Soldatenstube

The MWR Sales & Marketing office, phone 955-7399, listed the following events for Morale, Welfare and Recreation:

Soldatenstube fall fest— The Soldatenstube will hold a "Fall Fest" from noon-5 p.m. Oct. 9. This family event will include German food served on the patio, a selection of German wines, clowns, moon bounce, face painting, and more. Participants are invited to stay for the German style buffet that evening. For more information, call 830-2582 or 881-5181.

Rocket Lanes bowling special— Take advantage of the Saturday Fall Special at Rocket Lanes. Cost is \$1.25 per game for open bowling every Saturday this fall. Rocket Lanes is located in building 3707 on Aerobee Road. Rocket Lanes has 16 synthetic lanes, automatic scorers, a snack bar, a private party addition, and a game room. For more information, call 876-6634.

Arts and Crafts shop— The June M. Hughes Arts and Crafts Center has plenty to offer. Stop by the multicrafts shop today for a current class schedule. The shop is located in building 3615 Gray Road. Hours of operation include Tuesday and Wednesday 1:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday 5-9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Sunday and Monday. Call 876-7951 for more information.

Child care—The Child Development Center has preschool openings (ages 3 and 4) for full-time care. For more information, call Evelyn Carnes 876-7801. Family child care (FCC) providers also have child care openings for ages 2 and up. Call 876-7801.

Flag football—Company level flag football season is right around the corner. Flag football is open to active duty military only. Games are Monday through Thursday, starting at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on field 15 on Patton Road. For more information, call Donald Lewis 876-2943.



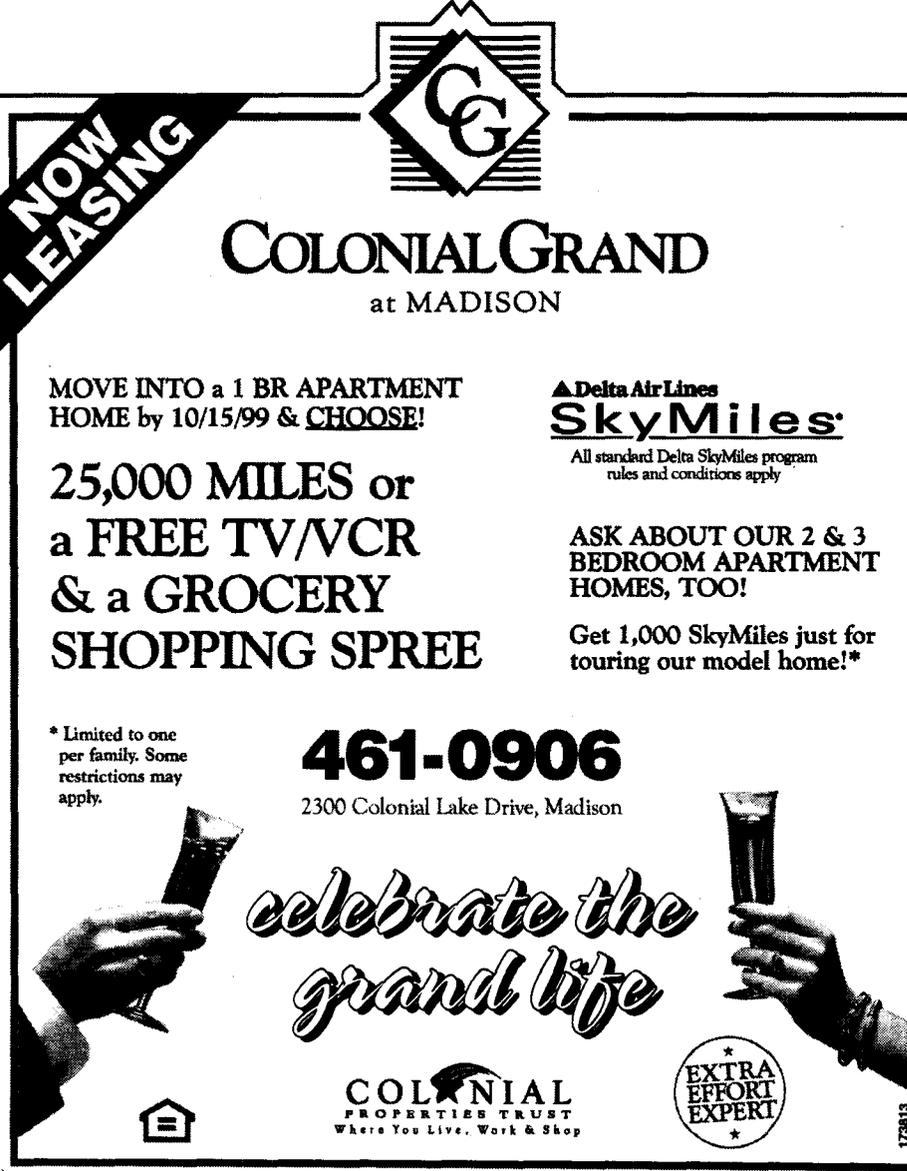
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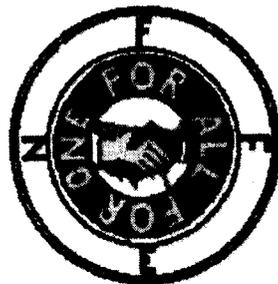
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September 17, 1999

Dear Fellow Employees:

I am Larry S. Jones, Sr., President, National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) Local 405. I have been with the Federal Government for twenty-nine years.

As an AMCOM employee, your concerns are my concerns. That is why I joined NFFE. NFFE has always serviced to the needs of their members. NFFE is the largest, independent union in the Federal sector. We are 750,000 strong. We are affiliated with the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW).

NFFE members believe in the solidarity of Federally employed men and women. NFFE believes in honesty and fair play from it's locals and officers. NFFE members make all decisions that affect their jobs and careers. NFFE does not collude with others to steal contractual rights or make false and misleading statements to our membership. NFFE cares for us as family. NFFE exists for the betterment of all Federal employees.

When I relocated to Redstone Arsenal two years ago, NFFE also relocated. NFFE is still providing stability and protection as always, even before the relocation. NFFE, like family, is always providing support to us in our time of uncertainty.

Now, I have a new life, new job, and new friends here in Alabama. This is my new home; however, my NFFE family has not waned.

I am inviting all of you, my fellow employees and friends, to join me and feel the Dynamics, Power, and Solidarity of NFFE! Together we will not falter. I am depending on you to vote your conscience on Thursday, October 7, 1999. This is not a vote for a union; it is a vote for OUR future.

WITHOUT A VISION...PEOPLE PERISH...

Sincerely,

Larry S. Jones, Sr.
President, NFFE Local 405

**TO THE AMCOM (BARGAINING UNIT) COMMUNITY
FROM**

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NFFE) LOCAL 405

Affiliated With the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO ("IAMAW")

NFFE Local 405 is located at Bldg. 3209, Hercules Rd., Redstone Arsenal. NFFE Local 405 hours of operation is 0700-1700, five days a week.

NFFE Local 405 has filed a Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) suit against AMCOM for violation of NFFE's contract; MICOM Regulation 690-28, 6 Nov 81; AR 690-300, Chapter 335; ATCOM Regulation 690-9, 3 Feb 93, ATCOM Merit Promotion Plan, which is part of the negotiated Union agreement with NFFE Local 405, Feb 94.

NFFE Local 405 insures selection of BEST qualified applicant on job announcements.

NFFE insures confirmation of date received on submitted job announcement application packages.

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NFFE fought off implementation of the Acquisition Workforce Demonstration Project.

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UNION REPRESENTATIVES:

- a. Union President - Maximum of 100% of available monthly man-hours
- b. One of the Union Officials - Maximum of 100% of available monthly man-hours.
- c. Three Union Officials - Maximum of 50% of available monthly man-hours.
- d. All Other Representatives - Maximum of 25% of available monthly man-hours.

Representatives duties include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. To represent employees in the negotiated grievance procedure
- b. To attend formal meetings defined by 5 USC 7114(a)(2)(a)
- c. To represent employees pursuant to 5 USC 7114(a)(2)(b)
- d. To attend briefings call by the employer
- e. To file/respond to grievances filed pursuant to NFFE's Contract, Article XVI
- f. To represent employees in the formal disciplinary process
- g. To investigate and prepare Unfair Labor Practice charge

NFFE Local 405 contract provide for the following:

- a. Occupational Safety and Health
- b. Health Services
- c. Counseling Program
- d. Position Descriptions
- e. Counseling checklists/support forms
- f. Employees with Disabilities
- g. Discipline actions and other contractual support elements

The above facts outlined are documented and filed with NFFE Local 405 office.

NFFE is asking that you vote your conscience on Thursday, 7 Oct 99. NFFE Local 405 is here to provide for the betterment of ALL Federal employees. NFFE cannot provide the BEST contractual service by bribing and misleading employees.

313-2252

Rally September 29th 5pm - 10 pm Joe's House of Entertainment Everyone in the AAMCOM Community is Invited

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Civilian performance awards have rules and regulations

This is a reminder to supervisors and management officials of Team Redstone that every effort must be made to assure that performance awards are being properly calculated and documented.

In accordance with 5 CFR 451.104(g), 5 USC Section 4505(a), AR 672-20, and AMCOMR 690-16, the amount of a performance award must be computed based on an employee's basic pay. Basic pay excludes amounts such as locality pay and cost of living allowances. Cash awards may be given up to a maximum of 10 percent of the employee's base pay. Unusually exceptional employees may receive awards up to 20 percent if approved by the major command's commander. Unusually exceptional performance surpasses the normal requirements for the

Exceptional rating and should be fully documented.

The organization originating the award prepares the appropriate forms, assuring that they are properly approved and documented. Management must identify the amount of an award by indicating either a percent of salary or a dollar amount in Part III of the DA Form 7222 (Senior System Evaluation Report) or DA Form 7223 (Base System Civilian Evaluation Report). When identifying a percentage, the word "salary" must be crossed out and replaced with "basic pay." This change is based on a recent U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Evaluation Agency (USAC-PEA) on site review that determined the use of the word "salary" on these forms is a technical violation since "salary" includes pay adjustments such as locality pay and

cost of living allowances.

Once an organization has determined that the award meets regulatory and policy requirements, the information is transferred to a PERSACTION. When a manager wants to give an employee a percentage of their basic pay, the amount should be calculated and the result entered into PPI, instead of allowing PPI to do the calculation. This is due to an error in the PPI salary field used for calculating awards. The South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center is working to correct this problem. A notification will be distributed to the Redstone community as soon as the correction is made.

For more information, contact your servicing personnelist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. (CPAC release)

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It's your turn

BG (P) Craig Wheeler, Commander USACFSC, hosts a special online Army MWR town-meeting, October 6, 2:00 Pm EST. Log in at the Town Hall icon on the MWR main page.

Check it out



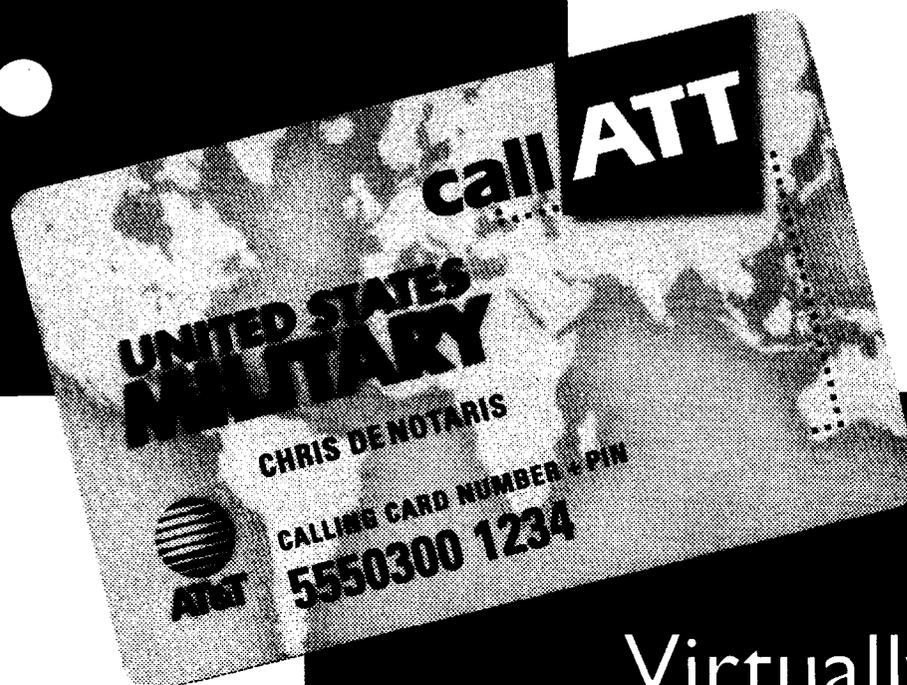
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Balancing the books

Resource manager expects long night's work on year-end closure

By Beth Skarupa

September means the beginning of fall and cooler weather, but for many it also means the busiest time of the year as the year-end closure takes place.

"For people in the resource management business, the end of the fiscal year is extremely busy and you can't fail. You have to be at 100 percent on 30 September," Col. Joe Young, Resource Management director, said.

The Aviation and Missile Command started the year with \$13.9 million overall FY '99 resources for direct and customer programs. According to Young, the command expects to meet or exceed all required goals except one; and that one is for Research and Development Test and Evaluation. Congressional language mandates that this goal not be met.

"We've effectively and efficiently utilized the dollars spent," Young said. "We're doing our job, getting required supplies and equipment to soldiers in the field."

This fiscal year, both the Army Materiel Command's and AMCOM's goal is to close out on Sept. 29 rather than Sept. 30. This is different from previous years. Since almost everything is automated now, closing out on Sept. 29 ensures that both commands will not fail to meet their year-end closure date in the event of a computer breakdown. This year, Sept. 30 will be a cleanup day.

Young expects 50 percent of his work force to be working all day and late into the nights Sept. 29-30 and a small group to work

through the night on at least one of the days. He recently put in a request to keep the lights and heating/air conditioning on all night for the third and fifth floors of the Sparkman Center on those dates.

"Almost everybody balances a checkbook at one time or another. Imagine you're in the commanding general's conference room with its big conference table full from one end to the other with 3-inch binders and you have to balance a multitude of thousands of lines of entries in each of the binders. The pages are full of thousands of lines from top to bottom," Young said. "What year-end closure means is each organization signing saying the books are balanced. Then I sign as the director of Resource Management, then the commanding general signs saying it is balanced."

The commanding general certifies the year-end reports Oct. 19. Checking is done between Oct 1-18. This is not unique to AMCOM; all tenants of Redstone Arsenal have to do the same. A work group is made up of organizations and AMC who look for problems and work to get them fixed.

According to Young, money often became available at the end of the year in the past. Although this does not happen as often anymore, the command does have programs that are not funded all year long which are considered critical contracts for services, supplies and equipment, or for repairing roofs.

"AMCOM stands ready to accept and obligate virtually any amount of funds that comes to it from AMC, the Army or DoD," Young



Courtesy photo

Hispanic month...

Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, signs a proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. Looking on are members of the Hispanic Employment Program Committee: from left, standing, SFC Anthony Pugh, Signey Hernandez, SFC Edward Mendez, Chris Silva, Ed Adams; and sitting, Robert Salinas, left, and Marc Subido.

said. "All year-end money will be for critical missions and contracts, not frivolous expenditures just to throw away money, which has been a public misconception over the years."

Despite the year-end closeout, Young could not speculate on the outlook for the command in the upcoming year. The resources available for fiscal year 2000 are not known at this time because the Defense Appropriations Bill has not yet passed in Congress. However, a Continuing Resolution Authority is anticipated. This would allow programs to continue minimal operations, ensuring that salaries and electricity bills are paid so that the government would not have to shut down.

"The bottom line is that AMCOM plans to close the year out with 100 percent meeting or exceeding all higher headquarter executive goals except for one, and the goal for that one—RDTE—was not to do it," Young said.

The year-end closure is a team effort that involves everybody within the command, according to Young. Although Resource Management is the focal point, many other people in different areas play a part in it.

"Without the different players, we couldn't execute it. You have 365 days per year and the last five days you have to balance and close out," Young said. "You do this every year and it never gets any easier. It's like sleeping on concrete, it never gets any softer."



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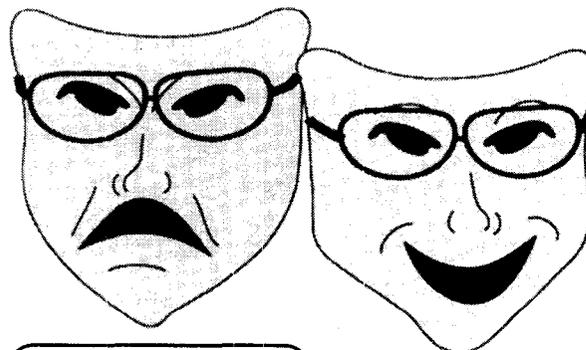
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An Open Letter to USAAMCOM (Bargaining Unit Employees)

Fact Sheet 1

An Open Letter to AMCOM (Bargaining Unit Employees), Huntsville, AL

On October 7, 1999, those AMCOM bargaining unit employees (**union members and non-unit members**) who exercise their right to vote, will make an important decision for every AMCOM bargaining union employee. There will be three (3) critical choices on the ballot. By your vote, you will choose, (1) AFGE, ACL-CIO, (2) NFFE/IAM or (3) No Union.

For the AMCOM bargaining unit workforce to maintain the right to bargain collectively, you must vote for one of the two unions. To do otherwise would mean that **you give up all right** "under Federal Law" to bargain collectively over establishing or changing "your conditions of employment" or to have a negotiated agreement. To do otherwise would mean that you would no longer have a "negotiated grievance procedure" nor the right to "binding outside third party arbitration". This would mean that all final decisions on employee complaints/grievances would then be made by an agency official.

You must make an informed decision about which National Union your newly consolidated local union will affiliate with. That decision should be AFGE, AFL-CIO Here is why:

A strong local union is one where members exercise their democratic right to make decisions about organizational objectives, mission, the selection of local leadership and representatives, plus ongoing monitoring and oversight of local union activities.

Affiliation with a National Union should be based on the "Value in Return" that a local union receives from the National Union. The question must be asked, how does this affiliation benefit the needs of a particular group of workers? In this case, we are talking about **Federal Government Employees.**

Issues that are most important to Government Employees such as job security, pay, retirement, health insurance, dignity on the job, providing efficient and quality service to our customers, are mostly controlled by laws, rules and regulations that are enacted in Washington D.C.

The ability of a labor organization to influence those who make laws, rules and regulations effecting federal employees, depend on the number of concerned federal employees who stand together in one organization. We invite you to compare the following:

According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), **AFGE, AFL-CIO has recognition for about 600,000 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.** NFFE has recognition for less than 100,000 federal employees.

In actual nation-wide membership, AFGE, AFL-CIO, the largest federal employee union in the United States, has 200,000 members. Our competitor NFFE has approximately 13,000 members nationwide. It is true, there is strength in numbers.

It is easy to understand why AFGE, AFL-CIO commands the respect of those who make U.S. law and why AFGE, AFL-CIO, is invited to participate at the legislative table and in the debate over rules and regulations that impact YOU, the federal employee.

On October 7, 1999, cast your vote for inclusion of all Federal Employees in one strong Federal Employee Union. Vote AFGE, AFL-CIO.

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Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3-9

Fire safety and prevention a burning issue year-round

By Beth Skarupa

With North Alabama under a drought emergency, grass fires started in several places including Test Area 1 on Redstone Arsenal. Both the drought and the upcoming Fire Prevention Week Oct. 3-9 have made fire safety an important issue this month.

"Even the simple act of flipping a cigarette out the car window can start a fire right now," Thomas Stephens, fire chief at Fire and Emergency Services, said. "Even a parked car can cause problems for us. If a catalytic converter's hot, and someone who's out here hunting on the Arsenal parks in high weeds, that can be trouble."

The grass fire at Test Area 1 was started by a TOW missile and headed three miles south toward Shields range and the Tennessee River. Fire and Emergency Services had to call in all of its manpower, including the second shift, and work for over seven hours fighting to extinguish the blaze. Two units from Huntsville and four units from the county also were called in, along with Alabama Forestry and Arsenal contractors who helped by cutting fire lines with their bulldozers.

"The grass fire the other day got a head start on us, and we couldn't go fast enough to catch it," Stephens said. "The flames got above the tree line, about 40-50 feet in the air, so we had a hard time trying to get it out. You can't just flap it out when it gets like that."

A "no burn order" was put on the installation after the fire, according to Stephens. No burning of any type will be allowed and no one is supposed to engage in any activity that may cause a fire until the drought emergency is over. Certain individual activities will be allowed, such as the Test Area using their sled track and the Hazard Device Range operating, but only if Fire and Emergency Services are there and standing by.

"We cringe even when we get a call for a small grass fire right now," Stephens said. "Usually you can stomp one out with your foot, but now you have to have water and plenty of it in a hurry to put one out."

The most common cause of fire on the Arsenal is light balances or fluorescent lights that go bad, according to Stephens. Most of the fires are electrical in nature, usually occurring within buildings rather than outdoors.

"Call us if you think you smell smoke. We just had a call



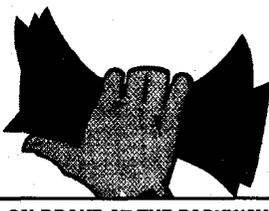
Photo by Beth Skarupa

MEET SPARKY—Fire Inspector Randles demonstrates how "Little Sparky," the fire station's new non-speaking puppet, helps him teach children about fire safety.

today, and they did what they were supposed to do. They pulled the fire alarm and evacuated the building," Stephens said. "We never mind going out on calls, no matter if it's day or night or even if it's Christmas day. That's what we're here for."

See Fire on page 11

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■ Learn not to burn for fire prevention

Fire

continued from page 10

Stephens encouraged everyone to call 911 for a fire or any type of emergency on the Arsenal. A 911 call can be transferred to the military police if necessary and ambulances can be dispatched also. As of Sept. 22, the 911 Center on the Arsenal had had 1,532 calls since the year began.

Stephens commented that several schools have been visiting the fire department this month to learn about fire prevention. Five fire inspectors handle public education as well as fire inspections and investigations. They are in charge of the presentations for Fire Prevention Week.

"This year's theme is 'Fire Drills: The Great Escape.' The schools start coming two or three weeks before fire prevention week and they keep coming a few weeks afterwards too," Kenneth Randles, a fire inspector for Fire and Emergency Services, said.

Randles uses "Little Sparky," a new non-speaking puppet that the fire department acquired this year, to teach the children about fire prevention and safety. The puppet is a Dalmatian that wears his own firefighter's uniform, wraps his arms around Randles' neck and appears to whisper in Randles' ear when he wants to say something. The department also uses a full-size "Sparky," which actually is an adult-size costume.

"We use anything we can to help the kids understand fire prevention and safety," Harry Hollingsworth, another fire inspector for Fire and Emergency Services, said. "We

give them lots of handouts too. Even day-care centers and preschools come to visit the fire station. We tailor our program to different age groups."

Both Randles and Hollingsworth said that everyone is welcome at the fire station. They agreed that it is best to call ahead of time to schedule a visit, because then they are able to get more materials together for the appropriate age group. But Stephens cautioned that emergencies have to come first, so they cannot guarantee that the inspectors always will be available.

Adult groups or organizations are encouraged to call on the fire department to schedule a program or a "hands-on demonstration" about fire safety and prevention as well. The fire inspectors can demonstrate how to use different types of fire extinguishers, and will even allow people to try using an extinguisher themselves. The department also has several different videotapes available for different types of audiences.

Stephens urged people to change the batteries in their smoke detectors as part of Fire Prevention Week or use the time changes in the fall and spring as reminders to check the smoke detectors.

"We'd like to thank everyone on the Arsenal for being fire safe this year. We haven't had anyone hurt or had any major incidents," Stephens said. "Everyone has been doing an excellent job as far as fire safety is concerned and we appreciate it. It makes our job a lot easier."

For more information about fire safety, Fire Prevention Week or Redstone Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services, call 876-7005.

Expeditionary medal eligible to Northern Watch veterans

The Secretary of Defense has approved the wearing of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for Operation Northern Watch (ONW) to include the members of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. The effective date is Jan. 1, 1997 to a date to be determined.

Those armed forces eligible for this award are those who served in the expanded area of eligibility (AOE) in ONW. This includes land area within Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; the total land area and air space of the countries of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait; and that portion of the Arabian Gulf (Persian Gulf) that lies west of 56 degrees east longitude.

To be eligible the servicemember must be a bona fide member of a unit engaged in the operation or meet one of the following criteria:

Was engaged in direct support for 30 consecutive days in the AOE (or the full period when an operation is less than 30 days in duration), or 60 non-consecutive days provided the support involves entering the area of operation.

Had been involved in actual combat or duty which is equally as hazardous as combat, during the operation with armed opposition regardless of time in the area.

Servicemember must have participated as a regularly assigned crewmember of an aircraft flying into, and out of, within, or over the area in support of the military operation.

Direct support is defined as services being supplied to the combat forces in the AOE by ground, sea and air units provided it actually involves entering the AOE.

Servicemembers, if entitled will be awarded the AFEM one time only for assignments to the following Southwest

Asia (SWA) operations: OSW, Maritime Intercept Operation (MIO), Operation Vigilant Sentinel (VS), ONW, Operation Desert Thunder (ODT), and Operation Desert Fox (ODF). A second or subsequent award of the AFEM is only authorized to individuals for non-consecutive and non-current assignments in separate areas of eligibility for which the AFEM has been approved. An example would be 1st Award for Operation Just Cause, Panama; 2nd Award- Operation Restore Hope, Somalia; 3rd Award- Operation Uphold Democracy, Haiti; 4th Award - Operation Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, Joint Forge, Bosnia; and 5th Award - OSW, MIO, VS, ONW, ODT, AND ODF. The bronze service stars are worn to denote subsequent awards of the AFEM. Multiple awards of the AFEM for return assignments or rotation to an approved operation are not authorized (e.g., Somalia's two operations and SWA's six operations).

Commanders are authorized to award the AFEM to qualified personnel effective immediately. Permanent orders are not required. The Military Personnel Division (MPD)/or Personnel Services Battalions (PSB) will update personnel qualification records.

Regarding award of the AFEM for Intrinsic Action (IA) and Iris Gold (IG) the following information is provided: routine rotations of the exercises IA and IG are not normally authorized the AFEM; however, they are entitled if USCINCENT operationalizes these units during crisis periods. Those forces assigned to IA/IG during the following periods are authorized the AFEM: Dec. 1, 1995 to Feb. 15, 1997; Dec. 31, 1997 to July 15, 1998; and Nov. 11, 1998 to Dec. 22, 1998.



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Changing with the times

Teamwork key to success for reorganized civilian personnel agencies

By Sandy Riebeling

Change is inevitable. Some view it as a good thing, others reject it, but the fact is, things change.

Reorganization of the Army's civilian personnel offices into the CPAC and CPOC system was a huge change, one that many found troublesome when it began nearly two years ago.

Before the changeover, each installation had its own civilian personnel office that handled its own civilian personnel actions, anything from filling a job to processing awards to handling health benefits. In the name of efficiency, the DA decided to split the CPO into a two tiered system. A fraction of the original staff at each installation was retained to serve as a Civilian Personnel Advisory Center while a second type of agency was formed to serve on a regional level.

The CPAC now at Redstone serves in more of an advisory role, checking information, reviewing civilian personnel actions, and working as program oversight. Redstone's South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center works on the action at a different level, executing the services such as job classifications, compiling referral lists, putting out job announcements and so forth. With the offices and responsibilities split, many organizations felt as if they were losing the personalized service the former CPO provided.

"It's true that we could, if we absolutely had to, get an action moved through in one day, done all in the same office," B. J. Johnson, CPAC lead personnel specialist, said. "We can't do that any longer. We have business process maps that explain the process for each type of action and that's what we have to follow. But it's important for people to see that we are still here for them. True, the system has changed, but it still works—PEO aviation is a shining example of how well things can go if everyone works

together."

The reorganization has brought more of a team concept to the table. Employees in the SC CPOC and the CPAC are assigned to handle actions from specific organizations. In the case of PEO Aviation, the team consists of Johnson from CPAC, Arletta Coberly, personnel staffing specialist and Jim Logan, classification specialist, both from SC CPOC, and Marsha Jeffers from PEO Aviation.

"We were in St. Louis, getting ready to move, and realized the reorganization of the CPO would kick in with the BRAC that moved us to Huntsville," Jeffers, PEO Aviation administrative officer, said. "As our plans to move progressed, we decided to make the best use of our real estate and resources by shifting to a centralized administration plan. We came down with only 55 percent of our work force. We needed to fill at least 100 positions and I was the one who was going to do all the personnel actions."

Having only one point of contact for the six organizations encompassed in PEO Aviation simplified the process for Johnson.

"As a result of the centralization, the cooperative effort went much smoother," Johnson said. "All four of us would get together and work out any issues or problems before Marsha submitted the action to me, which helps the action go through a lot quicker."

Timeliness is both a goal and a challenge for the agencies. In fact, for Coberly, getting the job filled with the right person directly affects her job performance evaluations.

"I'm rated on productivity," Coberly said. "Being able to fill the jobs quickly depends on the teamwork and partnership we all have."

With the new system, everyone's role had to change. Requesting organizations are required to handle more of the action responsibilities. Johnson's scope is basically to advise both management and employees about benefits, retirement and insurance, review and receive the actions

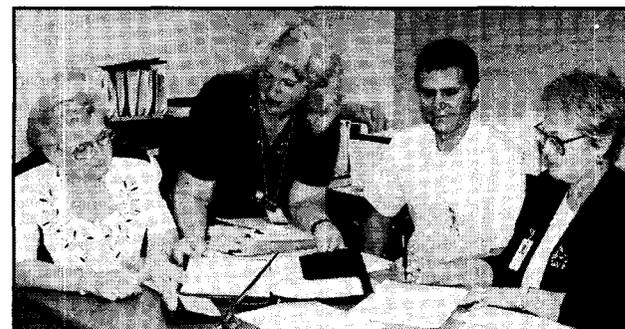


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

MEETING OF THE MINDS—Moving a civilian personnel action through the system with ease takes teamwork. Here Jeffers, PEO Aviation administrative officer; Coberly, CPOC personnel staffing specialist; Logan, classification specialist; and Johnson, lead personnel management specialist; work together to make the system work for them.

back from the SC CPOC as they are processed and to be familiar with the business process maps. Coberly and Logan also have specific duties which are limited in scope but include not just Redstone civilian personnel actions but actions from installations in portions of seven states.

"When we moved down I was desperate to get people on board," Jeffers said. "This team has been great to work with. We've been able to fill more than 200 jobs in the last two years and it's because of the way we all work together that it's gone so well."

"The way we do things now is a lot different," Johnson said, "and things are constantly changing within the system until we find the best method. What makes it work is cooperation and communication. We rely on each other to get the job done. We have to. But when everyone works together, things go smoothly. That's what we would like see happening with all the organizations on post, not just a few."

Johnson also praised the supervisory chain of both the SC CPOC and the CPAC for the support the work force receives in making the system workable for everyone on Redstone.

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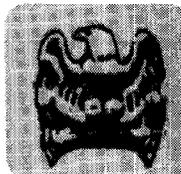
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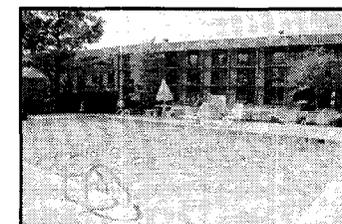
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■ More civilian workers will undergo drug testing

Testing

continued from page 1

Prevention and Control Program, Personnel Reliability Program, security and aviators are required to participate in random drug testing. The expansion of Testing Designated Positions now includes the previous designations plus the following:

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requiring that the incumbent be confirmed by the Senate.

- Aviation positions to include flight crews, air traffic controllers and air traffic dispatchers, personnel involved in safety inspections, security, direct aircraft maintenance and repair and flight service personnel.
- Firefighters in fire protection and prevention positions whose duties involve the supervision or performance of controlling and extinguishing fires and/or the rescuing of people endangered by fire.
- Ammunition/explosive positions which require the incumbents involvement in the manufacture, maintenance storage, demil, inspection and transportation of munitions and explosives such as bullets, grenades, canisters, bombs, shells, rockets and missiles.
- Certain positions as defined by Executive Order 12564, Drug-free Federal Workplace are characterized by critical safety or security responsibilities and are called testing designated positions.

■ Logistics award winner surprised at selection

Award

continued from page 1

Logistics Support Directorate, IMMC; Mark Hudgins, Air Defense Directorate, IMMC; James Lang, Aviation Logistics Support Directorate, Acquisition Center; Tammie Newby, Information Systems Directorate, CIC; Willie Sandifer, Business Management Directorate, IMMC; Stanley Seymour, TUAV, Logistics Office; Martin Walsh, Aviation RDEC, Fort Eustis, Va.; and James Wasson, Business Management Directorate, IMMC.

"Every one of you who are singled out to be recognized in this process are winners to begin with," Jim Flinn, director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, said before the winner was announced. About 140 people attended the luncheon at the Redstone Arsenal Club.

The award is named for Ernie Young, the former deputy to the commanding general. He was the first recipient in 1991.

"Tom has been a team player from day one," Young said in presenting the award to Lavin.

Lavin, a Baltimore, Md., native, was chief of the Soldier Support Division in the Materiel Management Directorate at ATCOM in St. Louis before coming to Huntsville two years ago with the aviation-missile merger.

"We're honoring Tom today because of his consistent record of logistics achievement, particularly over the course of the past year," Young said. "Tom's efforts to reverse a downward trend in aviation stock availability have resulted in an all-time high level of 82.5 percent in aviation stock availability."

Lavin and his wife, Gayle, have a daughter Stephanie, 22, who attends Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., and a son Christian, 18, of Grissom High School.

"This is really unbelievable," Lavin said after the luncheon. "I was having a good day as it was."

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Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HAND OVER HAND— To the top and back again is the goal for the rope climb obstacle. Cadets Grey Nuttall and Megan Magill make it look easy.

Setting new course

Obstacles enhance training for Grissom JROTC cadets

By Sandy Riebeling

Obstacles in life are usually things to be avoided but in the case of Grissom High School's Junior ROTC Military Skills team, obstacles were exactly what was needed—on a course, anyway. Thanks to the combined efforts of the high school, a few local organizations, the cadets and one energetic Eagle Scout, the much needed obstacle course has become a reality.

A military skills competition includes several events, such as night navigation, map reading, physical fitness, team run, rope bridge, cross country rescue and running an obstacle course. Most of these events can be trained for with minimal equipment. But when it comes to obstacles, there's nothing like the real thing.

"I have a place to run the cadets," Sgt. Glenn Grady, JROTC military skills instructor, said. "We have a place to build a rope bridge but to train for the obstacle course I had the kids climbing over bleachers and tying ropes to the school's banisters, and it just wasn't the same. These kids have had to train for something they only see at competitions and that's tough to do."

To most people, the drainage ditch on the far end of the school's property, behind the football field, would be just that, a ditch, but

when the school gave it to the JROTC program, it became home.

"We've been kicked off every field out here at one time or another because of scheduling conflicts," Grady said. "We're glad to have it. The kids have worked hard to pull this course together and I think it's going to make a difference when competition time comes around."

The JROTC military skills program had a little help from their friends to make this course a reality. South Central Bell donated used telephone poles which were used to build many of the obstacles. The booster club helped out with fund-raising. The City Lumber Company donated wood and cadet Justin Nez used the course as his Eagle Scout project.

The bulk of the nine-obstacle course was built in just a few weekends with the help of the cadets, parents and friends. Obstacles include a belly roll, rope climb, overhand beam, island hopper, balance beam, 4-foot wall, 6-foot wall, 8-foot wall and a 12-foot wall.

"We like to have fun," John Oberle, team captain said, "but we're really here to train. It felt good to build the course. Sgt. Grady got us moving with this and it's turned out great. We finally have a place to call our own."

Although it is appreciated, a ditch, by any other name is still a ditch. The dry weather

conditions have been ideal for the cadets but what happens when it rains and the ground turns to mud?

"We'll be practicing right here in the mud," Grady said. "It'll be good training."

In fact, getting down in the dirt was what attracted third-year cadet Katie Thomas to the team.

"When I was in eighth-grade the cadets from Grissom came to my school to do the recruiting and I remember them talking about getting out in the woods in the dirt—going camping—stuff like that. When I heard that, I knew that this was the team I wanted to be a part of. It's been great."

The time is quickly approaching when Thomas will be able to get out in the woods and work in the dirt. The team's first meet is Oct. 24 in Whitley City, Ky., about a seven-hour drive from Huntsville.

Since Grissom's team is the only JROTC military skills team in Alabama, they will have to travel out of state for all their competitions. Distance means nothing to this team though. They are one of the best teams in the region, hovering around the top in most events. The addition of the obstacle course will only work to improve the team's competition performance.

"We are continuing to add obstacles," Grady said. "As the telephone poles are

See Obstacle on page 15

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Obstacle

continued from page 14

delivered, we cut them up with a chain saw and put them in the ground."

Grady is expecting to add a 10-foot wall and a low crawl pit to the course this year.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

BEATING THE WALL— It's a long way to the top of this 12-foot wall but cadet Scott Warnkey doesn't even consider giving up.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

ROLL WITH IT— The new obstacle course at Grissom High School helps ROTC cadets like Rebecca Pratt prepare for military skills team competitions.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HOP TO IT— Cadet Wesley Mullins trains on the island hopper obstacle.

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Short-range project manager eyes air defense for the long term

By Beth Skarupa

Having lived in Huntsville for over seven years, Col. Bob Arnone is familiar with Redstone Arsenal's reputation. But this new Short Range Aerial Defense project manager says that "great reputation" goes beyond rhetoric because the Arsenal consistently delivers quality weapon systems to the field that the soldiers know are going to work and keep them alive.

"I am not customer focused. I don't deal with customers while delivering systems to soldiers," Arnone said. "They're a little bit different than someone walking into Wal-Mart—we've got their lives in our hands. That's more than what most corporations have to worry about when they're dealing with their customers."

The SHORAD project office is responsible for Sentinel radar that finds targets and passes information down to the Avenger, Linebacker, or the manportable system launchers; as well as for the Stinger missiles. The project office also is responsible for launchers that can be attached or mounted to helicopters, programs which fire the Stinger missiles off boats, and international variations of the missiles and launchers.

"While I'm here, my number one objective is to enable SHORAD units to kill helicopters, UAVs, and cruise missiles that are beyond visual range without requiring visual identification," Arnone said. "Right now, they have to wait until they are close enough to see the target in order to shoot it. Technology today is better than that. We're putting them too close in the way of the targets, and that's nuts."

Arnone has a command philosophy that includes three major elements he considers "glass balls that have to be balanced." These elements are program execution, which includes aggressive cost, schedule and technical management; fielding, which includes timely delivery and support of quality systems; and financial management,



Photo Lab

NEW BEGINNING—Arnone shakes hands with fellow officers as his wife looks on at the SHORAD Project Office change of command ceremony in June.

which includes the effective use and tracking of available funds. He frames that with the Army values, which he cites as loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"Those values apply here just as well as anywhere else. As we interact not only among ourselves, but within the acquisition community of government and contractor organizations, we must maintain high standards," Arnone said. "I've got a solid project office here ... they really do a good job taking care of today's soldier too. My job is easy because they do all the work and I just have to integrate all of it."

After growing up in a small town in Western Maryland called Frostburg, Arnone graduated from high school in 1972. He said he felt like he "owed something back" to his country, so he attended Widener College in Chester, Pa., on an Army scholarship. Then he began his 23-year Army career.

"I had a four year commitment, but I thought if I wanted to really know how the Army operated I wanted to go to Germany," Arnone said.

Pointing at a painting from Zirndorf, Germany, in his office, Arnone explained that it is a memento of his first assignment as a second lieutenant in the 1st Armored

Division Field Artillery Battalion. A picture next to it is from the second time he was in Germany supporting the 3rd Brigade in Bamberg which he later went with for a four month tour in Desert Storm. He likes to keep these to remind him of what is important in the acquisition business too.

"I keep in context the whole notion of combined arms, which is important in the business that we do. You don't want to just try to do things only thinking about how air defense units do business. How do they do their job knowing that there are field artillery units with them, armored units, infantry units, engineers and aviation? All that has to work together."

Arnone's first assignment in Huntsville was with the MLRS project office in January 1992. Then he became the product manager for BAT P3I as part of the Army Tactics BAT project office. In 1997, his family continued to live in Huntsville while he attended the Army War College as a Senior Service College Fellow. Rather than attend one of the college's military schools in Carlisle, Pa., Arnone chose to attend the University of Texas at Austin as part of a program focusing on acquisition. In July 1998, he returned to Huntsville and became the director of the Space Technology Directorate at the Space and Missile Defense Command. He became the SHORAD project manager June 16.

"What I'm finding out about the acquisition business is that there are two ways you can dramatically affect a soldier's life. One is in combat when you bring them back alive. The other is in acquisitions, because the decisions you make today will determine the lives of future soldiers. I take that seriously," Arnone said.

Arnone's wife, Mary, is a preschool teacher in south Huntsville. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education and teaches 4-year-olds at Hope Presbyterian Church's preschool program. She also teaches religious education at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Arnone and his

wife have two children, Marc, 21, a football player majoring in physical therapy at Elon College in North Carolina, and Leah, 17, a senior at Grissom High School.

Yardwork, renovating his house, and spending time with family are what Arnone enjoys doing the most. Since his house in Huntsville is the first house he ever bought, that is his hobby. Since his father built his own house, Arnone grew up learning how to build and fix things himself.

"Renovating the kitchen is one of the major projects I've completed. I did most of it during Christmas vacation, then finished the rest on weekends," he said. "At this point, I think we've done every room in the house. My wife is the one who wants most of it done, so she can't get mad when it takes a while. It's all her fault."

Arnone also enjoys framing and matting his own pictures. He learned how at the Arts and Crafts Shop on the Arsenal and says, "Ski does a good job." Arnone says he likes to watch football and is a Raiders fan. He enjoys picking which NFL teams will win each week, and used to call home his picks to compare with his family each Sunday as "one of the little things to keep in touch" when he was in Austin.

Although Arnone has enjoyed his Army career, he does not want his son to follow in his footsteps for the wrong reasons. Marc considered joining the Army, but Arnone said he talked him out of it for now.

"It's not a money-making business, you really have to have it in your heart. It's a great place to be, but you have to be ready to come in and do things the Army demands of you," Arnone said. "You have to be able to get in a foxhole and shoot at the enemy." Arnone said his biggest challenge has been "making sure during peacetime that everybody appreciates this insurance policy called the U.S. Army." He said his time in Desert Storm was intense, but he does not consider it his most challenging assignment. He considers his current assignment

See Arnone on page 20

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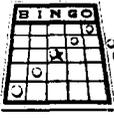
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\$5,000, Carlson Wagonlit sponsors the following other hole-in-one prizes: Callaway Big Bertha driver, Bose home radio system, and a men's or women's Seiko watch (titanium).

This four-person scramble tournament is a community fund-raiser. Entry fee is a \$37 contribution for Redstone Golf Course members, or a \$50 contribution for non-members.

"Our organization is non-profit," Mary Bissell, OCWC tournament chairman, said.

"We work to raise money during the year and give back to the Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville and Madison communities. We support organizations such as the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Space Camp scholarship, and Hope Place, just to name a few."

The OCWC will award other prizes at the tournament including longest drive for men and women, and closest to the pin for men and women. Even non-golfers can enjoy the barbecue

chicken dinner for \$8.50 which includes barbecue chicken, baked beans, potato salad and slaw, roll, and soft drink.

Friday is the tournament's entry deadline. Stop by the Redstone Golf Course for your entry form today. For more information, call Bissell 837-3310.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SMOOTH SAILING—Looking over cruise brochures are, from left, Amanda Holmes, Carlson Wagonlit; Karen Lake, OCWC president; Bissell, tournament chairman; Laurie Cogglin, Carlson Wagonlit; Leslie Gregory, Carlson Wagonlit; and Truman Jeter, general manager of Carlson Wagonlit.

Florida Gators should swamp Crimson Tide

By Skip Vaughn

Skip's Picks had a 50-24 record after four weeks. Here are my predictions for selected games this week in major college football:

Alabama at Florida—Florida
 Arkansas at Kentucky—Arkansas
 Auburn at Tennessee—Tennessee
 Tenn. State at Ala. A&M—TSU
 Jacksonville State at Samford—Samford
 Ark.-Monticello at North Ala.—UNA
 Louisiana State at Georgia—Georgia
 Ole Miss at South Carolina—Ole Miss
 Mississippi St. at Vanderbilt—Miss. St.
 Maryland at Georgia Tech—Tech

Oklahoma at Notre Dame—ND
 Missouri at Memphis—Missouri
 Virginia Tech at Virginia—Virginia
 Air Force at San Diego State—Air Force
 East Carolina at Army—East Carolina
 Navy at West Virginia—W. Va.
 Florida State at Duke—FSU
 Kansas State at Texas—K-State
 Tulane at Syracuse—Syracuse
 UCLA at Arizona State—UCLA



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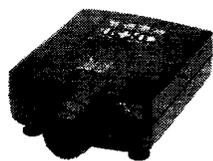
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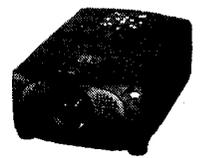


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Drop zone

How the Army National Guard Special Forces spends its "one weekend a month"

By Sandy Riebeling

One is a plumber, another works in a chemical lab. One is a high school student and another builds Harley Davidson motorcycles. It's not about what these people do during the week that brings them together on the weekends, it's about a commitment to serve their country through the Army National Guard Special Forces.

It was a beautiful day for flying as the soldiers from the Battalion Headquarters for the 1st of the 20th and the Battalion Support Corps for the 1st of the 20th loaded on the bus and headed to Redstone Airfield for their quarterly parachute jump.

Once at the airfield, the 60 some soldiers were divided into "sticks" or groups of 6-8 people to determine their jump order. They picked up their parachuting gear from a truck, stowed it on the ground near the plane and began their pre-jump routine which included practice landings, a briefing on jumping from a C-130 aircraft, and an equipment check.

Soldiers used the buddy system to suit up into their 60-pound parachute packs, after which an inspector came around to check the fit of the gear and ensure there were no loose straps or cords.

"The closer you get to the jump, the more you feel it," said Sgt. Tony Pinto, former member of the 82nd Airborne Division and making jump number 81. "If you're not a little nervous, no matter how long you've been doing this, you should be."

Everybody has a different way of dealing with the stress before a jump, Sgt. Don Lee said. Looking around, there were small groups of soldiers, some laughing over old times, some talking business, some silent in thought and others stretched out relaxed and waiting to board the plane.

Ironically enough, the most common advice for novice jumpers is, "Don't look down."

"People tend to reach for the ground because on that last 50 feet it seems like the ground is right there but it's not," SFC James LaPointe said, making jump number 56. "It feels like it's rushing up on you but you have to get ready and stay ready to land."

When it comes to actually walking off the end of the ramp and out into... nothing, some say it's easier to be in the middle of the stick.

"It's sort of like lemmings jumping off of a cliff, you just follow the person in front of you," Spec. Ron Sweat, performing jump 15, said.

It was three hours of preparation for a two-minute fall. Most hit the center of the drop zone, a few landed on the north side but the best landing of the day had to go to first-time jumper Chris Mullins who managed to land just west of the DZ, in the grassy median of Rideout Road.

For more information about the Army National Guard Special Forces, call Lee at 883-5860.



BACKUP CHUTE—These small bundles are the backup parachutes used in case of emergency. They strap onto the jumper in the front at the waist.



STRAPPED IN TIGHT—Soldiers use the buddy system to make sure the parachute pack is on correctly. Spec. Kerry Robinson, Huntsville police officer, is assisted by Sgt. Mike Philpott.



TIME TO FLY—After the briefings, the practice and checks, it's finally time to board the C-130 and head for the friendly skies.

Photos by Sandy Riebeling



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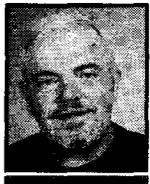
"Land of the Winged Horsemen" is organized and presented by Art Services International in cooperation with the Museum Art Gallery, The Royal Castle in Warsaw and The Warsaw Royal Castle in Cracow. Support comes from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, The Renaissance Foundation, The Polish National Tourist Office in New York, The Renaissance Foundation, LEIT Polish Airlines is the official carrier of the exhibition. Additional support has been provided by an Intinerary from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.



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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.cpac.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	
90D1337DB	Secretary (OA)	27-Sep-99	USAGMCS	GS-0318	8	8	
90D1337WT	Computer Spec	28-Sep-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-0334	11	11	
90B1318SS	Budget Analyst	28-Sep-99	AMCOM MRDEC	DE-0580	III	III	
90C1289G	Ops Control Spec	28-Sep-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-0301	9	9	
90D1335SL	Budget Tech (OA)	28-Sep-99	AMCOM Res Mgt	GS-0561	6	6	
90B1309SS	Mech Engr Tech (DEMO)	28-Sep-99	AMCOM MRDEC	DE-0802	II	II	
90B1328OP	Sec Serv Asslt (OA)	28-Sep-99	MEDDAC	GS-0186	5	5	
A73088A	Criminal Investigator	30-Sep-99	CID	GS-1811	13	13	
BKMB4588	Diagnostic Rad. Tech.	30-Sep-99	MEDDAC	GS-0647	6	6	
90C1325MS	Log Mgt Specialist	30-Sep-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-0346	12	12	
90C1340JH	Log Mgt Specialist	30-Sep-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-0346	13	13	
90C1288FH	Secretary (OA/Spec)	30-Sep-99	SMDC	GS-318	9	9	
A73088A	Criminal Investigator	30-Sep-99	CID	GS-1811	13	13	
BKMB4588	Diagnostic Rad. Tech.	30-Sep-99	MEDDAC	GS-0647	6	6	
90C1325MS	Log Mgt Specialist	30-Sep-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-0346	12	12	
90C1340JH	Log Mgt Specialist	30-Sep-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-0346	13	13	
HAG9A2546	Environmental Engr	1-Oct-99	CoE	GS-0619	13	13	
90B1279AW	Electronics Engr	1-Oct-99	PEO AVN	GS-0655	13	13	
90D1341WT	Engineering Technician	1-Oct-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-0802	12	12	
90D1342WT	Engineering Technician	1-Oct-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-0802	12	12	
90C1330RC	General Engr (Suprv)	1-Oct-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-0801	14	14	
90B1350KJ	Medical Clerk (OA)	4-Oct-99	MEDDAC	GS-0679	4	4	
90B1354SH	Mechanical	5-Oct-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-0802	II	II	
90B1361AC	Supv Log Mgmt Spec	6-Oct-99	PEO Aviation	GS-0346	14	14	
90D1358WT	Accounting Technician	6-Oct-99	AMCOM Res Mgt	GS-525	6	6	
90C1377FM	Log Mgt Specialist	6-Oct-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-0346	12	12	
90B1365SH	General Engineer	7-Oct-99	AMCOM MRDEC	DB-180	III	III	
90C1378FM	Supply Sys Analyst	7-Oct-99	AMCOM BMMC	GS-2003	9	9	
90B1221SH	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	8-Oct-99	"AMCOM, AVRDEC"	DB-0861	III	III	
90B1214DT	Electrical Engr (DEMO)	8-Oct-99	"AMCOM, AVRDEC"	DB-0860	III	III	
90B1225SH	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	8-Oct-99	"AMCOM, AVRDEC"	DB-0861	III	III	
90B1222SH	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	8-Oct-99	"AMCOM, AVRDEC"	DB-0861	III	III	
90B1318SH	Human Factors Engr/Pay	8-Oct-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-801/100	III	III	
90B1308KH	Admin Suprt Ast	8-Oct-99	PEO Air & Missile	GS-0903	6	6	
90D1364DB	Security Specialist	10-Oct-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	GS-0080	11	11	
90B1084SS	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	11-Oct-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-861	III	III	
HAG9A2568	Civil Engineer	12-Oct-99	CoE	GS-810 808	830 850	13	13
AGM82208	Nurse (Various Spec)	19-Oct-99	MEDCOM	GS-0610	9-12	12	
90B1322SS	Aerospace Engr (Demo)	23-Oct-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-0861	III	III	
AGM82700	Medical Technologist	12-Jan-00	MEDCOM	GS-0644	5-12	12	
HC08889	Criminal Investigator	13-Apr-00	CID	GS-1811	9-12	12	

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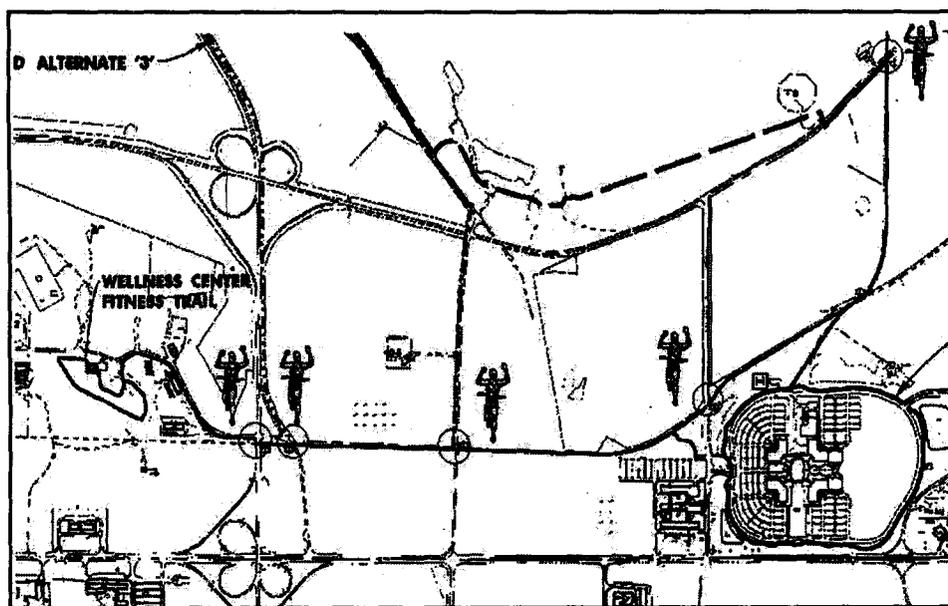
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Graphic from AMCOM Safety Office

JOGGERS BEWARE—Jogger icons on map show where jogging trail crosses roadways.

Stop, look and listen

Near misses on jogging trail cause concern for traffic safety at crosswalks

By Beth Skarupa

Several near misses between vehicles and joggers have occurred where jogging trails cross roadways on Redstone Arsenal recently. Joggers are supposed to yield the right-of-way to all vehicular traffic. Stop signs are posted on these trails for joggers and warning signs are posted for motorists.

"Some joggers may mistakenly think that a person in a crosswalk has the right of way. This is not true in Alabama," Sandra Jackson, of the AMCOM Safety Office, said. "Alabama law states that the person in the crosswalk has the right of way only if the motorist has enough time to see the person and stop the vehicle."

Many of the roads that intersect the jogging trail have speed limits of 40 or 45 mph and trees on the sides of the roads conceal joggers from the view of motorists. On some roads, the jogging trail crosses at a point where the road curves. Most of the jogging trail crosswalks have faded to the point that they are no longer visible to motorists.

Jackson urged joggers to stop and look

before crossing. She referred to a stopping distance formula that uses the distance a vehicle will travel in the time it takes a motorist to move his foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal. The formula also takes the speed of the vehicle into consideration. Using the formula, a vehicle going 40 mph would travel over 80 feet before stopping. So motorists do not have much time to stop once they see a jogger crossing the road in front of them.

"Bobby Noles, the traffic engineer for the Arsenal, believes the crosswalks create a false sense of security for the joggers. Therefore, they will not be repainted," Jackson said.

In an effort to raise public awareness about jogging safety, the Safety Office would like to remind all joggers using the jogging trails of these points:

- Joggers are required to yield the right-of-way to all vehicular traffic.
- The fall season is quickly approaching resulting in fewer hours of daylight and decreased visibility. Joggers should use reflective devices such as vests, armbands or belts.
- Headphones should not be worn while jogging on post.

Ask the judge advocate general

Army reg provides support to separated spouses and family members

Dear JAG,
I am an active duty soldier currently separated from my wife and children. I have heard that Army regulations require that I send a portion of my pay to my family. Is this true? How much am I required to send? Does it matter if I am paying the rent for them?

1st Lt. W.

Yes, in accordance with AR 608-99, all active duty soldiers are required to support their families financially and will be ordered to provide support by his commander if he fails to do so. Military service is not a means to elude family support responsibilities. The level of support depends on several factors. If there is a court order or written agreement, the soldier is required to provide the level of support given in the document. In the absence of a written agreement or court order, Army regulations are very specific as to the level of support a servicemember is required to provide. The level of support is based on a formula that takes into account the soldier's BAH table II rate and the number of family members. BAH Table II is on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.dtic.mil/perdiem/1999bah2.html>. (If you are a member of another branch of service, you are also responsible for providing support to your family. Your branch also has specific regulations governing the required support amount.)

With the information provided by 1st Lt. W., I cannot give him a specific support level. Let's assume, however, that 1st Lt. W. has a wife and two children. If his children and wife are living separate and apart from him, he is required to pay his wife the whole BAH II rate. However, if the two children are from a previous marriage and he is providing child support by court order to his previous spouse, Mrs. W would only be entitled to one-third of 1st Lt. W's BAH II (Mrs. W. is 1 of 3 dependents or one-third). All payments are due by the first day of each month. A soldier is

required to pay appropriate support level even if he is living in government quarters and not receiving any BAH.

If 1st Lt. W. is paying the rent on his family's apartment, this payment can be deducted from the required payment. Other deductible payments include: electric, water and gas. However, car payments, credit card payments, and health club memberships are not deductible. Any direct payment or payment in kind should be documented and recorded to avoid proof problems.

What if my wife makes more money than I do?

The commander has the discretion to release a soldier from spousal support if his wife makes more money. However, he cannot be released from child support. The soldier must be able to show that the spouse makes more than the soldier's base pay.

The level of family support will depend upon the facts in each particular situation. If you become separated from your spouse, you should see a Legal Assistance attorney to determine the proper level of spousal and child support as designated by Army regulations or your particular branch of service. If you are providing support to your family, remember to keep all records of support payments (AR 608-99 encourages the use of direct allotments). If you are not receiving support from a soldier and you or your child is entitled to legal assistance, the Legal Assistance Office can assist you in notifying the soldier's commander of his failure to pay support. Each support case is different and outcomes will vary depending on the facts of your particular case. It is always a good idea to seek the assistance of an attorney before pursuing any actions that may have legal consequences.

(Editor's note: Send all questions to ASK JAG: chin-zen.plotner@redstone.army.mil. The Legal Assistance Office is open Monday-Friday from 9-4:30. An appointment with a legal assistance attorney may be made by calling 876-9005 or e-mail legalappt@redstone.army.mil.)

Future soldiers' lives may depend on short-range programs

Arnone

continued from page 16

challenging because future soldiers' lives could be at risk if not enough money is put into acquisition.

"In the year 2020 what kind of equip-

ment will we have? That future 22-year-old second lieutenant is only 2 years old now. That 18-year-old isn't even born yet. With my wife teaching 4-year-olds, I have to think how the decisions I'm making are affecting some of them and they're not even aware of it," Arnone said.

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Announcements

Sports & Recreation

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 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. 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.

Douglas golf tourney

A benefit golf tournament will be held at 8 a.m. Oct. 9 at Silver Ridge Golf Course in Douglas. This three-man scramble, shotgun start tournament is to benefit the Douglas Dixie Youth Baseball and Softball programs. Cost is \$35. There will be many prizes. For more information, call Danny Bonds (256) 891-3219.

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 contributions 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.

Modelers show

The Huntsville Plastic Modelers Society will hold its 23rd annual Model Show and Contest, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 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.

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!

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 book-

keeping 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.

Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association will hold a luncheon meeting today at 11 at the Redstone Arsenal Club. Don Perkey, executive director of Global Hydrology and Climate Control, is to speak on "Earth's Global Water Cycle, Impact on Human, Global and Regional Activity." For more information, call retired Capt. Albert Castelli 859-1340."

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Oct. 21 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Radisson Suite Hotel on South Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Marvin Whitted 842-2879.

Electronics workshop

AMCOM will host the "Workshop on Electronic, Photonic, Electro-Optical, and Electro-Magnetic Materials" Oct. 6-7 at the Sparkman Auditorium. The objective of this workshop is to provide a forum for reviewing progress and identifying research gaps in electronics and electro-optical materials essential for achieving DoD goals in air platforms and missiles. Sponsorship for the workshop is provided by the U.S. Army Research Office, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, AMCOM, Missile Research, Development & Engineering Center, CECOM-Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

There is no charge for this workshop, and contractor participation is encouraged. The overall administration of the workshop, including registration, is being provided by the University of Alabama-Huntsville Systems Management and Production Laboratory. A tentative agenda and registration requirements are available on-line. You may contact the Workshop Hotline at 890-6343 ext. 234; or visit the workshop's web site at: <http://smaplabori.uah.edu/epee/>.

Annuitants

Annuitants can now go into OPM's web site to calculate the tax free portion of their annuity, and estimate their monthly Federal tax withholding. Currently, you will see it listed under "What's New" on the OPM home page. In the future, you will find it at www.opm.gov/retire under "Frequently Asked Questions," or http://apps.opm.gov/tax_calc/withhold_cal/index.cfm.

Communication skills

Universal Communicators, International Training in Communication will meet Oct 14 from 4:45- 6 p.m. at building 5681 (PEO Aviation), conference room 125. If you are interested in improving your communication skills, attend the meeting to see if ITC is what you're looking for. For more information, call Janice Isbell 313-4216.

Tuition assistance

To ensure the use of Tuition Assistance by officers is properly documented, Army Education Centers are now required to send copies of the officer's Tuition Assistance Form (DA Form 2171) to DA immediately after it is issued. The form will be placed in the officer's official military record. Paragraph 6-4 a., AR 621-5, dated Nov. 17, 1993, states, "Commissioned officers must agree to remain on active duty for at least two years after completion of the course for which Tuition Assistance is provided unless involuntarily separated by the Army before that time (10 USC 2007)." However, an officer may request a waiver of this two-year obligation. If a waiver is requested, it must be approved by the officer's career branch. Because of a shortage of captains, career branches are carefully reviewing requests for release from this service obligation.

Donations request

Oct 21 is the new deadline for contribution requests from the Thrift Shop. Anyone who faxed requests from Sept. 3-10 should resubmit them due to equipment failure. Anyone who qualifies under the 501c category of non-profit organizations is eligible to make requests. Requests for funds for the needs of a specific individual are ineligible. Requests must be specific about what the

See Announcements on page 22

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Announcements

money is needed for and must include: name and address of the requesting party; to whom the check must be made out to; and a phone number for more information. Also, please include in the request if funds have been requested from other organizations. Gift certificates may also be requested and these certificates are for merchandise from the Thrift Shop and must be used within a certain time period to be determined by the board of governors. The Thrift Shop makes welfare contributions twice a year. Requests can be addressed to the Thrift Shop, welfare chairperson (Fran Rubery), building 3657, Redstone Arsenal 35898 or faxed to the Thrift Shop 881-9807. Requests may be submitted at any time. A new request must be submitted in writing at each give-away.

Bible study

Bible study is held every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the back room of Bicentennial Chapel. Free hamburgers will be served. Both civilian and military are invited. For more information, call 955-4086.

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.

Sunglasses found

A pair of women's prescription sunglasses was found Sept. 18 on the running trail. The owner should call 876-7988.

Battalion competition

The 832nd Ordnance Battalion Military Stakes Competition (MILSTAKES) will be held Oct. 8 in the parking lot of building 3440. Participants in this year's event include the 832nd Ordnance Battalion and the Marine Corps Detachment. The competition, from noon to 5:30 p.m., will test the team's abilities in a nine-soldier marksmanship meet, a 20-soldier drill and ceremony contest, and seven soldier common military tasks challenge. If your unit would like to participate, call MSgt. McGuire 842-2247.

Best yards

Yard of the Month winners for September include CWO 5 and Mrs. Charles Etheridge, 492 Cooke Drive, officer; SFC and Mrs. Daniel Teats, 479-A Cooke Drive, senior NCO; SSgt. and Mrs. Kevin Lade, 1307-B Jupiter St., junior enlisted

single/duplex; SSgt. and Mrs. Larry R. Freetage, 525-C Magnolia Circle, junior enlisted/multiplex. The unit winner was B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, building 3411. "We are pleased to have two families to be selected as winners for the second time: SSgt. and Mrs. Lade, and SFC and Mrs. Teats," a prepared release said. "This concludes the Yard of the Month competition for this year. Don't forget: fall cleanup and planting is just around the corner. We will see you all next year in May for the year 2000 Yard of the Month competition. Thanks to everyone for their dedication and hard work."

Major item workshop

The Logistics Support Activity will sponsor its Major Item Training Workshop '99 from Nov. 1-5 in the Sparkman Auditorium. "MITW '99 will be an interesting, enjoyable and information-packed venue of mini-workshops, briefings, hands-on demonstrations and presentations on issues/concerns of the Army's Class VII items-of-supply." Registration fee is \$35. To register visit the LOGSA homepage at www.logsa.army.mil or call Florence Walker 313-2447.

Hispanic heritage luncheon

The Hispanic Heritage Month luncheon will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Redstone Arsenal Club. Tickets are \$8. For more information, visit the EEO website at www.redstone.army.mil or call Marc Subido, the Hispanic Employment Program manager, 876-3436.

Astronomical society

Mitzi Adams, astronomer, will present a program on "Glories of the Universe," 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. Sponsored by the Von Braun Astronomical Society, this event will be followed by a star-watching party. For more information, call 539-0316 or Adams 464-0945.

University women

The American Association of University Women will meet at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday at Victoria's Café, 7500 Memorial Parkway SW. Sue Schmitz, representative for District 6, Alabama Legislature, is to address recently passed legislation and future state issues. For more information, call Julie Ricketts 895-9014.

PX news

The Post Exchange will operate with the

following holiday hours Columbus Day, Oct. 11: Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Anthony's, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Concessions, closed; Mall Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Furniture Store, closed; One-Stop Goss Road, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Service Station, closed; Burger King, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Military Clothing, closed; and Barber Shop, building 3479, closed.

Master's degree

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information meeting on its Master of Business Administration program at 6 p.m. Oct. 8 at Calhoun Community College, conference room/ front entrance, 102 Wynn Drive. To RSVP or for more information, call (800) 672-7223, ext. 5039.

International council

The International Services Council of Huntsville/Madison County will hold its second meeting with the local international groups this evening at 6 at the Main Public Library auditorium, 915 Monroe St. The meeting is open to all who are interested in sharing ideas and making new friends in the international arena. On the agenda will be a proposed international festival to welcome the new millennium. For more information, call Demy Robley 882-6064.

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For information call the AA central office 885-0323.

Community town hall

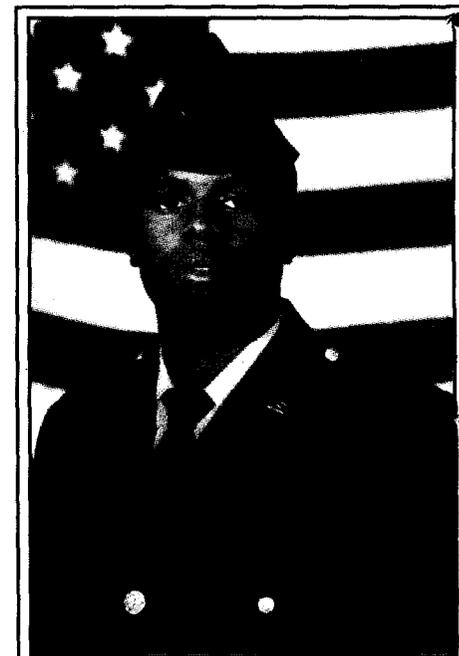
The Redstone Arsenal Support Activity will hold a Community Town Hall Meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Bicentennial Chapel assembly room. All residents, retirees and employees authorized to use Redstone Arsenal community facilities are invited. Tentative topics include an update on the Post Exchange renovation, commissary, school bus operations, housing construction and demolition, the fall cleanup and yard sale, year-end funded projects affecting quality of life in the community, an update on youth sports programs and School Age Services, and an overview of the Huntsville city schools strategic planning session. Members of the Team Redstone staff will be on hand to address questions or concerns from the community. For more information call Ivy Downs, in RASA's Business Management Division, 876-3376.

Cancer screening

The Fox Army Health Center Surgery Clinic is opening its doors Oct. 27 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Breast Cancer Screening Day, which is open to all military beneficiaries. This is your opportunity to have a walk-in appointment for a clinical breast examination, breast self-examination instruction, and if ordered by a physician, a mammogram on the same day. For more information on breast screening, call 876-4228. Osteoporosis and body fat screening may also be offered that day. For more information on screenings, call the Public Health and Education Center 842-0196.

Flu shots postponed

The flu shots previously planned for October at Fox Army Health Center will be postponed due to a manufacturer delay. Military beneficiaries and Redstone Arsenal DoD civilians are eligible for this immunization. New dates and times will be announced in the future. For more information, call Fox Army Health Center 842-0196.



Courtesy photo

Recruiting duty...

Pvt. Keon Malone, who attended Johnson High School, is temporarily working with the Army recruiting station in Huntsville. The son of Richmond and Deborah Malone, he joined the Army in March and will be stationed in Korea from October 1999 through October 2000.

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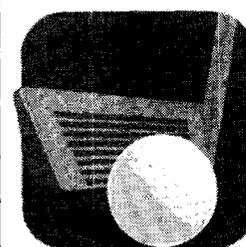
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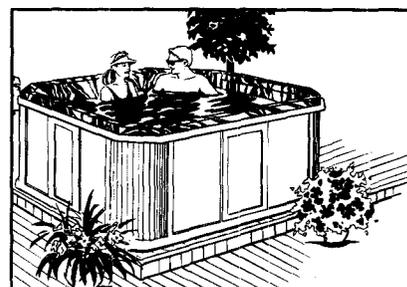
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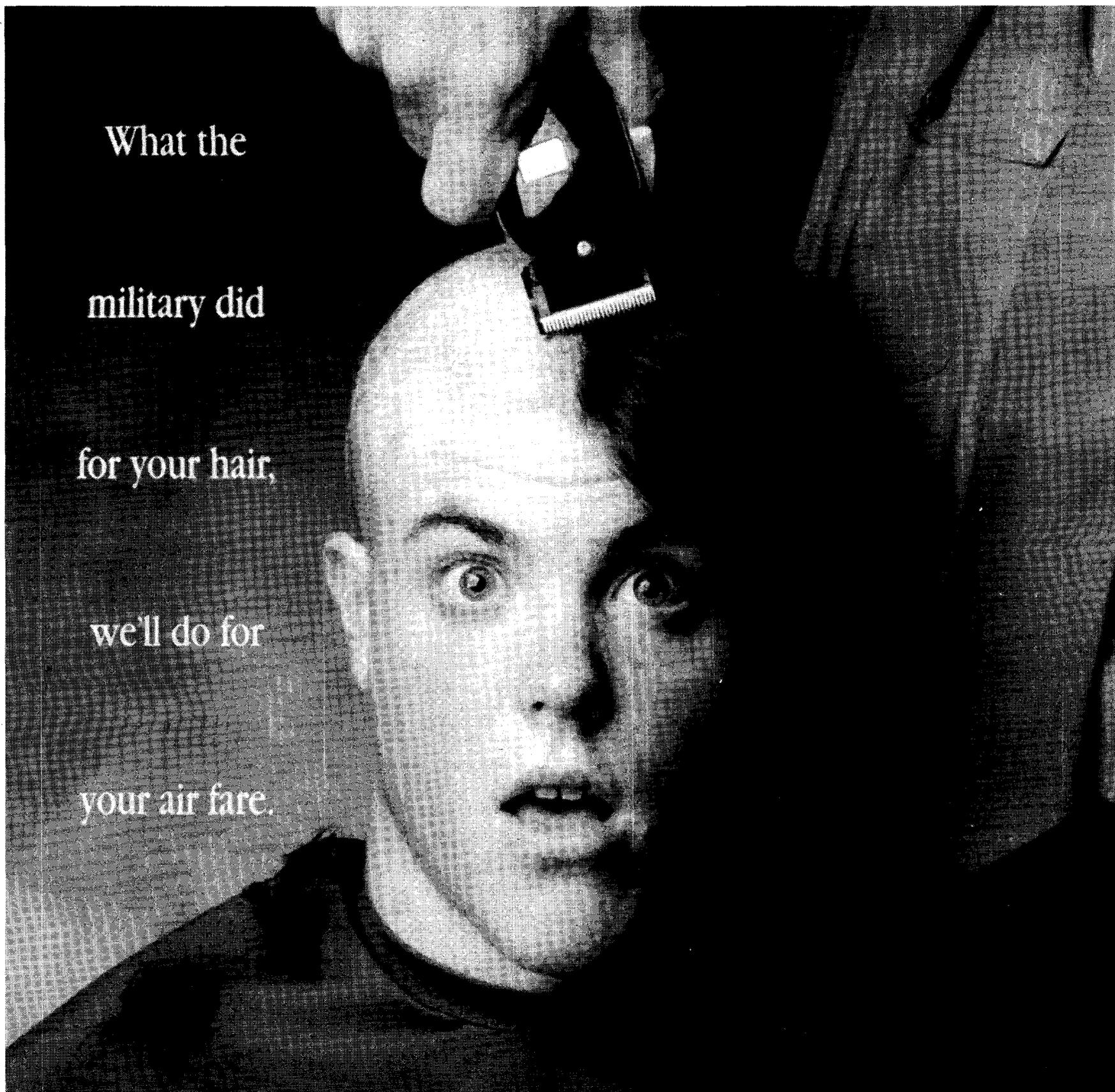


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