

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 48 No. 50

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

December 15, 1999

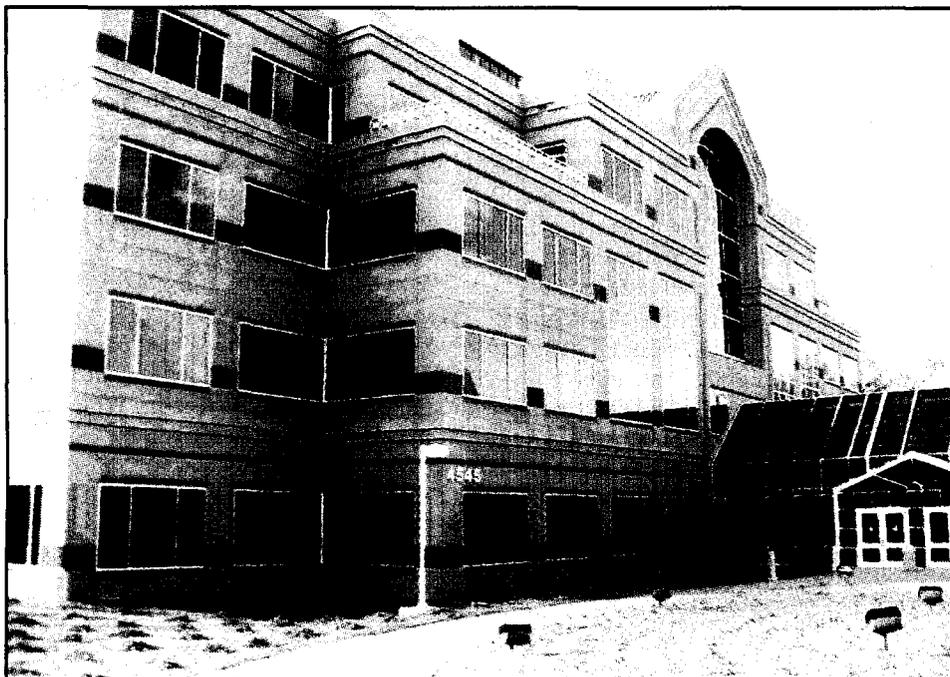


Photo by Skip Vaughn

FAMILIAR LOOK—MSIC's new home, which resembles the Sparkman Center, consists of four buildings and two connecting modules.

Intelligent construction MSIC moves into new building early and within cost

By Skip Vaughn

The defense agency responsible for missile and space intelligence will enter the millennium in a new building at Redstone Arsenal.

The Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence will be dedicated Friday as the home of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Missile and Space Intelligence Center. MSIC has already moved into the \$33 million facility on Fowler Road.

It's named for Sen. Richard Shelby, the Tuscaloosa Republican who chairs the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Shelby was instrumental in obtaining funding for the construction project.

See Shelby on page 17



Photo by Skip Vaughn

NEW SIGN—Workers put the finishing touches on the sign for the Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence, MSIC's new home which will be dedicated Friday.

Inspections by X-ray

Nondestructive testing checks for cracks in helicopter tail boom

By Sandy Riebeling

A Medevac flight from Birmingham to Fort Rucker in June turned disastrous when the vertical tail fin fell off an Army UH-1 helicopter mid-flight, injuring the four people aboard the aircraft. Luckily no one was killed but with the crash came the question, what happened and how do we know it won't happen on other helicopters?

It was determined that a crack in the tail-boom was the cause of the crash. The entire fleet was grounded until the Army was sure it wouldn't happen again.

Fourteen days later, Westar Corp. engineer Scott Huddleston had developed an inspection procedure using an X-ray machine that could identify cracks in the tail boom without disassembling the aircraft.

Each of the 1,068 UH-1 helicopters was inspected with X-rays to detect cracks in the tail boom. The entire fleet has been checked at least once already. Testing revealed 45 helicopters had cracks in the tail boom. Recurring inspections are performed on the aircraft every 75 flight hours.

"This was a perfect example of what NDT (Nondestructive Testing) can be used for," Mike Carty, deputy weapon system



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

CHECKING THE SHOT—Tape is placed near the rivets at the base of the tail fin to mark the shot for the X-ray. Maj. Bobby Smith, weapons system manager, Aviation and Ground Support Equipment, checks the markings before the first shot.

manager for Aviation and Ground Support Equipment, said. "There was no way to visually inspect the area to check for cracks. The X-ray equipment does the job, keeps the helicopters in the air and all with minimal inspection time."

It takes about four hours from start to finish to X-ray the suspect area on the tail
See X-ray on page 16

Time cards required early to accommodate Y2K

Army civilians need to submit their time cards early in order to get paid correctly for the holidays.

That's the message from Resource Management Directorate. The RMD workers have sent out memos reminding time-keepers of the upcoming holiday schedule.

"They're having to certify (time cards) early," Vanessa Williams, a financial systems specialist at RMD, said. "This is necessary in order to accommodate Y2K."

Defense Finance and Accounting Service is changing its reporting times for

pay periods Dec. 5-18 and Dec. 19 through Jan. 1 because of the new millennium.

As a result, Thursday is the last day for certifying time cards for Dec. 5-18; and Dec. 22 is the deadline to certify for Dec. 19 through Jan. 1.

Workers will get paid for their scheduled work tour each pay period—full-time employees get paid for 80 hours, for example — but the time cards ensure their leave is reported. This is especially important at the end of the year when some workers

See Time cards on page 27

Rocket announces holiday schedule

Today's Redstone Rocket is the last issue before a two-week break for the holidays. The Rocket will skip Dec. 22 and Dec. 29 and resume publication Jan. 5. The advertising offices of The Huntsville Times, the civilian printer of the Redstone Rocket, will be open during regular business hours during this time. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



CFC event celebrates campaign
Pigs, pies, pats 7

Common sense should top list
Sensible safety 19

Chapel offerings serve soldiers
Holy holidays 26

Letters to the editor

Proper military courtesy

All too often I have passed soldiers on this post who see me and even acknowledge my presence, but fail to render the proper military courtesy of saluting an officer. Recently I walked out of the Military Clothing Sales Store passing two privates who saw me and attempted to pass on by without saluting. I sincerely doubt they will do that again any time soon. In comparison with other Army installations I have been assigned and worked at, Redstone takes the lead in the lack of proper military discipline and courtesy. I do not blame the young soldiers on this Arsenal for their lack of knowledge of the importance of military courtesy and proper discipline. The fault rests with their NCO and Officer Chain of Command. When these young soldiers report to assignments like Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, Fort Campbell, Korea, etc., they will learn quickly what Redstone Arsenal failed to teach them about discipline when their superiors take them to task. If the U.S. Army wants to recruit and retain quality soldiers, we have got to take pride in ourselves and the organization we serve. It all starts with a disciplined corps of leaders who have pride in themselves and the U.S. Army.

Maj. Lisa Ryder
AMRDEC

Still going and going...

I feel compelled to comment on last week's letter "Beyond discrimination demands." I need to let the writer in on a very important fact that obviously escapes her.

First of all, the slavery situation is like the Ever-ready battery - It just goes on and on and on and... (It never stops going) and that, my friend, is the reality of racial discrimination. My great, great, great, great, great, great grandchildren will always feel the sting.

Amazing, God took the sting out of death through Jesus Christ, but it is so sad that the sting of racial discrimination will exist forever.

I need to add that reparations can never be fully made for the slavery tragedy. Therefore, your great, great, great grandchildren will be hearing from my great, great, great grandchildren.

Arnita Lee

Makes things happen

There is a quote "some people make things happen, some watch things happen and some wonder what happened." Clearly, Ralph Tolliver has identified himself as part of the group that makes things happen.

He stands head and shoulders above many individuals that I know. In this day and time of hustle and bustle, Mr. Tolliver is a very rare individual. On many occasions I have called him at the last minute to prepare fruit baskets; he has never complained and always said, "it will be ready in 30 minutes." True to his word, the basket has been ready and beautiful! My hat is off to Mr. Tolliver and the Commissary is certainly blessed to have him as an employee. Mr. Tolliver's commitment to do an excellent job and to go beyond the call of duty deserves my recognition. Thank you.

Linda Miller-King
IMMC contractor

Security and safety

The article titled "Construction begins at Patton and Rideout Road gates" in the Nov. 17 issue of the Rocket prompts me to write. The article did a good job of explaining physical aspects of the construction to come. The third paragraph quotes Bobby Noles as saying "Since we increased security," etc., this construction was needed.

Unfortunately, these guard gates do nothing whatsoever to provide security for the north end (OMMCS area) of the Arsenal. Perhaps the Rocket staff should ask what steps have been taken to limit access to the portion of the Arsenal that houses the vast majority of the young soldiers here for training, as well as those families of soldiers living in government quarters. Ah, heck, not to worry, the Sparkman Center is probably safe, and we only have so much money.

Melvin J. Hanna
OMMCS

Editor's note: Maj. Janice Smith, the provost marshal, provided the following response. "The focus is on the south end of post, because of the high concentration of employees as well as the technological base

Food Bank contributors

Every year around the holidays many local charities are working hard to collect food, toys, clothes, and the like to help our less fortunate neighbors. I am the executive director of one of those charities, Food Bank of North Alabama. I would like to take this opportunity to let you and your readers know more about our work.

First, let me say that every month there are more than 30,000 North Alabama families struggling to adequately feed themselves. Most of these families include children. Food Bank of North Alabama is located in Huntsville but we serve more than 150 charitable feeding programs throughout all of North Alabama. Our mission is to collect donated food, primarily from America's food industry; ship the donated food into North Alabama and store it in our warehouse, and finally, distribute the food to qualified charitable programs that feed the needy, the ill and children.

Each year the Food Bank distributes more than 3.5 million pounds of food or, enough food to serve nearly 3 million meals. Using a standardized price per pound, the value of the food that the

Food Bank distributes each year equals about \$4.5 million. It costs the Food Bank about \$250,000 to operate each year giving us an annual benefit to cost ratio of \$18:\$1. Put more succinctly, for every dollar the Food Bank spends, it can provide \$18 worth of service to the community.

Every November the Food Bank conducts its Holiday Harvest food drive. Holiday Harvest provides the Food Bank with an opportunity to involve our community in the fight against hunger giving people an opportunity to contribute food and money in support of our work. This past November our community gave more than 50,000 pounds of food and \$7,000 to help. Many of those contributors read the Redstone Rocket. With that in mind let me say, thank you for caring and for helping.

On behalf of the Food Bank's Board of Directors and staff, we wish the Redstone Rocket and all of its contributors and readers a wonderful holiday season and a bright and prosperous 2000.

Dick Hiatt
Executive Director,
Food Bank of North Alabama

which is more susceptible to terrorist attack.

"The north end of post is more like an open community where retirees and friends of the Arsenal can use the facilities with minimal inconvenience, i.e., Redstone Club, Golf Course, Post Exchange and Commissary. Military and Civilian Police patrol the north end of the installation continuously and maintain a quick response time. At 10 p.m., Gate 8 is fully manned; and Gate 9 has been recently opened at night to accommodate all who live on the installation and for those who work on the Arsenal after normal duty hours. Also, Gate 10 is closed at 10 p.m. daily, thus securing the entire installation.

"At the current time, we have increased perimeter security significantly since June 1. If the THREATCON level should increase, we would immediately close the north end of the installation based on Force Protection plan guidelines.

"The security and overall safety of all employees and the safety of those who live and enjoy the facilities on Redstone Arsenal is of paramount importance. We will continue to assess our current security measures and make necessary changes as needed."

Sparkman Center facilities

Assuming building 5308 is representative of most buildings in the Sparkman Complex then it is a sad testimony to a relatively new "Center" that has shortcomings that should have been considered and eliminated during the planning stage. This also addresses the less than adequate maintenance and janitorial services performed in the Center.

There are an inadequate number of lavatories for both men and women; two small lavatories, one for men and one for women seems totally inadequate, and always amazes visitors to our building. Speaking for the men's lavatories, the cleanliness levels maintained approach unsanitary levels. Just replenishing paper hand towels, toilet tissue, and emptying the trash receptacles isn't enough. The commodes and urinals are rarely cleaned even though the floor may get mopped. This does not contribute to sanitary conditions for a work force whose

See Sparkman on page 4

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

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

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is The Huntsville Times, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

The deadline for display and commercial classified is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

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Letters to the editor

Sparkman

continued from page 2

employer desires to minimize absence due to sickness.

On several occasions, building maintenance has been requested to adjust the electric eye flush systems. Not Rocket Science. But it has not happened and consequently the units, to varying degrees wet and spray the floor, and often the person using the facility. One only needs to look at the facilities at Huntsville Airport where the units do not overspray.

The two stairwells are adequate for normal ingress and egress during work hours but appear too narrow for the kind of rapid egress the fire marshal desires during a fire drill or in the event of a real emergency. Don't know how this can be resolved.

Moral of the story: Can't tell a book by the cover.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Carol Meekins, Sparkman building manager, provided the following response. "Thank you for your letter and concern for the cleanliness of the Sparkman Center. The Sparkman Center is a technologically advanced facility constructed to look and operate like a corporate headquarters facility. The National Standard Plumbing Code was used to determine the number of restrooms required to support the population. The stairwells were sized to National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code and Occupational Safety and Health Act

standards, which are based on population.

"The restrooms in the Sparkman Center are cleaned every day which is the standard for administrative facilities. The restrooms are cleaned and disinfected each day between 6 and 9 a.m. There seems to be a high volume of use of the restrooms in 5308 as well as the other buildings in the Sparkman Center which may lead to your perception of the cleanliness. The quality and quantity of service is regularly monitored by the servicing contractor and the government to see that contract standards are achieved.

"Due to operation and maintenance funding reductions, the Redstone Arsenal Support Activity has reduced the scope of the base operations contract. Non-emergency type work such as adjusting the electronic eye on the commode was not funded in the Redstone Arsenal FY '00 contract."

OMMCS holiday party

I would like to vent my extreme disappointment and utter outrage concerning the recent OMMCS Christmas party. Apparently the people in charge of this organization are not concerned about the lower ranking soldiers of this organization. Their only thought is to make themselves look good. I am talking about coercion and deceit. My husband, a staff sergeant,

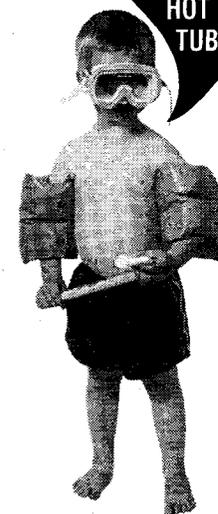
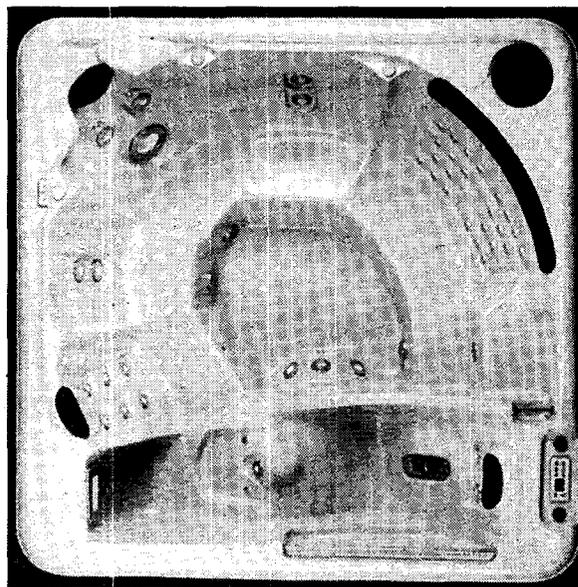
See OMMCS on page 5

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Letters to the editor

OMMCS

continued from page 4

was told by his supervisor that it was mandatory that he purchase two tickets to this event. At a cost of \$30 I might add, money that we could not easily afford. When my husband tried to explain that we really could not afford to go, he was told that he "needed to understand about certain social obligations that were required of him within his organization."

He was told that this was a mandatory event for all soldiers. Then he was told that the required dress for this event was a suit and tie for men and long dresses for women. He informed his supervisor that he did not own a suit, but he would wear a sport coat and tie. He was told that a sport coat and tie was unacceptable and that he would just have to purchase a suit. To make a long story short, we paid almost \$200 to attend this mandatory event, money that we could not afford just so that my husband would be spared a Needs Improvement for responsibility on his efficiency report. Having bought the required clothing, you can imagine my surprise when I saw officers and sergeants major wearing things that my husband was told were not allowed.... What kind of example is this? How could the leadership of OMMCS let this happen?

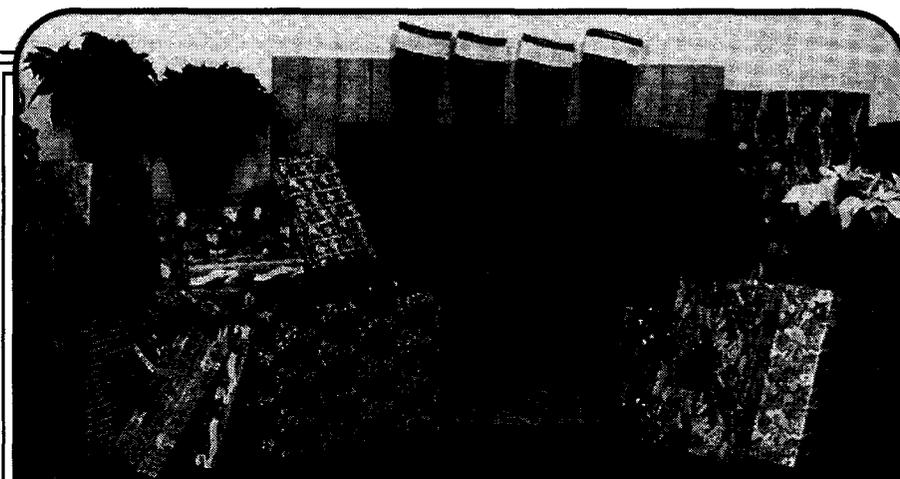
I have a copy of the flyer that announces this event. In plain English it says suit and tie.

Why wasn't this dress code enforced? How many other lower ranking soldiers were forced to buy a suit that they didn't really need and really couldn't afford for an event they didn't want to attend in the first place? I won't even address the clothes worn by some of the women at this event. I just want someone to tell me why. I would like someone to tell my children why they won't be getting all the presents they deserve because we had to spend some of their Christmas money on clothes for Daddy that he didn't need. If this is an example of how the leaders of Redstone Arsenal treat their subordinates then why does it surprise anybody that the morale of the soldiers is so low? My husband came here so that he could become a better soldier by learning to be an instructor. Now all we want is to become civilians again. Thank you OMMCS for spoiling my Christmas and you showing once again that it is the leaders who matter, not the soldiers.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Col. Stephen Taylor, commandant of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, provided the following response. "One of my most important jobs is listening to soldiers, civilians and families. Although I think we could more effectively resolve your issues by involving the chain of command directly, I appreciate the opportunity to respond

See OMMCS on page 6



With Warm Wishes at Christmas

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Letters to the editor

OMMCS

continued from page 5

to your concerns about our recent holiday party.

"I would like to hear more about the manner in which attendance and dress for our party was presented. My policy was that attendance was voluntary, and I expressed my intent on this issue on several occasions. Apparently there was a miscommunication by someone in the chain of command, and I would appreciate the opportunity to repair this link and repair it quickly.

"I am sorry your husband felt obliged to buy a new suit for the party and for any family hardships caused. Although the posted party flyer listed the dress as a suit and tie or Class A uniform, nobody was turned away at the door for wearing differ-

ent attire. For those who might not be able to afford new clothes, we certainly understand and allow alternatives. We will be more specific on this in the future.

"My wife and I shared an enjoyable holiday party evening with some 270 soldiers, civilians, friends and family members. I am truly sorry your experience was not equally enjoyable. I welcome the opportunity to work together to change your opinion about OMMCS and the Army. In the future, I encourage you or any other member of the OMMCS family who feels coerced or deceived in any way to bring your concerns directly to the attention of the chain of command or a representative of the command for prompt resolution. Furthermore, I extend an invitation to discuss this issue with you or your husband directly should you desire."

Redstone youngster wins contest with peace essay

The daughter of a Redstone soldier has won first place in the "Every Light a Prayer for Peace" essay contest for fifth-graders in Huntsville and Madison County.

Brittini Moreno, 10, daughter of SFC Barbara Williford of MEDDAC, won for

her essay on "What Peace Means to Me." A student at J.E. Williams Elementary, she received a certificate and a check for \$35 at an award ceremony Dec. 1.

The contest was sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs of Huntsville and Madison County.

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Pigs, pies and pats on back

CFC awards ceremony celebrates record-setting contributions

By Sandy Riebeling

This year's Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign set a record with donations totaling \$1,565,000 from 34 federal agencies across seven counties. The awards ceremony at the Sparkman Auditorium last Wednesday was the culmination of a campaign that began Oct. 4.

"We have come together again, this time to celebrate the results of your impressive acceptance of the challenge and opportunities you faced for the 1999 CFC campaign," Bob Wilkerson, 1999 chairman of the local federal coordinating committee, said in his opening remarks. "I am extremely proud to say you met the challenge. You worked hard. You took advantage of every opportunity and you turned them into something good. You exceeded all of the 1999 CFC goals and set several new records."

Addressing the crowd, Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, offered thanks to all who participated in the campaign.

"The contributions pledged during the 1999 campaign is a tribute to your generosity and are an investment in your community and country. Agencies funded by your contributions serve us all. You never know when you, your family, friends or neighbors will need the help of these agencies to overcome life's unexpected burdens. As you know, it



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PUCKER UP— McCorkle, AMRDEC director, poses with the pig he kissed as part of the competition between IMMC and AMRDEC organizations.

only takes one critical illness, misfortune or tragedy in our lives to make us realize that we are very fortunate to be givers rather than receivers of these services.

"The campaign slogan was 'Care Enough to Share Enough.' From here it seems that our folks care enough and have demonstrated their willingness to share enough."

See CFC on page 8

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Advanced Assembly Design Using Pro/ENGINEER Jan 11-Feb 3 • T-Th • 6-9:20pm • 21000075N
Basic Oracle Database Administration Jan 11-Feb 3 • T-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21000302N
Fundamentals of Visual Basic Jan 18-28 • T-F • 1-5:30pm • 21000306N
Microsoft Word 97 Jan 31 • M • 8am-5pm • 21000298N
Introduction to Hypertext Markup Language Jan 31-Feb 10 • M-Th • 8am-Noon • 21000309N
Six Degrees of Freedom Feb 8-Mar 30 • T&Th • 6-8pm • 23000277N
Basics of Adobe Photoshop Feb 12-26 • Sa • 9am-4pm • 21000327N
Introduction to Java Programming Feb 14-18 • M-F • 1-5pm • 21000294N

Business & Management

Schedule and Cost Parameters Jan 11-Feb 1 • T • 6-9pm • 23000089N
Training and Development Jan 13&20 • Th • 6-9pm • 23000083N
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Effective Communication: The Key to Success Jan 24-Mar 6 • M • 6-9pm • 23000099N
Principles of Supervision/Leadership Jan 24-Mar 20 • M • 1-4pm • 23000094N
ISO9000 Implementation Feb 3-24 • Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 23000086N
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We are pleased to report that we have assessed all areas of our operation, including 11,000 pieces of equipment and 29 critical information systems. We have upgraded or replaced systems which were not Y2K compliant.

Each department in the hospital has developed a detailed contingency plan that addresses potential Y2K issues. Contingency plans for supplies, staffing, and utility services are complete. We have Y2K readiness letters from more than 500 manufacturers of medical equipment.

Throughout the day on December 31, our clinical engineers will be in contact with hospitals around the world to determine the impact of the date rollover as it occurs in New Zealand, the Middle East and in Europe.

Disaster preparedness is not something new at Huntsville Hospital. Our Y2K goal is zero impact on patient care.



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THE TECHNOLOGY LEADER

■ CFC workers celebrate with pigs, pies and pats



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

YUM YUM— In the spirit of competition, CIC and LOGSA battled it out to see who could raise more funds per capita for the CFC. LOGSA winner Ida Walker, logistics management specialist, delivers a pie to Terry Yancey, deputy Corporate Information Officer.

CFC

continued from page 7

The awards presentation went swiftly as employees stepped up to receive recognition either for their organization or for individual honors for work done with the campaign. But that wasn't the end of the ceremony. There were the small matters of pig kissing and pie throwing that had yet to be done.

For the past few years, friendly competition erupted between organizations about who could collect the most money, per capita, for the CFC. The competition

between the Integrated Materiel Management Center and the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center heated up as the organizations battled to see which director would "Kiss the Pig" in front of the audience at the awards ceremony.

Once again it was Dr. Bill McCorkle from AMRDEC doing the puckering while winner rival Jim Flinn, IMMC, held the pig. It seems McCorkle lucked out this year. The live pig that has been kissed the last two years had grown too large to attend the ceremony. In its stead, Flinn held up a small stuffed pink pig to collect the smooching. IMMC raised \$96,464.30 with \$88.74 per capita while AMRDEC raised \$85,516.66 with \$68.14 per capita.

Things got a bit messier when the "Pie in the Face" contest winner was announced. The competition between the Logistics Support Activity and the Corporate Information Center was fierce but it was the employees from LOGSA doing the pie throwing as the good sports from CIC took it on the chin, and the cheeks, and the eyes and the hair. LOGSA raised \$42,827 with \$104.46 per capita while CIC raised \$26,293.82 with \$72.24 per capita.

Team Redstone averages improved over last year. Besides besting a goal of \$1,463,000, participation was up by more than 4 percent over last year's numbers and 12 organizations received early bird awards compared to five organizations the year before.

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Item manager recognized for Christmas angel efforts

About 2,000 children have received toys during decade

By Skip Vaughn

IMMC's angel has left a lasting legacy for future Christmases.

Ten years ago, Margot Sheaffer started a Christmas angels program in her organization, the Integrated Materiel Management Center. In this program, IMMC workers contribute toys for needy children who won't otherwise receive gifts during the holidays.

About 2,000 children have received toys through SOS Angels during the past decade. Because of medical problems, this is probably Sheaffer's last year with the program.

But IMMC wanted to recognize her efforts. Jim Flinn, the center's director, presented certificates Dec. 8 to Sheaffer and others who have worked on the program. He also presented a special memento to Sheaffer as "IMMC's own angel."

"This is just a little recognition ceremony for those who have played a part and made it happen for over 2,000 children," Flinn said.

Sheaffer, who normally shuns the spotlight, accepted this recognition on behalf of the children.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FOR THE CHILDREN— Sheaffer receives a memento from Flinn for her efforts the past decade on the Christmas angels program.

"There's a lot of people you don't even need to ask," Sheaffer said. "They see the need and they help out. It's a lot of little things where people help out.

"I will accept that (recognition) and share that with my people."



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Grassroots process grows

Redstone Arsenal represented at Armywide quality of life conference

By Skip Vaughn

"It was really the best feeling I've gotten in the Army, that the higher echelons are really concerned about the everyday issues we have to deal with."

That was Capt. Jennifer Curtis' observation from serving as Redstone's representative at the 1999 Army Family Action Plan Conference held Nov. 15-19 in McLean, Va. She was among 123 delegates from throughout the Army, including Korea and Germany. They addressed 127 quality of life issues submitted to Department of Army level through the Army major commands.

"I thought it was a great experience," Curtis, commander of B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said. "The Army Family Action Plan is really a grassroots process where the local post is able to bring issues up."

Issues that can't be resolved at the local level go to higher headquarters and then to

the Department of Army in this program which has been going on for 16 years. Over the years, more than 400 AFAP issues, raised by delegates and worked by the Army staff and Congress, have resulted in 58 separate pieces of legislation, 125 new or revised policies, and 122 programs established or improved that affected not only the Army, but also the other branches of service.

The delegates included soldiers, spouses, teens and retirees. The Reserves and National Guard were also represented.

Curtis served on the youth group which was among nine work groups at the conference. She was selected to attend the general officer steering committee meeting held as part of the conference at the McLean Hilton. Each work group selected its top three issues; and the 27 issues were presented to Gen. Jack Keane, vice chief of staff of the Army. The delegates voted on their top five issues for the conference.

See AFAP on page 11

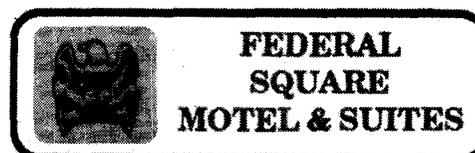
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Photo by Skip Vaughn

CONFERENCE RECAP— From left Downs, Curtis and Sullivan discuss the Army Family Action Plan process. Quality of life issues are submitted from local posts through higher headquarters and to Department of Army.

AFAP

continued from page 10

The top five issues— two from the youth group – included the following: basic allowance for housing appropriation and data collection; graduation requirements for transitioning high school family members; Tricare vision plan; education transition assistance for kindergarten-12th grade military family members; and standards and funding for AFAP and Army Family Team Building.

Ivy Downs, quality of life coordinator at Redstone, led the Redstone Arsenal Family Action Plan Symposium held here Nov. 16-17.

“I think this is one of the most exciting programs that the Army has to offer its people,” Downs said.

“It’s important,” Kathy Sullivan, wife of the commanding general, said. “It’s a lot of work for Ivy and all the people here to conduct this symposium. And your voice is heard when you’re a delegate here.”

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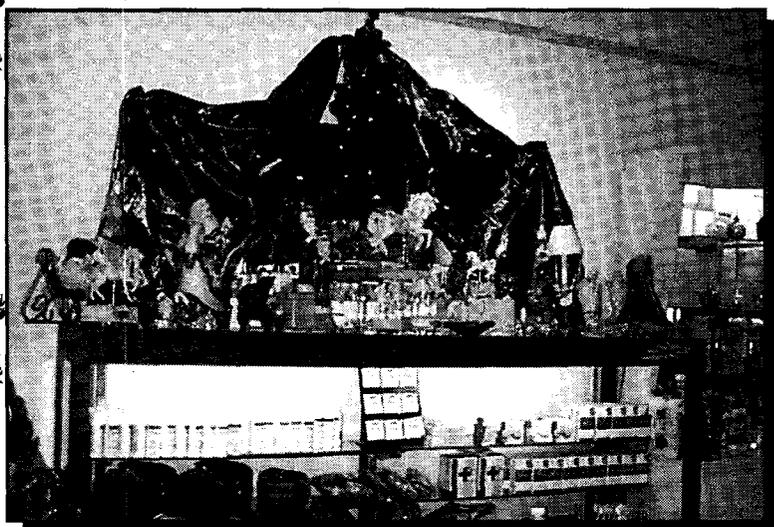
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Fort Bliss training detachment receives Patriot software

By Dennis Beeler

An initial fielding of the Integrated Diagnostics Support System technologies to the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School (OMMCS) Training Detachment was conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas Oct. 26 through Nov. 5.

The Patriot Project Office received a final go ahead Oct. 20 from Col. Stephen Taylor, OMMCS commandant, that set the stage for fielding to the Training Detachment.

Taylor and his staff were given a detailed briefing by Jackson Waters, Patriot's Logistics and Deployment Division and Dr. Dennis Beeler, CAS Inc., Huntsville which outlined the details of the fielding process. Taylor then signed the Modification Work Order Fielding Plan which gave the final OK to proceed with the fielding process.

IDSS is managed by Col. Jed Sheehan, Patriot project manager. Lt. Col. Lyn Tronti, assistant program manager for deployment, heads up the overall Patriot IDSS team.

The fielding effort at Fort Bliss began Oct. 26 with the modification team consisting of James McCawley and Joseph Butler (Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa.), Jackson Waters (Patriot), Joseph Keweza (CAS Inc., Huntsville), and James Curl (CAS Inc. Fort Bliss, Contractor Logistics Support Office)

staging the equipment provided by the OMMCS Training Detachment at the CLS office. Timothy Koerber, Raytheon Systems Company, Tewksbury, Mass., was the prime contractor representative observing the fielding and training sessions. Seven Patriot Automated Logistics System (PALS) AN/PSM-80 (V) 1 computers were disassembled in order to install sound cards and Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers 488.2 Instrument Interface cards that provide audio and instrumentation support for the various IDSS functions. The computers were then re-assembled and upgraded hard drives with the IDSS software enhancements were installed.

The new software includes: Microsoft Windows '95 Operating System; Interactive
See IDSS on page 13



Courtesy photo

IDSS Training— Kosman and Helfert demonstrate the use of IDSS equipment to OMMCS personnel.

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■ Patriot software fielded to Fort Bliss training detachment

IDSS

continued from page 12

Authoring Display System based Patriot Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals; Procomm by Quarterdeck to allow data file transfers using the Single Channel Ground/Airborne Radio System tactical radios; Symantec pcAnywhere for file application sharing and remote access and control; and Microsoft NetMeeting to facilitate voice communications among nodes on the new Patriot Local Area Network (LAN). The upgraded hardware was then tested several times to ensure the new PALS software applications would perform as designed. On Oct. 28 the computers were set up in a networked environment at the OMMCS Training Detachment facility where they were configured as the fielded Patriot LAN. A System Integration and Check Out was then conducted which validated the integrated capabilities of the entire system.

The second week of the process consisted of personnel from OMMCS and Raytheon Training Systems receiving detailed training on the use of the entire IDSS system. Joe Helfert, Russ Rollins, and John Kosman, all from CAS Inc., Huntsville, conducted this training, under the watchful eye of Tronti. Helfert, the lead IDSS field analyst, began the session

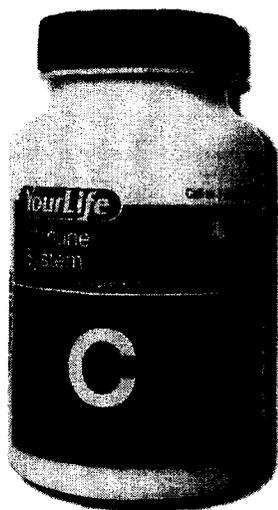
by giving the students a detailed overview of the IDSS programs. He, Rollins and Kosman then taught each student the process of setting up the LAN and how to use the IDSS system using the latest technology. Rollins and Kosman then taught the students on the setup of the required modernized Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment which is used in the performance of the Computer Aided Procedures, developed by Rollins specifically for the IDSS program. They also demonstrated the capability of being able to remotely control the test equipment and monitor troubleshooting effort from other locations external to the unit. This was done using actual Patriot equipment, provided by the OMMCS Training Detachment at Fort Bliss.

Overall the first IDSS fielding was considered to be a huge success and personnel from the OMMCS Training Detachment are enthusiastic about using this new technology in their day-to-day operations.

The IDSS team is preparing to field the IDSS technology with Patriot units in Korea. This is scheduled to begin in early 2000. From there IDSS will be fielded with the Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Bliss as well as some Patriot international units yet to be determined.

(Editor's note: Dr. Beeler is the IDSS division manager for CAS Inc.)

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Merit promotion policy adopted for entire Team Redstone

With the formation of Aviation and Missile Command, there are two sets of merit promotion policies (former Missile Command and former Aviation and Troop Command) and two sets of union provisions— American Federation of Government Employees and the National Federation of Federal Employees— that affected merit promotion policies and procedures at Team Redstone. These differences were staffed with all CPAC serviced organizations and discussed with a goal of establishing one set of merit promotion policies for AMCOM and Team Redstone.

After completion of Implementation and Impact bargaining on these differences with AFGE and NFFE, agreement has been reached with both unions on one set of merit promotion policies. These policies will be implemented in AMCOM. They will also apply to all Team Redstone activities, unless servicing agreements or local command regulations/policies provide for different procedures. These policies are summarized as follows:

- Area of Consideration— The minimum area of consideration may vary depending on the needs, attracting applicants from diverse backgrounds, manpower/budget restrictions, and the number and quality of applicants expected. Normally the minimum area will include the CPAC serviced

work force unless a smaller area (command/activity or below) can produce at least five best qualified candidates. This is the minimum area of consideration. A larger area may be used.

- Vacancy Announcement Open Period— Announcements will be open for a minimum period of 10 work days.

- Posting of Announcements— Vacancy announcements will be posted on the Army web page. Supervisors will make and post copies of announcements for employees who do not have web access.

- Evaluation of Applicants— Will continue to use the South Central Expedited Referral Program (SCERP) in all Team Redstone activities (except the Corps of Engineers who are using STAIRS) as the interim system pending STAIRS process discussion with both unions.

- Number to be Referred— If there are less than 25 candidates who possess all required skills, they will be referred as "best qualified." If there are more than 25 candidates who possess all required skills, candidates will be ranked based on possession of job related desired skills. The top 25 candidates will be referred as "best qualified." If there are other applicants who are tied with the 25th applicant, they will also be referred. (Note: This provision will not be applicable until agreement is reached on STAIRS.)

See Promotions on page 15

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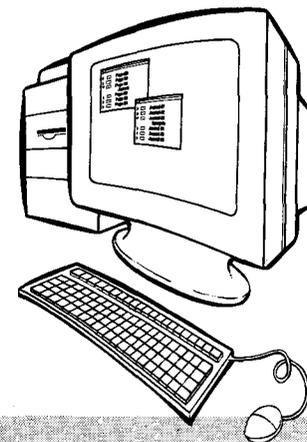
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Promotions

continued from page 14

• Interviews- Interviews will be conducted for GS-14/15 or equivalent positions. Interviewing is optional for other positions. If interviews are conducted, the selecting official will interview all candidates on that list or will use job related criteria to reduce the number of candidates on that list to be interviewed to a reasonable number (not less than five).

• Selection Documentation- The selecting official will consider all referred candidates and provide job related reasons why the selectee is the best candidate for the position. Selection matrices will be prepared and maintained by the selecting official to respond to any inquiries or complaints. Selection matrices will include names and analysis of all candidates along with weights/reasons for each factor used.

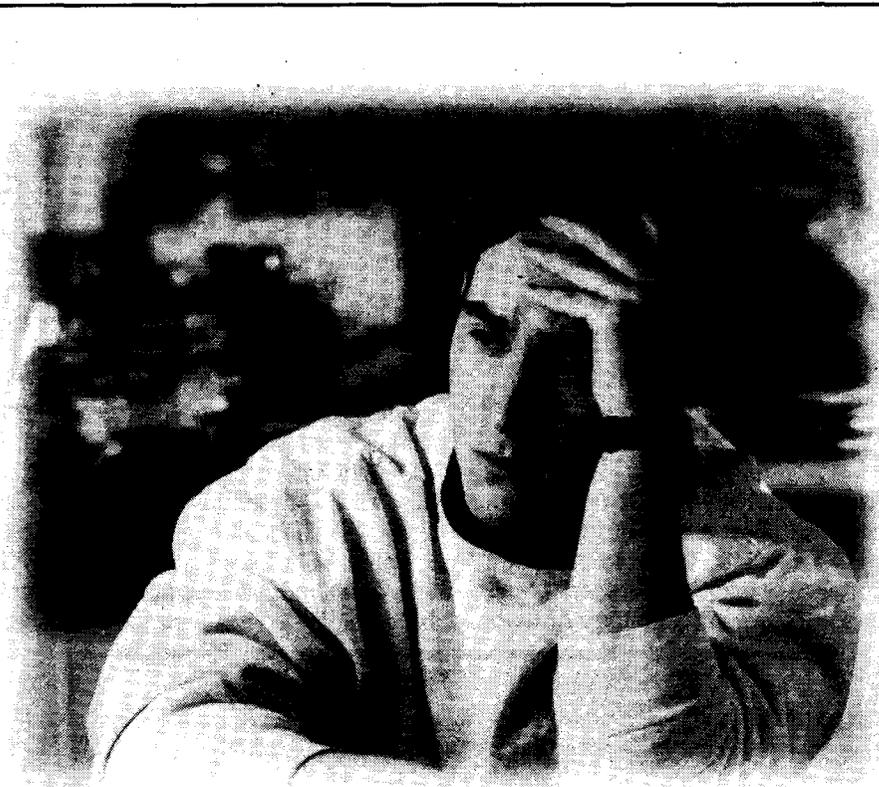
• Release Dates- The selected employee will be released not later than the beginning of the second pay period following the pay period in which a release date is requested.

• Information- Candidates not referred will be notified in writing of the reasons they were not referred. The name of the selected candidate will be posted on the web for 60 days. Candidates may request in writing a review of an ineligible rating. Supervisors will provide nonselect notices to referred candidates by memo or e-mail.

• Temporary Promotions- Temporary promotions for more than 120 days will be done competitively (more than 179 days in activities undergoing major draw-downs or closures within two years of the effective date).

• Temporary Assignments- Temporary assignments to higher graded positions shall normally be done by temporary promotions when it is expected to last more than 60 days; authority exists to fill the positions within budget, strength and high grade controls; and the employees are qualified.

Other merit promotion provisions, contract provisions, and past practices not addressed above will remain unchanged. (Civilian Personnel Advisory Center release)



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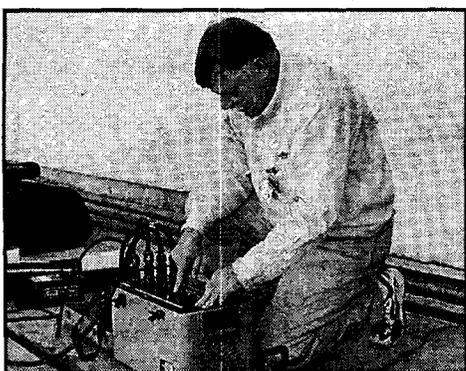


Photo by Sandy Riebell

REMOTE CONTROL—The X-ray control panel is located at least 100 feet away from the X-ray site to avoid radiation exposure. Al Yeske, of Westar Corp., operates the device at Redstone Airfield.

X-ray

continued from page 1

boom of the Huey. The X-ray machine resembles a telescope canister mounted on a tripod. Unlike viewing from a telescope, the "eye" of the X-ray is on the side of the tube. It is connected by wires to a remote control panel, at least 100 feet away from the X-ray machine, so that operators of the equipment aren't exposed to high levels of radiation.

The equipment has variable power settings with a maximum of 160 kilovolts which will shoot through one and three-fourths inches of steel and three inches of aluminum. It takes one minute per X-ray. A film developer comes with the system but

operators said that it could be developed by an X-ray lab in a hospital if necessary. X-rays are shot with industrial strength Kodak M film that has a finer resolution than what is used at hospitals.

While using this system, small hand held meters, called Thermal Luminescent Dosimeters, are in operation, measuring the level of radiation exposure. As the operator goes from the control panel to the X-ray machine to adjust for the next shot, he carries the meter with him to assure the radiation levels are safe.

The X-ray equipment is a subsystem of NDT Aviation and Ground Support Equipment fielded to Army aviation maintenance locations around the world to perform Nondestructive Testing. NDT simply means examining parts of the system without damage, and sometimes without even disassembling the system.

"We fielded the nondestructive test equipment in 1996," Carty said. "We were getting a lot of calls from the field with questions about the equipment; because it was new, the Army had never had this type of equipment out there. In response, we created an AGSE NDT Center of Excellence."

Three Westar engineers serve in the center; all are American Society for Nondestructive Testing level III technicians. When necessary, technicians travel to the field to assist in the training and offer specific instruction on the equipment.

The other three subsystems in NDT are ultrasonics, Eddy current testing and harmonic bond testing.

"NDT allows us to inspect aviation systems without tearing them up," Carty said. "It also saves money. Maintenance hours

and costs are minimal and it saves down time for the aircraft."

Huddleston gave specific examples of savings using NDT which included inspecting the strap pack on the Apache and the wheels on the Black Hawk.

"The wheel inspection for the Black Hawk used to take two to three days. The wheel had to be disassembled and the paint stripped off. Using the Eddy current tester, we can check for cracks in the wheels in 30 minutes to an hour, and we don't have to strip the paint."

A demonstration of NDT was performed at Redstone Airfield last week to check the four Hueys used by the Directorate of Flight Operations, which flew more than 700 hours last year mainly in support of development and testing of weapons systems.



Photo by Sandy Riebell

CHECKING THE FILM—Operator teams for the X-ray equipment are trained to read the X-rays and determine if there is a crack in the tail boom. Scott Huddleston, background, explains to Col. Robert Birmingham, program manager for aviation systems, how to interpret the findings on the film.

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Intelligence center's new building dedicated Friday

Shelby

continued from page 1

"This facility adds to the extensive assets of Redstone Arsenal and the Tennessee Valley, and is a part of the vision of a corporate park of excellence centered on this installation," Mark Burroughs, project manager in the master planning division of the Environmental Management and Planning Directorate, said.

The Shelby Center resembles a smaller version of the Sparkman Center, headquarters for the Aviation and Missile Command. This 220,000 square foot complex consists of four buildings and two connecting modules. Features include 100,000 square feet of administrative office space and 120,000 square feet of laboratories, auditorium, training rooms, support facilities and more.

There is a fitness facility, with walking trail, a snack bar, and a 398-seat auditorium.

"We have a state-of-the-art work environment both in terms of administrative space, laboratory space and high-bay work areas," Stephen Rowe, public affairs representative for MSIC, said. "We can accomplish our entire mission in-house if we need to. On the human side, the building is employee-friendly with a modest wellness center and a true concern for our health as an employee.

"In sum, across the board, MSIC employees are quite proud of our facility."

The project itself is also a success story, finishing within cost and schedule. The Mobile District Office of the Corps of Engineers did the design and awarded the contract to Bill Harbert Construction of Birmingham. The Resident Office of the Mobile District Corps of Engineers on Redstone Arsenal supervised the contract. The Directorate of Public Works provided support as did master planning division and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

The contract was awarded to Harbert in December 1997 and construction began in January 1998. The building wasn't expected to be occupied until June 2000, but MSIC workers began moving in last September; and the center is fully operational. Also, the project ended up costing 54 percent less to design than anticipated. Design cost normally represents about 10 percent of the construction tab. But instead of \$3.3 million of the \$33 million total, this project cost \$1.5 million to design.

"DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency), RASA (Redstone Arsenal Support Activity), the Corps of Engineers Resident and Mobile District Offices along with Bill Harbert Construction worked together and were able to maintain identified schedules within original cost projections," Burroughs said.

The Missile and Space Intelligence Center analyzes foreign surface-to-air missiles, short-range ballistic missiles, ballistic missile defense systems, anti-tank guided

missiles, ground-based anti-satellite weapons, directed energy weapons, and associated command, control, communications and computers.

MSIC can trace its origin to the establishment of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in February 1956 to manage the Jupiter IRBM Program. Maj. Gen. John Medaris, the ABMA commander, established an Army Special Security Office in June 1956 to obtain missile and space intelligence. To analyze these data and report to him on foreign activities, he established a small group of six engineers and intelligence analysts as the Technical Intelligence Division, Assistant Chief of Staff for Research and Development, ABMA. This division was the first organizational exis-

tence of what eventually became the Missile and Space Intelligence Center.

Its former building, 4505 on Martin Road, had 116,000 square feet and was more than 40 years old. Located just north of the new building 4545, it is now vacant. "Redstone is currently studying options for backfill of the building," Burroughs said.

The Shelby Center is the Defense Intelligence Agency's first new facility since 1985. It is second in size only to DIA's headquarters in Washington.

"This facility is a major success story for Team Redstone," Richard Russell, chief of operations support division at MSIC, said. Friday's dedication ceremony at 10 a.m.—with attendance by invitation only—will include several high-ranking dignitaries.

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Military Order of Purple Heart donates holiday dinners



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TEAM EFFORT— Come Dec. 23, members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart will be delivering precooked meals to four military families and two military retiree widows. The purple heart organization worked with Army Community Service and the NCO Academy to locate the deserving families. Planning the event are, from left, Summerville, Ann Owens, Army Emergency Relief officer; Rose; MSgt. Carlos Fernandez, deputy commandant of the NCO Academy; and Harold Meeker, member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

By Sandy Riebeling

What better way to bless a family in need than to delivery a hot dinner of turkey and dressing, rice and broccoli, sweet potato casserole and homemade yeast rolls, just in time for Christmas.

Six military families, including two military retiree widows, will receive Christmas dinner thanks to the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, who will deliver the meals Dec. 23.

"When we first decided to do this, we contacted Ann Owens with ACS and the commandant of the NCO Academy to help us find the families," Al Rose, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart,

Huntsville chapter, said. "They were terrific with their assistance."

Once the families were chosen, a committee from the organization met with each family to discuss the meal and any other needs. According to Rose, all the offers were received with enthusiasm.

"This organization is doing a great thing. It's a worthy cause," CSM Anthony Summerville, NCO Academy commandant, said. "I've been in the Army 22 years and I've been a lot of places but this is the best post I've seen where civilians get involved and support the military."

Summerville also praised the work of SSgt. Regina Johnson, administrative NCO at the Academy, for all the work she put in on coordinating the effort.

A gift of advice to consumers

Holiday giving is good, but know where your donations go

By Juanita Adams

The holiday season is upon us again. As our thoughts turn to giving gifts to family and friends, many of us are also bombarded with requests to make charitable donations. Making a donation to a worthy cause can be rewarding, but consumers must be on their toes and be careful when solicited.

The Division of Consumer Affairs offers the following tips to anyone solicited to

make a charitable donation.

If asked, charities should tell you: how long they have been in business; who has custody of their funds and in what bank; if they have a tax exempt number from the IRS; and how much of their donation goes to administrative costs vs. how much goes to actual program needs.

Watch out for solicitations which bring tears to your eyes, but tell you nothing about how your donation will be used. The

See Advice on page 19

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Advice

continued from page 18

solicitor should clearly identify the charity's programs and activities.

Be watchful of names that look impressive or that might resemble the name of a charity with which you are familiar.

A charitable appeal should not be disguised as a bill or invoice. Such mailings are illegal unless they carry a clear and noticeable disclaimer. The disclaimer should say that they are a charitable organization and that prospective donors are not obligated to pay unless they accept the offer.

Ask if your contribution is deductible as a charitable donation for federal income tax purposes.

If you are short of funds, remember that contributions of any size are needed. Often contributions such as clothing or toys are welcome as well. Volunteering can be the best donation of all.

Check to see if charities are listed with the Secretary of State, Division of Charitable Solicitation at 615-741-2555.

The National Charities Information Bureau is also available on line at <http://www.give.org> or you can get a copy of its guide by writing NCIB, Dept. 67, 19 Union Square West, New York, N.Y., 10003.

Finally, never give cash. Pay only by check and make the check out to the charity, never to the person soliciting the collection. Do not allow yourself to yield to pressure and give money on the spot. Remember that your money is as good tomorrow as it is today.

(Editor's note: Adams works in the consumer affairs office at Army Community Service.)

Season for safety

Common sense tips should keep the holidays merry and bright

By Sandy Riebeling

The holidays are hectic, most would say. There's the shopping, the wrapping, the decorating, the visiting. With everything in a rush, people tend to overlook common sense safety but it's something that should be on the top of everyone's list.

The AMCOM safety office along with the Redstone fire prevention inspectors want to remind the community to keep safety a priority by offering holiday tips on everything from tree buying to shopping to home decoration and lighting.

"Our goal is to get everyone through to the new millennium intact—no loss of life or property," Art Murtha, Redstone fire prevention inspector, said. "Unfortunately, this is the season which claims the most fire injuries and fatalities, nationally."

Office safety

Many offices will put up Christmas trees and festive decorations during the holiday season. One of the biggest problems, according to Murtha, is putting trees in hallways, stairwells or blocking fire exits.

"I know that it may look pretty sitting by the door where everyone can see it when they come in and leave but if there's a fire emergency and someone trips over the thing, people may not be able to get out of the building," Murtha said. "It's not worth

risking a person's life. Just move the tree to a safe location."

Take special consideration when using live Christmas trees. Live trees must be tagged with the date cut, date brought into the building and printed name of the person responsible for monitoring the tree. Fire prevention guidelines state that live trees should be kept inside no longer than 14 days, under any circumstances. Tree lights and other electrical decorations should be turned off when no one is in the office and should be taken down before leaving for the Christmas holiday.

Decorating tree

When choosing a live Christmas tree, grab the trunk firmly and pound the tree against the ground several times to be sure the needles are attached. If a lot of the needles fall off, buy a different tree. Needles can also be checked by gently bending them. If they break off rather than bend, the

See Safety on page 20



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SAFETY CHECK— Fire hazards are a big concern during the holiday season with all the extra lighting and candles used to celebrate the season. Redstone fire prevention inspector John Williams performs a safety check on the electrical cords and tree lights on an office Christmas tree in building 111.

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■ Holiday safety takes a common sense approach

Safety

continued from page 19

tree is dried out and could be a safety hazard. Natural trees should not remain indoors more than 14 days. Trim at least an inch off the bottom before bringing it indoors. Be sure to have a large tree stand that can hold at least a gallon of water and remember to check the water level at least once a day.

Artificial trees should have a "fire resistant" label on them. Older trees can have dust buildup. Wash artificial trees each year and store limbs in a plastic bag.

Tree lights are one of the biggest dangers of the season. Check each strand for frayed

wires, loose or broken bulbs and the UL rating, indicating it has been safety tested. If there is any problem with the strand, or if a section or portion of the lights do not light, discard the strand.

Position the bulbs on the tree so that they do not touch tree needles or ornaments. Keep lights away from curtains or flammable materials. Don't overload electrical outlets and do not connect more than three sets of lights to an extension cord. Keep cords and plugs away from the water under the tree and don't run a cord under a rug or carpet since wires may overheat and surrounding materials may catch on fire.

Never use lighted candles on Christmas trees and never leave a lighted candle unat-

tended.

Shopping, shopping, shopping

Everyone's in a hurry to get out to the stores and get their presents bought but remember to use common sense. Give some thought to age appropriate toys for children.

"Just because a toy says it's for a certain age group, you still have to consider the ability of the child as well," Murtha said. "No one wants children to get hurt. Pay attention to the moving parts and if small parts can be separated and swallowed."

Shop during daylight hours and take a friend along, if possible. If night-time shopping is a must, park in a well-lighted area and don't be shy about asking for a security escort through the parking lot.

While browsing the aisles, keep purses closed with the flap pressed against the body. Don't allow other shoppers to see cash or credit cards in purses or wallets. Wallets should be carried on the inside pocket of a coat or jacket.

Don't try to carry more than can be handled comfortably. When exiting the stores, have keys out and ready. Once inside the vehicle, lock all doors immediately.

In the home

Building a fire in the fireplace takes the

chill off a cold winter's night and creates a cozy atmosphere for holiday cheer but don't forget to have the chimney inspected at least once a year for obstructions such as birds nests or soot buildup on the chimney walls. Be sure to check smoke detector batteries, have fire extinguishers readily available and install carbon monoxide detectors if burning gas or wood.

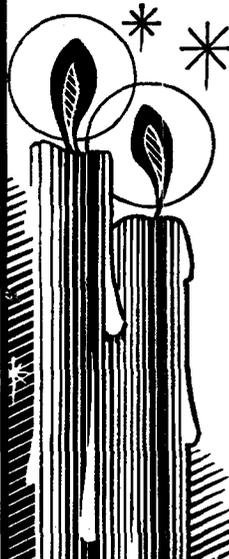
Murtha warned against burning wrapping paper or newspaper in the fireplace.

"These are very thin, light, papers that can get sucked up the chimney and land on your roof, possibly starting a fire," Murtha said. "Plus the fumes that come off the paper with certain dyes and inks are poisonous. Cardboard is probably the best thing to use to start a fire. It burns at a higher temperature and stays lit longer."

Always use a fire screen while burning a fire and ensure the fire is out before leaving the house or going to bed. Dispose of ashes in a metal container and never store them near the house.

"People should also be careful not to let small children and animals get near the tree," Murtha said. "The lights and ornaments attract them and they could get hurt. Use

See Safety on page 21



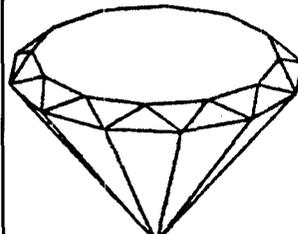
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continued from page 21

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"Sometimes a customer will bring in a disc with just text and another disc with pictures and then we put the two together, according to the customer's design," Dunbar said. "We do a lot of ceremony programs with pictures and text. Our finisher even trims the paper to the correct size, folds and staples them."

Conversion of the Army's technical and training manuals to PDF on CD roms is one of DAPS largest ongoing projects. Millions

of pages are being transferred from paper to disc. When creating files on CD, DAPS can build links within the document or cross link with other documents on the disc. Once the CDs are premastered, DAPS can do mass duplication.

Mail merge is another popular service DAPS offers. The service prints copies of the document then uses the mailing list provided by the customer to individually address each copy. The printer can also print book or file folder tabs.

"We can even set up web pages for our customers," Dunbar said. "We do whatever we can to make our customers happy. To get their job done in the most cost effective manner."

DAPS is exclusive to the military and Department of Defense employees. The Redstone facility off Mills Road has four printing systems, which includes the computer, servers printer and finisher. A staff of 20 divided into two shifts operates the facility. Dunbar is director over several facilities including another on the Arsenal in the Acquisition Center, as well as 11 others in the Southeast.

Huntsville center wins statewide quality award

The Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, has earned the 1999 Alabama Quality Award in the Service Sector category.

The Alabama Quality Award, modeled after the national Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award, honors organizations whose recent innovations increased productivity and quality within the organization. The improvement efforts are formal techniques or practices capable of being shared with other organizations with the expectation they will be replicated and contribute to state and national productivity and quality improvement. Huntsville Center quality improvements have documented savings of \$68 million over the past four years.

The Huntsville Center is a specialized major command within the Corps of Engineers that provides specialized engineering and design services that support ballistic missile defense, the destruction of toxic chemical weapons, military medical care,

and various military installation operations. The center is also responsible for the cleanup of unexploded military ordnance at formerly used defense sites across the country.

Other award winners include Dana Corporation's Anniston Brake Focus Factory in the Manufacturing Sector, UAB Hospital in Birmingham in the Health Care Sector, and Meyer Real Estate in Gulf Shores in the Small Business Sector. The winners were evaluated on: leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource focus, process management, and business results.

The Alabama Quality Award has been administered by the Alabama Productivity Center since 1986.

The awards were presented at the Alabama Quality Award Conference and Ceremony, Nov. 9-10 at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. (Corps of Engineers release)

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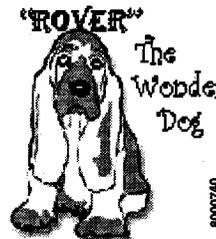


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Taste of holiday

Evening of fellowship at chapel celebrates cultural diversity

By Jeannette E. Sellers

Fellowship, defined as a union of friends or equals sharing a similar interest, was in its most visible form, even to the most casual observer, Dec. 12 at Bicentennial Chapel. It was clear that something spiritually energizing was happening.

The event that caused this merriment was Christmas Around the World. In the chapel bulletin it was described as "an evening of fellowship celebrating our cultural diversity." The committee overseeing this cultural experience requested that all who wanted to participate bring a dish from their native country. With so many people of foreign ancestry born in the United States, this also meant "a lineage-heritage" food.

Each of the participating 11 countries was assigned a room. They could decorate their area, provide music, and a little history about their culture through dialogue, as well as present the aroma of the delicious ethnic foods to attract others to "their country."

The evening began with a collective prayer and blessing of the food. Directions were given as to the procedure to begin this Christian adventure in ethnic food and culture. Plates were to be obtained in the United States room along with their food offerings. One would then proceed to the rooms of the other 10 countries for a "taste" and conversation. There were so many delectable dishes that only a "taste" was necessary before the stomach was pleasantly full.

After this fantastic feast, there was a gathering of the participants in the main chapel for a 10 minute program by each country. Nine of the countries took part in this portion of the occasion with verbal elaborations and/or in song and dance.

In Mexico the Christmas celebration is called Las Posadas. Posada means "inn" or "lodging place." This, of course, refers to the problem of Joseph and Mary being turned down for shelter as they went from "inn" to "inn." The pinata and lots of singing and dancing are also a part of this event. LaRissa and Rochelle Molinar performed a beautiful dance, Guadalajaha, in their colorful attire made especially for them by their mother.

The United States was the last presenter of Christmas culture. Thirteen members of the collective Protestant and Catholic congregations presented a comical rendition of the "Twelve Days of Christmas."

The night ended with each country singing "Silent Night" in their ancestral tongues, then with everyone singing that favorite Christmas carol in English.

Culture is an adventure to the path of understanding other people. Unlike our genetic makeup, which nature controls, culture is a learned process. Thus we are in charge as to whether or not we want to explore this marvelous phenomenon. Culture, an adventure in life; be in it!

(Editor's note: Sellers resides in Madison with her husband, retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Sellers.)

North Alabama fans flock to see airman in Texas

The Robinson family from North Alabama filled many of the seats at an Air Force graduation ceremony Nov. 26 in Texas.

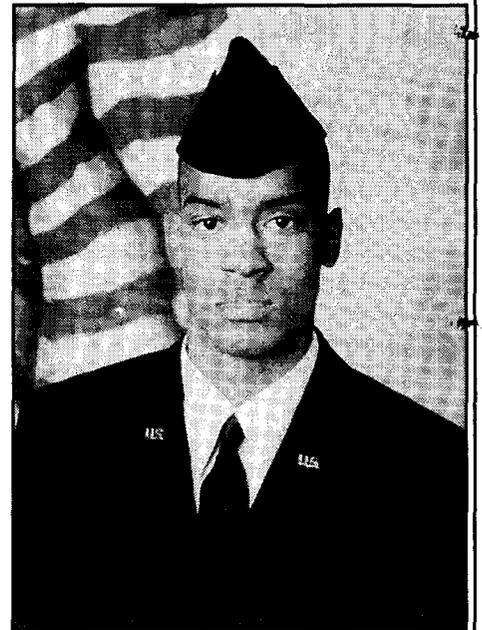
Airman Dexter Robinson, 18, graduated after six weeks of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. A 1999 graduate of East Limestone High School in Athens, he is the son of Wardell and Frances Robinson.

Frances is a procurement technician at the Acquisition Center where her sister, Lottie Curry, is a contract specialist. They were among the 16 family members who attended the graduation.

"I feel good about it," Frances said of her son's accomplishment. "I'm proud of him. And he was special that day on graduation."

Dexter's twin brother, Derrick, attends the University of Alabama at Birmingham. They have two sisters: Netra, 20, a nursing student at Calhoun Community College; and Delandus, 25, who graduated last May from Alabama A&M University.

Dexter is now stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas.



Courtesy photo

THE GRADUATE—Robinson has completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.



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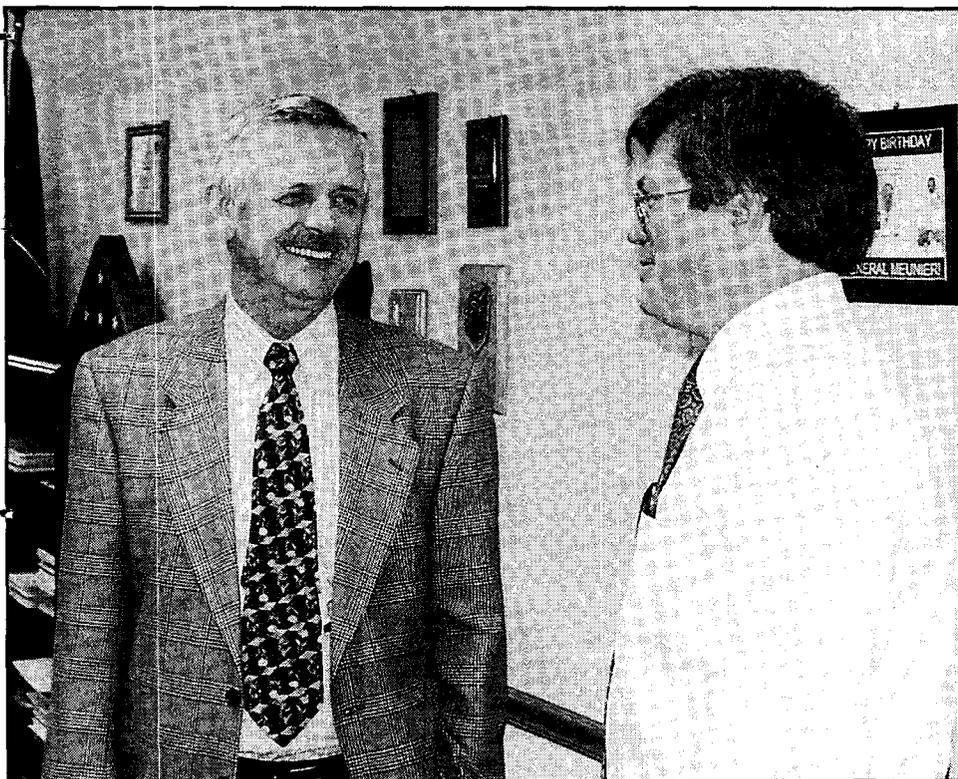


Photo by Beth Skarupa

TALKING TURKEY— Meunier, left, talks about turkey hunting with Chester Domaracki, deputy general manager of the NATO MEADS Management Agency.

Home for the holidays

German leader of NATO-managed project completes career

By Beth Skarupa

If all goes as planned, Brig. Gen. Hunrich Meunier and his wife will be back in Germany and settled in their new house in a village near Bonn in time for the holidays.

Meunier, who relinquishes his position as general manager for the NATO Medium Extended Air Defense System Management Agency and retires from the German Air Force Dec. 31, was scheduled to take the rest of his vacation Dec. 9 to be home at Christmas.

Huntsville serves as the operating base for NAMEADSMA, which officially started July 15, 1996 with the signing of Meunier's three-year contract. Originally the contract was to terminate in mid-1999, but the steering committee asked Meunier to extend his tour to the end of this year.

Meunier explained that the extension was requested because the NATO-managed agency was not sure how it would proceed in terms of budget and structure until recently. A contractor was selected earlier this year and the budgetary decision only concluded in September.

"I really would have hated to leave in summer when there were a number of loose ends. Now since we have put it back on track with the transition contract I am more satisfied to hand it over to my successor in an organized fashion," Meunier said.

The agency is unique in that it is the first NATO acquisition agency to be based in the U.S. The agency's mission is to develop, produce and field an advanced air and missile defense system to satisfy the operational requirements of the U.S., Germany and Italy.

MEADS has a wide range of potential targets that need to be covered according to Meunier, starting with tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, other air-to-ground missiles and manned aircraft. These targets must be "correctorized" because more and more of them have small radar cross-sections, high velocities and high as well as low altitudes.

The focus of the air and missile defense system for the U. S. is mainly on protecting contingency operations that take place outside the country. While this also interests Italy and Germany in certain crisis areas, the system's ability to protect their homelands and the surrounding critical areas is most important.

"The requirements are also driven by the proliferation of some of these missiles that are in the hands of nations which are potentially a threat," Meunier added.

The MEADS program has a long history in terms of defining the requirements and harmonizing them between the three nations, but when the agency officially started that aspect of the program already

See Meunier on page 25

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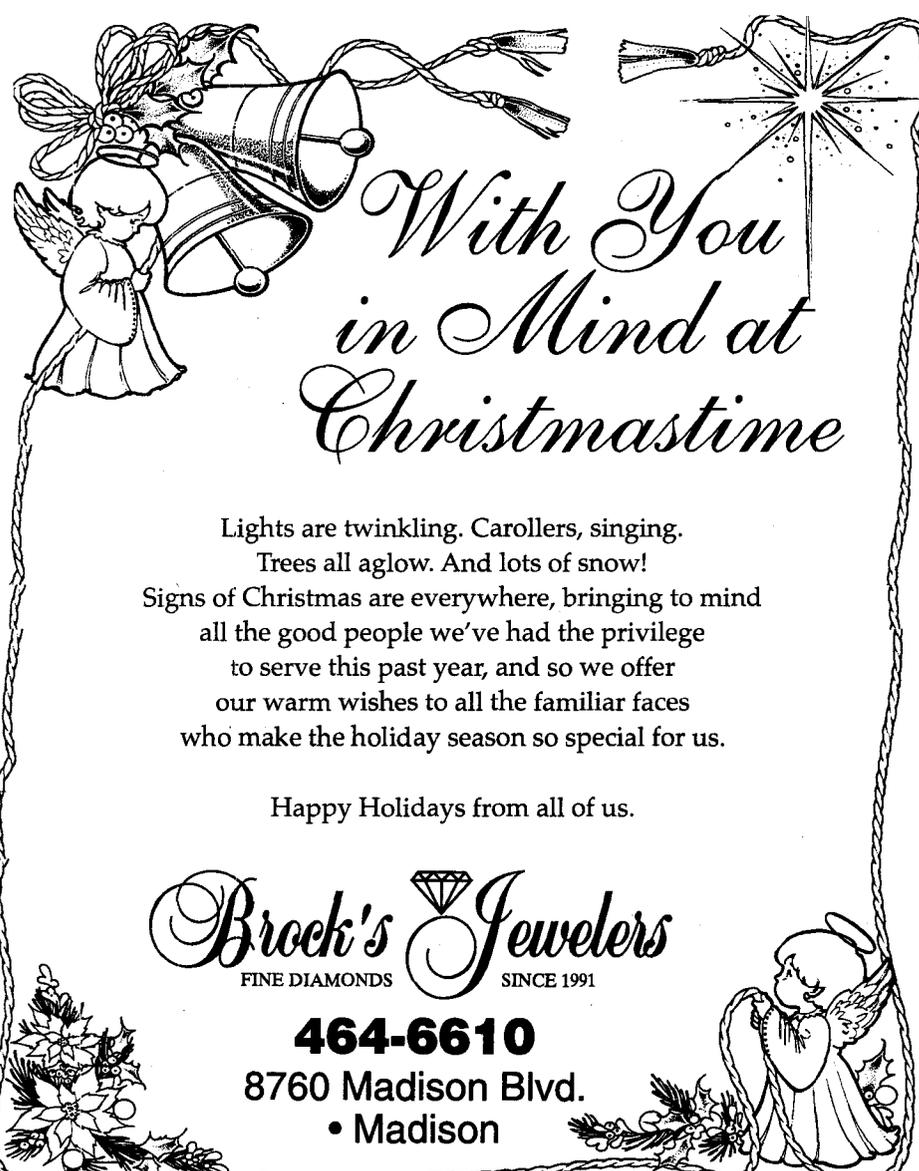
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■ NATO project leader returns home to Germany

Meunier

continued from page 24

was complete.

"So, for me number one was to build the agency. I came more or less here with a suitcase in my hand and had to rent a building, hire the people, incorporate the former core office, hire German and Italian people and then contract with two competing industry groups for a proposal for the system," Meunier said.

Being the first NATO agency of its kind in the U.S. also required that Meunier familiarize the environment locally and in Washington, D.C. with NATO procedures and financial, security and personnel rules. Problems also had to be solved between the host nation and the NATO agency in terms of implementation of the program.

Meunier's biggest challenge came when the nations, based on proposals received in 1998, had to select a contractor and decide how to proceed with the program.

"This process of preparing and finally then getting decisions from the nations to proceed was a challenging time where a lot of controversial discussions or at least a number of options were discussed between the nations," Meunier said. "I think it's a great success that the nations finally could agree how to proceed."

Meunier recently signed a transition contract that will lead to a greater contract to be signed in the first quarter of 2000 initiating a three-year risk reduction effort

This contract should result in prototype equipment and address cost and technical risks and their potential reduction.

MEADS International Inc., an integrated entity comprised of the U.S. company Lockheed Martin and teams from the German company DASA (Diamler-Chrysler Aerospace) and the Italian company Alenia, won the source selection this spring. Once their proposal is modified in order to cope with the risk reduction tasks, a risk reduction effort contract for roughly \$250 million will be signed.

Having been deputy chief of staff plans and policy for the German Air Force before leading the NATO agency, Meunier said he enjoyed his position in Huntsville for several reasons.

"Number one is you would like to have a responsibility until the end of your career and not just run out on an unimportant thing. Number two, I had invested a lot of work in this program before I took the job because I worked for the plans and policy division in Germany," Meunier said. "I participated in creating this program and the requirements, so it was of course for me quite a pleasure to be able now to implement those."

He commented that it was helpful that he met people from the U.S. Army who he had worked with before in his military career. Also Fort Bliss, Texas, is in charge of dealing with the military and user interests for the MEADS program. Meunier enjoyed working closely with the leadership at Fort Bliss because it was always "sort of a second home for air defenders from Germany"

because Germany has an air defense school there. "So that was an important relationship and for me," Meunier said. "It was quite interesting and also quite satisfying that I had a relationship with that place where I worked 40 years ago."

Meunier, who will retire with almost 42 years of service in the German Air Force, said he and his wife enjoyed living in Madison and traveling throughout the Southeast while they were here. His wife was involved in both the International Wives Club and the Officer and Civilian Women's Club at Redstone Arsenal.

"It's not too different here. And the people here in the South are very receptive and positive as far as integration of newcomers, it's really not a problem," Meunier said. "We were glad we lived out here."

Meunier will return to Germany but has no further plans professionally. He said he and his wife bought a house and they need to settle down first.

Since the position of NAMEADSMA general manager is a rotational post, Lt. Gen. Franco Parisi from Italy has been appointed as Meunier's successor. Although Meunier accomplished much during his three years here, he said the program still

has a long way to go.

"We need the continued support of all countries in terms of budgetary support and I think the cooperation and exchange of technology is a must if we want to be cost effective. We should make use of existing technologies or those that are available in the near future. We have to cope with developments of the threat which may change over time.

"The system must be flexible to be able to adapt to future developments and it must be extremely mobile and transportable to cope with needs to transport and deploy it in crisis areas. The technology required is demanding, it is absolute high tech," Meunier said. "So we climbed a couple of hills, but there are still a couple of other mountains that need to be overcome."

As Meunier sees it, NAMEADSMA has a political dimension as well as a military one. It is a way to promote friendship in an alliance that has been changing since the end of the Cold War. Other challenges and threats exist and the alliance is growing, but Meunier thinks it takes effort to maintain what has been achieved over 50 years of NATO. He said this effort requires engagement from all participants and MEADS is "a little stone in the mosaic of a wider cooperation."

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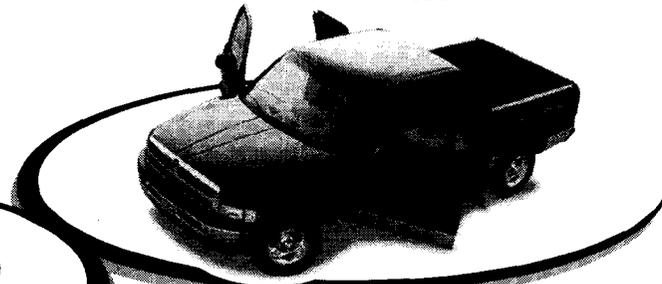


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Holy holiday season

Military community served by offerings at Bicentennial Chapel

By Beth Skarupa

The Bicentennial Chapel celebrates the Christmas season with Christian services, but that does not mean that the chaplains and those who attend religious services there do not respect people of other faiths or want to help others.

In fact, they provided vouchers recently to the lower and senior enlisted soldiers who found themselves in needy circumstances this year. The soldiers were able to go to the Commissary during four days and purchase any food items they wanted except for alcohol and tobacco so they could have a nice holiday meal.

"This is a service we provide at the beginning of the holiday season. People were very generous this year and we were able to help a large number of enlisted," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Travaglione said. "It was a good amount of money, I think \$150, we were able to give to each."

The extra money left over from vouchers not given away allows the chaplains to continue to help people who come to them. First they call Army Community Service to make sure the people have not been able to get help elsewhere, then they supply them with money to get food items.

"It happens every year and we don't turn them away," Travaglione said.

The Catholic community at the chapel also helped five families that were not able to provide for themselves through another program called the "Angel Tree." The families, with 28 children altogether, submitted wish lists through an organization called the Christian Children's Association. Then the parishioners supplied the families with toys and clothes and donated turkey dinners.

Travaglione explained that since the chapel mainly holds Christian religious services, a manger is displayed outside and he and the other chaplains predominantly



Photo by Beth Skarupa

MANGER SCENE— Church-goers pause to look at the Christmas manger display before attending services at the Bicentennial Chapel.

deal with the holiday in relation to Christ's birth. Those are the services provided because the majority of people on post are Christian.

"So the Christmas season services here at the chapel deal with the birth of Christ. It's a happy season for us, in that God gave his only Son for us, and we're joyful and happy about that," Travaglione said. "But if anybody comes in for help, we're willing to help. If there's anything we can do, we do it. We are very sensitive to other people's religious beliefs and we respect them. Never as a chaplain would we turn anyone away, we would always help them."

At times, Jewish services have been held at the Bicentennial Chapel as well. But the

Jewish community opted to hold their Hanukkah services at two different locations in downtown Huntsville rather than using the chapel this year.

As for the Latter Day Saints and those from other religions, the chaplains have to refer them to services downtown because they are limited in regards to space, time and availability for another service at the chapel.

"There are plenty of churches downtown and most people have no problem with that," Travaglione said. "There are even those who don't want to come to the general Protestant service here. Many choose to go to their own denomination in downtown Huntsville." See Chapel on page 27

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Officials study plan for severe weather closure

By James Deweese

The command is taking a re-look and evaluating the inclement weather Redstone Arsenal base closure/delayed opening procedures to ensure the safety of all Redstone Arsenal employees. During Alabama's "Winter Weather Awareness Week" Dec. 6-10, Col. Steven Hamilton, the deputy post commander and Todd Hutto, the

Directorate of Management and Operations, Redstone Arsenal Support Activity attended an Inclement Weather Redstone Arsenal Base Closure/Delayed Base Opening working/planning group meeting at the AMCOM, Emergency Operations Center.

The working/planning group consisted of members from the DMO, the Provost Marshal's Office, the NASA Information

Support Center, the Public Affairs Office, the Personnel and Training Directorate, the Emergency Operations Center, and the Command Operations Center.

The working/planning group discussed and updated procedures in the event of a Redstone Arsenal base closure/delayed base opening and scheduled an exercise to test the Inclement Weather Base Closure coordination and notification procedures.

The exercise was held Dec. 14. As of this writing the success of the exercise is not known; however, if the results mirror the working/planning group meeting the exercise should be a success.

"I like what I see going on at this working group," Hamilton said during the meeting.

(Editor's note: Deweese is emergency action officer, Directorate of Management and Operations, Redstone Arsenal Support Activity.)

■ Bicentennial Chapel stays busy throughout the holiday season

Chapel

continued from page 26

Huntsville instead."

Although many soldiers and families leave to go home during the Christmas holidays, there still are a lot of people who attend services at the chapel. Travaglione explained that the chapel usually is full because there are many people who do not attend services during the year but who do attend at Christmas.

In addition to offering religious services, the chaplains are available to help those interested in getting counseling. Often single soldiers who are not able to go see their families for Christmas or family members who have a soldier who is away on duty want some counseling at this time of year. The chaplains try to help them and to give them a positive outlook.

"We tell them that they are not alone, and that when we do conduct these prayer services, we pray for them. We pray for the lonely, the homeless and the poor. They are not forgotten," Travaglione said. "After all, Christ came for all of us. The shepherds were the first to see Him and they were very poor. All these people are foremost in our minds."

Upcoming Christmas services at the chapel include a special musical presentation by a Protestant choir on Dec. 19; a Catholic Children's Christmas mass and pageant at 5 p.m., a Protestant Christmas candlelight service at 7 p.m. and a Catholic midnight mass beginning with a music prelude at 11 p.m. on Dec. 24; a Catholic mass at 5 p.m. on Dec. 25; and a Catholic mass at 9:15 a.m. and a Protestant service at 11 a.m. on Dec. 26.

For more information, call the Bicentennial Chapel at 876-5707.

Time cards

continued from page 1

could lose leave in excess of the 240-hour carryover limit.

"If they don't get the time in early, they could lose leave or have to go through the process of getting it restored," Williams said.

Here is the schedule for certifying time cards; there will be no exceptions or extensions on any of the dates:

- Dec. 5-18 pay period: Dec. 5-16—Timekeepers can input time until certified. Dec. 5-16—Bulk holidays (if regular day off is Friday, move holiday to Thursday).

Dec. 14-16—Window open for certification. Dec. 17-18—ATAAPS (Automated Time and Attendance Production System) is down. Dec. 5-16—Timekeepers can input time for Dec. 19 through Jan. 1.

- Dec. 19- Jan. 1 pay period: Dec. 19—ATAAPS is down. Dec. 20-22—Timekeepers can make changes until certified. Dec. 21-22—Window open for certification. Dec. 23- Jan. 2—ATAAPS is down. Dec. 23- Jan. 2—No corrected time cards processed until Jan. 3.

For more information call Williams at 876-8078 or Debbie Boyer, also of RMD, at 876-7104.

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What is the Ultimate Gift?



Dr. Gene Corfman

I read a recent article from an older couple who appealed to their family to not give the typical Christmas gifts, but rather to consider doing something meaningful for another person and to then just let the older couple know of the kind deed and assured them that would be the ultimate gift. After a few decades of Christmas giving, we begin to wonder just where it should all begin and where the madness should end. Have you ever considered giving a family member a ticket to pain relief or to better health possibilities? What do you think of the idea of helping your family member who has been suffering by sending them in to us for a check up of their condition? Instead of having another potential garage sale item, they would have some probable pain relief, some preventive health care or maybe the answer to their problem that keeps them awake at night. Look around your own home and ask yourself of the things that are collecting dust are making you as happy as pain relief or good health would. Put better health and Chiropractic Care from our office at the top of your list for that spouse, neighbor or favorite aunt who has had enough of the knick-knacks, trinkets and chocolates. And what better gift could you give yourself to cap off the century? Call us today for a gift certificate that can have decades of usefulness and appreciation by those you love most. Call 650-0051 Corfman Chiropractic, where quality, affordable care is our trademark!

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Watch out for Y2K bugs

Food safety important during holidays and in the new year to prevent illness

By Beth Skarupa

With many people traveling to see loved ones, eating at unfamiliar restaurants or partaking in large meals during the holidays, the chances of catching a foodborne illness become greater. "We need to arm people with the knowledge to keep them from getting sick," SSgt. Roger Walden, NCO in charge of food inspection for Redstone Arsenal, said.

Foodborne illness has flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or fever, so people may think they just "caught a bug" or had too much to drink. The illness is caused when harmful bacteria enter the food supply.

Infants, pregnant women, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems are at higher risk of getting ill from the harmful bacteria than others. Some people can become ill from ingesting only a few of the bacteria, while others may not have any

symptoms despite ingesting thousands.

Although Walden is a member of the Veterinary Corps, he works with a staff of three from offices at the Commissary inspecting all food upon delivery on a frequency basis and making sure it is coming from an approved source. His position as food inspector falls under the Veterinary Corps primarily because the commanders of these units have the high public health background required to be the medical corps officer with the authority to condemn food that is unfit.

Walden's job is to make sure that the installation receives the most wholesome and best quality products available for the money for the Department of Defense community. He commented that the Army has high standards because sick soldiers cannot fight and that food safety is important to him because he wants to prevent foodborne illness from being spread.

Most cases of foodborne illness can be

prevented. Proper cooking or processing of food destroys bacteria. Food must be handled safely in order to keep harmful bacteria out of the food that people eat.

"Sometimes people take food out of the freezer or off the table after eating and leave it out on the counter for a long period of time without thinking about it. Then it gets in the temperature danger zone," Walden said. "When they get nauseous later they think they drank too much, but that's not it. They've got a slight foodborne illness because food has been mishandled or not prepared correctly."

Bacteria multiply rapidly at room temperature. To keep food out of the "danger zone," cold food must be kept cold and hot food must be kept hot. Food should be stored in the refrigerator or freezer and frozen food should be thawed in the refrigerator, in cold water or in the microwave just before cooking.

"Bacterial growth increases if you don't keep food at an optimum temperature," Walden said. "There are certain things we can do to keep food safe. Shop for food safely, keep meats from dripping on other items."

When shopping, people should avoid buying cans or glass jars with dents, cracks or bulging lids because this may be a sign that the food contains harmful bacteria. Perishable goods should be put in the shop-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

CLEAN COOKING— Chef Elmore Hereford fries potatoes while adhering to food safety guidelines in the kitchen of the Sparkman Cafeteria.

ping cart last before checkout at the grocery store and taken straight home to be frozen or refrigerated immediately.

Harmful bacteria may be present on products such as raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs when they are purchased. Produce such as lettuce, tomatoes, sprouts and melons can also harbor harmful bacteria. Safely cooked, ready-to-eat foods can become contaminated with bacteria transferred from raw products, meat juices or other contaminated products or from poor personal hygiene.

"Hand washing is most crucial, especially for children and those with pets. It's the See Food on page 29

Blessings of the Season

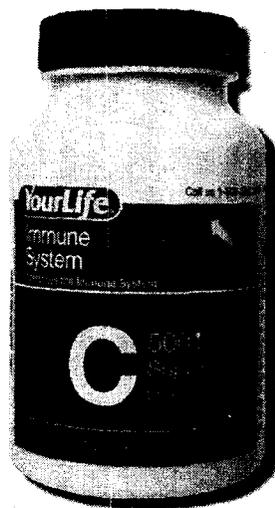


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How to weather transition

Flexibility can help employees clear fog from workplace change

By Patricia Johnson

Job changes, such as downsizing, reorganizing, realignments, RIFs, early retirements, promotions, demotions all create a great deal of worry and stress for us in the workplace. Sound familiar? If you work at Redstone Arsenal these types of changes have been going on for the past 10 years or more. The foreseeable future only offers more workplace changes and each of us will be affected. How and why some are able to seemingly breeze through changes and others are totally immobilized by the same events is the result of a variety of factors. These factors include understanding the stages of change and being able to detach from the familiar and reattach to the new, even when we know the change may be better for us.

When change first occurs, we feel like we have been hit broadside by a hurricane: we are in shock, enraged and feel panic. Instinctively, we are prone to slip into old, familiar unproductive habits. Instead, take stock of the situation; ask yourself "What can I do?" "What do I have control of, in this situation?"

The second stage is the transition stage

or the longest, most uncomfortable stage. The old job is gone and the new one is not quite in sight. This is a time of reflection as well as action. You may feel like you're in a thick fog. Brainstorming with people you trust may help you to clarify your future. You may consider classes to update your skills. Coping may include simply tolerating the fog.

The third stage places us back on firm ground; no matter how long it takes, we will make it to safety, often stronger than before. You will know more about who you are, what you want and how to adapt to the change. Assess what skills worked best for you through this period of change. You are now ready to engage in new goals, plans and directions.

I'm not going to tell you that workplace change is necessarily pleasant, yet the more information and knowledge you have, will at least make it bearable. Understanding the three stages of change will assist you to turn a nightmare into a manageable challenge.

(Editor's note: Johnson, psychology health educator at Fox Army Health Center, is available for classes and consultation on Surviving Changes in the Workplace; call 842-0196.)

Take steps to avoid foodborne bacteria during holidays

Food

continued from page 28

best way to cut down on harmful bacteria," Walden said. "I recommend if people use dish soap, that they use antibacterial."

Walden is responsible for inspecting all food and drink for 21 food establishments on post including those on the NASA side, the Sparkman Center, the Commissary, the PX, Burger King, the Shopette and the soldier dining facilities. He and his staff also are responsible for military and commercial sanitary inspections of all food suppliers who have contracts with the installation. He recommends paying attention to food safety measures wherever you eat.

"When you go to restaurants, be aware. If you walk in and the carpet is nasty, use basic common sense. Your first impression is a lasting impression," Walden said. "In Alabama, all restaurants have to display their state rating. If they got an 88 or whatever, you can ask what they were counted off on."

In case of a suspected foodborne illness, follow these guidelines: Preserve the evidence by saving and freezing a portion of the food if available, save all packaging and write down when it was eaten and the onset of symptoms. Seek treatment if necessary, especially if the victim is in a high risk group or if symptoms are severe. Call the local health department if the suspect food was served at a large gathering, from a restaurant or other food service facility or if it is a commercial product.

"I hope everyone will have a safe and happy holiday season and hopefully not get a Y2K bug that is a foodborne bacteria," Walden said.

For more information about safe food handling and preparation, call the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555 or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Outreach and Information Center at 1-888-SAFE FOOD or visit the Partnership for Food Safety Education website at www.fightbac.org.

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Courtesy photo

Corpus Christi co-hosts...

Dik Johnson, left, and Roland Guzman meet with CCAD commander, Col. Mitch Dockens after the two had co-hosted the Barbara Jordan Awards Ceremony in Corpus Christi sponsored by the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities last month. Guzman is the chairman and Johnson the vice chairman of the Corpus Christi Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities. Guzman has retired from CCAD but drove in to accept his award presented by the commander.

Best present for pets

Post veterinarian advises pet owners to be vigilant during holidays

By Beth Skarupa

What's the best present a pet could get this Christmas? A safe and loving home.

With Christmas coming up, pet owners need to be extra vigilant about what their pets are eating. Chocolate in large quantities can be toxic to animals and poinsettias are poisonous.

Although people tend to over-indulge during the holiday season, they should not allow their pets to do so. Capt. John R. Harvey, post veterinarian, recommends dry food twice a day for pets and milk bones as treats.

"Stay away from human food because it can cause upset stomach or diarrhea in animals. Some pets have stronger stomachs than others, but it's better to be safe than sorry," Harvey said.

As the weather gets colder, breeds that are not used to being outside need to be brought in. Harvey explained that while Huskies probably can stay outside, lap dogs

such as Pekinese need to be brought inside during cold weather. Also, pets need more food during winter and owners should ensure that water does not get frozen over. Although dogs can go several days without food, they cannot go without water.

Pet owners especially need to watch out for anti-freeze, making sure not to leave it out where their pet can get to it. Dogs like to eat anti-freeze because it tastes sweet to them, but it causes rapid kidney failure.

"It's treatable if it's caught early on, if you see anti-freeze on the dog's lips or see early signs. These include mild to severe depression, noticeable because the dog gets lethargic or is not his usual self barking and wagging his tail. The dog may be vomiting, wobbling while walking, have head tremors, or be drinking and urinating a lot," Harvey said. "If it has a sudden onset, consider the circumstances surrounding the illness, like was the dog left in the garage after recently changing the anti-freeze?"



Photo by Beth Skarupa

TWO BEST FRIENDS— Julia Mitchell, a family care provider on Redstone Arsenal, plays with her dogs Lady and Sammy in her backyard.

Bait traps for rodents also are toxic to pets. Harvey suggests keeping hydrogen peroxide on hand because if a pet eats rat poison, the hydrogen peroxide can be used to induce vomiting. But he warns pet owners to call their veterinarian first, because some rodent traps use caustic agents that are not good to throw up.

In most cases, it is better to call and get a veterinarian's advice before treating a pet. Harvey or veterinary services on post can be reached at 876-7395.

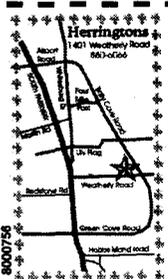
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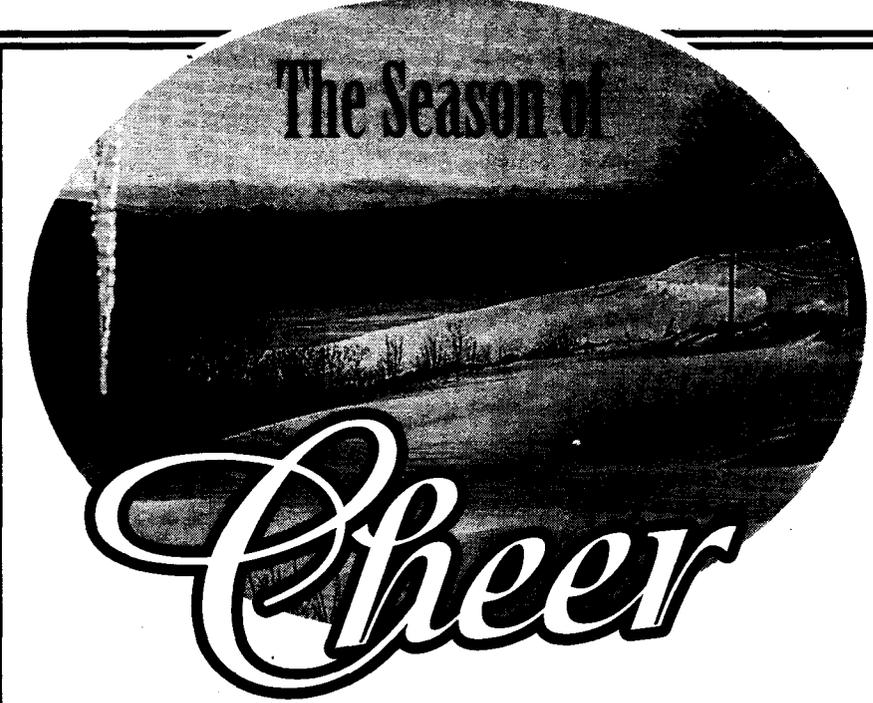
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**ARMY MERIT PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENTS
REDSTONE ARSENAL AND THE HUNTSVILLE AREA**

These announcements provided by the AMCOM CPAC can be found on the web at www.cpol.army.mil. This list includes announcements that opened prior to Friday before Rocket publication date and close on/after the publication date. Most of these announcements are limited to Army employees.

Other announcements that are open to all U.S. citizens can be found at www.opm.gov

PVA NUMBER	POSITION TITLE	CLOSES	LOCATION	PP-SERIES	GRADE	POT
00D0289KH	Budget Analyst	15-Dec-99	AMCOM RMD	GS-0560	11	11
00D0278WT	Information Mgmt Spec	15-Dec-99	AMCOM CIC	GS-0301	13	13
00C0250GC	Logistics Assistant	15-Dec-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0303	7	7
00D0290KH	Financial Systems Spec	15-Dec-99	AMCOM RMD	GS-0501	9	9
00D0288BL	General Engineer	15-Dec-99	AMCOM DSA	GS-0801	14	14
00C0281FM	Personnel Assistant	16-Dec-99	AMCOM CPAC	GS-0203	5	5
00C0291FM	CIV Prog Coordinator	16-Dec-99	AMCOM Military Pers	GS-0101	11	11
00D0319DW	Lead Strategic Coordina	16-Dec-99	AMCOM IDEMO	GS-0301	14	14
00D0328DW	Intern Prog Mgmt Spec	16-Dec-99	AMCOM SAMD	GS-0301	13	13
00D0320DW	Logistics Mgmt Spec	16-Dec-99	AMCOM SAMD	GS-0346	12	12
00C0239BR	Management Analyst	16-Dec-99	SMDC	GS-0343	11	11
00C0287RC	Logistics Mgmt Spec	17-Dec-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0346	12	12
00B0276AC	Career Mgmt Spec	17-Dec-99	USAAESA	NH-0301	11	11
00B0256AL	Product Manager	17-Dec-99	PEO Air Missile	GS-0340	14	14
00D0279DB	Mgmt. Analyst	17-Dec-99	USAOMMCS	GS-0343	11	11
00C0062BR	Patent Attorney	20-Dec-99	SMDC	GS-1222	13	13
00B0252SS	Aerospace Engineer	20-Dec-99	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-0861	11	11
HA99A2828	Instruct. Systems Spec.	20-Dec-99	CofE Huntsville Ctr.	GS-1750	7	11
00C0307RH	Secretary (Steno/OA)	20-Dec-99	SMDC	GS-0318	8	8
00D0340DB	Secretary (OA)	20-Dec-99	USAOMMCS	GS-0318	5	5
00D0303DB	Explosives Test Oper.	20-Dec-99	USAOMMCS	WG-6517	10	10
00B0254SH	Aerospace Engineer	21-Dec-99	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	11	11
00B0253SH	Aerospace Engineer	21-Dec-99	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	11	11
00D0318WT	Health Physicist	21-Dec-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-1306	13	13
00D0312BL	Program Analyst	21-Dec-99	AMCOM DSA	GS-0343	11	11
00B0330AC	Program Analyst	21-Dec-99	PEO Aviation	GS-0343	11	11
00D0339KH	Calib. Coordin. Spec.	21-Dec-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-0301	9	9
00D0311BL	General Engineer	21-Dec-99	AMCOM DSA	GS-0855	13	13
00D0338KH	Electronics Tech.	21-Dec-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-0856	11	11
00D0314BL	Oper. Systems Analyst	21-Dec-99	AMCOM DSA	GS-0301	13	13
00D0336WT	Health Physicist	21-Dec-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-1306	12	12
00C0340FM	Budget Analyst	21-Dec-99	LOGSA	GS-0560	9	9
00D0321WT	Engineering Tech.	21-Dec-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-0802	7	7
00D0316	Health Physicist	21-Dec-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-1306	12	12
00D0317WT	Engineering Tech.	21-Dec-99	AMCOM TMDE	GS-0802	6	6
00C0295RC	General Engineer	22-Dec-99	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0801	13	13
00B0323SH	Electronics Engineer	22-Dec-99	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0855	11	11
00B0324SH	Electronics Engineer	22-Dec-99	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0855	11	11
00B0325SH	Electronics Engineer	22-Dec-99	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0855	11	11
HA99A2843	Civil Engr.-Envir. Engr.	24-Dec-99	CofE Huntsville Ctr.	GS-0810/19	12	12
00D0042DB	Electronics Engineer	31-Dec-99	STRICOM	GS-0855	7	11
00D0041DB	Electronics Engineer	31-Dec-99	STRICOM	GS-0855	12	12
00A0308PA	Program Manager	5-Jan-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr.	GS-0340	15	15
00C240BR	Supv. Security Spec.	10-Jan-00	SMDC	GS-0080	14	14
00D0302BJ	General Engineer	18-Jan-00	PEO Tact. Missiles	GS-0801	14	14
00B08699	Criminal Investigator	13-Apr-00	CID	GS-1811	9-12	12



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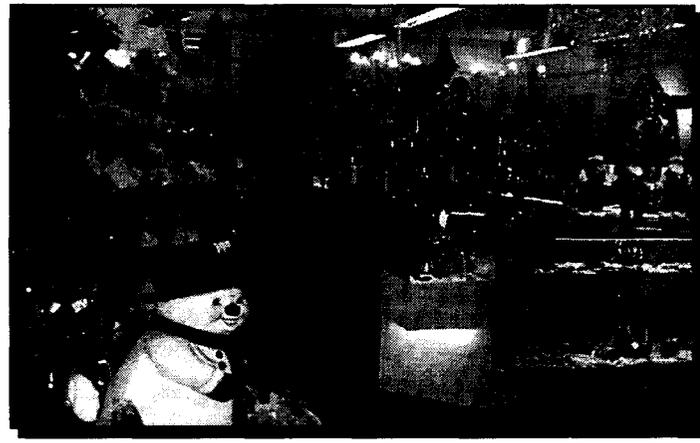
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Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Johnson football

Johnson High School will hold its football banquet Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults, and \$7 for students. The players are guests. Tickets may be purchased at the front office. For more information, call Johnson High School 851-4180.

Miscellaneous

Future scientists

Applications are available for the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program for high school students and the College Apprentice Program. The distribution point of contact for applications is the senior counselor at public, private and parochial high schools. Possible career placement areas at the Aviation and Missile Command include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The Science and Engineering Apprentice Program is for students who have demonstrated aptitude interest in science and engineering courses and careers. Eligible students must be U.S. citizens who are at least age 15 by the beginning date of the program, June 15, 2000. The College Apprentice Program is for undergraduate students who have completed the SEAP and are enrolled in a scientific or technical major. Besides school counselors, applications are also available from the Management Employee Relations and Training Branch, Betty Duke, in building 5303, at 313-4790 or Jerrel McCollum 842-8850.

Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley, Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel announces the following: Rosary is recited daily at 11:30 a.m. followed either by mass or a communion service at noon. A Latin mass will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday and a Korean mass at 6 p.m.

IMMC party

The IMMC Christmas Party will be held 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Redstone Arsenal Club ballroom. There will be entertainment, door prizes, and turkey and dressing dinner. Tickets are \$10 each. For tickets call Jan Pickard 842-7849, Vanessa

Adair 313-1635 or Pat Blackman 842-8101.

Alcoholics Anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For information call 313-1478. The Redstone Arsenal Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 of the Bicentennial Chapel.

Party tickets

Buy your tickets now for the "best little non-formal millennium 2000 New Year's Eve Party in Alabama." Sponsored by your Civilian Welfare Fund Council, the party will be held Dec. 31 at the Rustic Lodge. The dress code is strictly "casual." Heavy hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, dance contests, balloon drop (over \$600 in total prizes), party favors, and an after midnight breakfast—all for \$45 per person. For ticket information, call 955-6739.

PX news

Holiday hours at the Post Exchange include the following: On Dec. 24—One Stop open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Service Station, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Burger King, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Dec. 25—One Stop, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Service Station, closed; Burger King, closed. Dec. 31—One Stop, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Service Station, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Burger King, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Jan. 1—One Stop, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Service Station, closed; and Burger King, closed.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday 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.

Astronomical society

The Von Braun Astronomical Society invites you to bring the entire family to a program on the Christmas Star at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. Sandy Sherman is to tell stories about the wise men; and Steve Sauerwein is to give an astronomer's view of the Christmas Star. After the program, step outside to view the loveliest Christmas lights of all, the night sky. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 464-0945.

Admin professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) will hold its regular monthly meeting at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Twickenham Room, at the Redstone Arsenal Club. Gerri Mills is to present the program; she is accepting donations for "Christmas All Year Round." Membership is open to all federally employed administrative professionals. For more information on IAAP, call membership chairman Jackie Kenner 876-8131.

Christmas trees

All offices, day rooms, military personnel on active duty, and other activities requiring Christmas trees, are authorized to cut trees on a self-help basis in the area northeast of the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) Area which is located across the road from the Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity. Trees shall not be cut for commercial or unauthorized use. This area has been marked with orange flagging for easy recognition. Travel will be limited to the single pasture trail along the east side of the open pastureland. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Extreme caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside of the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees should be cut by Dec. 24 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Tree trimmings should not be left on grassed rights-of-way, railroad tracks or access roads. For more information and location map, contact personnel at the Outdoor Recreation building 5132, phone 876-4868.

Sparkman barbershop

A barbershop is now open in the Sparkman Complex's service center, building 5302. Willie Hughley, the operator, promises quality haircuts and eyebrow arching. He offers military discounts (including veterans). Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 881-8179.

Weight control program

For military beneficiaries: Did you make weight management one of your New Year's Resolutions? Well, Fox Army Health Center is here to help you with your goal. Starting Jan. 18, the weight control program, "A Lifetime of Weight Control and Fitness" is being offered. Unlike diet

programs that typically fail and make us "fatter," this program has proven success. This program is a nutrition education program as well as a weight control program. Be advised, you will not lose weight quickly. Instead, you will begin making permanent, realistic changes in your eating and exercise habits—changes that will become a natural part of your lifestyle. It may take six months, a year, or more to reach your personal goals, but you will maintain them for a lifetime. Past participants have rated the program as excellent and stated "the program is wonderful," and "I am eating healthier and determined to continue a regiment of exercise." Classes are scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Jan. 18 to April 18. To register call the Public Health and Education Center 842-0196.

Tobacco cessation

Have you thought about your New Year's resolution? Or could that be the resolution for the millennium? Is tobacco cessation included for the millennium? Fox Army Health Center/Public Health and Education Center (PHEC) will offer another round of tobacco cessation classes. The program will start Jan. 13. One class will be offered on Thursday, from 11 a.m.-noon. The program continues for 10 sessions over a 2 1/2 month period and is offered at Fox Army Health Center. These classes are free and limited to military eligible beneficiaries. The "pill" (Zyban) will be available for use. Recent research has shown this to be highly effective in helping reduce the craving for nicotine. The success rate increases to close to 50 percent when used with education and group support. To register call PHEC, Fox Army Health Center 842-0196. For more information, call Eileen Bailey 842-0149. Space is limited. The next class will be an evening class starting Feb. 22 from 5-6 p.m. if enough interest.

Holiday mail for soldiers

The Military Postal Service Agency, Department of Defense in coordination with the Postal Service has initiated an "Any Service Member/Any Family Member Mail" program. Any Service Member/Any Family Member Mail is that mail sent by the general public to an unspecified servicemember or families of deployed servicemembers, as

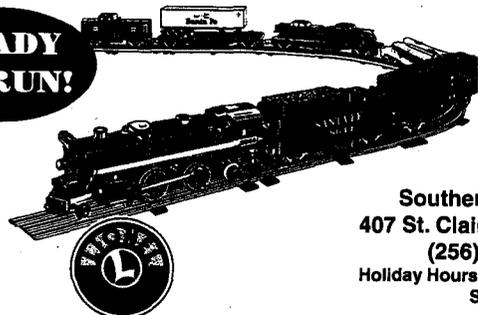
See Announcements on page 33

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Announcements

an expression of support or patriotism. Letters and cards must be addressed simply to "Any Service Member" or "Any Family Member." Three distinct zip codes and addresses are available. Employees and activities of Redstone Arsenal wishing to send letters or cards to deployed servicemembers or their families can use the following addresses: To send letters or cards to servicemembers deployed to the Balkans: Any Service Member, Operation Joint Forge, APO AE 09397-0001. To send letters or cards to family members of servicemembers deployed to the Balkans: Any Family Member, Operation Joint Forge, APO AE 09399-0001. To send letters or cards to sailors or Marines aboard ship in the area: Any Service Member, Operation Joint Forge FPO AE 09398-0001. In addition to the aforementioned addresses employees/activities of Redstone Arsenal may use the approved official mail appropriated funds for postage to send letters or cards to known servicemembers. Mail addresses to known servicemembers (by name) must be sent to the specific APO AE number. The correct format and locations are: Format for Army Personnel: Grade/Rank and Full Name, Deployed Unit Designation, Operation Joint Forge, APO AE 097XX. The APO AE numbers include 09779, Zagreb, Croatia; 09780, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; 09781, Split and Ploche, Croatia; 09782, Kiseljac, Bosnia-Herzegovina; 09789, Army in U.S. Sector of Bosnia; and 09793, Army in Hungary. A toll free hotline

has been established at Military Postal Service Agency to assist mailers in verifying active zip codes in support of operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and any restrictions imposed on them. The number is 1-800-810-6098. The phone is manned on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time).

Transition workshop

The Military Personnel Office, in conjunction with the Alabama Employment Services Office, will hold a Transition Assistance Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 11-13 for transitioning military personnel and their family members. This workshop will include resume preparation, employment orientation, and those actions you must take prior to separation or retirement from military service. It is mandatory that all military personnel separating from military service within the next 180 days attend this presentation unless they have attended a previous TAP workshop. Prior scheduling is required; and securing a seat in the TAP workshop 30-60 days in advance is recommended. For more information, call Tanzella Jackson 842-2721.

Timekeepers

Resource Management provided the following ATAAPS reminder for the Dec. 19-Jan. 1 pay period: Dec. 19—ATAAPS not available for input. Dec. 20-22—Timekeepers can make changes until certified. Dec. 21-22—Window open for certification. Dec. 23-Jan. 2—ATAAPS not avail-

able for input. Dec. 23-Jan. 2—No correct-ed timecards processed until Jan. 3.

Singles ministries

The Singles Ministries of Whitesburg and Willowbrook Baptist Churches invite singles from across the Tennessee Valley to a New Year's Eve celebration featuring contemporary Christian music of live bands and big-screen videos, live drama, decorations/party favors, and snacks. The celebration will be held at 8 p.m. Dec. 31 in the gymnasium of Whitesburg Baptist Church. Cost is \$5 (at the door).

Marine Corps exercise

A mobilization operational readiness deployment test will be held Jan. 5 at the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in Huntsville. K Battery, 4th Battalion, 14th Marines will be tested on its mobilization capabilities and its ability to deploy rapidly. This test is conducted biyearly by every Marine Corps Reserve unit nationwide.

Gift wrapping

The Active and Retired Spouses Club will

do its annual gift wrapping at the Post Exchange beginning Friday and continuing until Dec. 24. Anyone interested in volunteering for this gift wrap booth should call Jacqueline Meador 842-0063 or Dessie Johnson 536-0084, ext. 310.

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will present one or more Merit Awards to eligible graduating high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or vocational school and to undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled in a college and working toward a degree. Applicants must be family members of active duty, retired, reserve, or deceased commissioned or warrant officers. All applicants just submit a photo-copy of a valid military identification card with the completed application. Their primary residence must be with parents or parent residing in the Huntsville area. Students on a fully paid scholarship or who have previously received this award are not eligible to apply. Merit award applications

See Announcements on page 34

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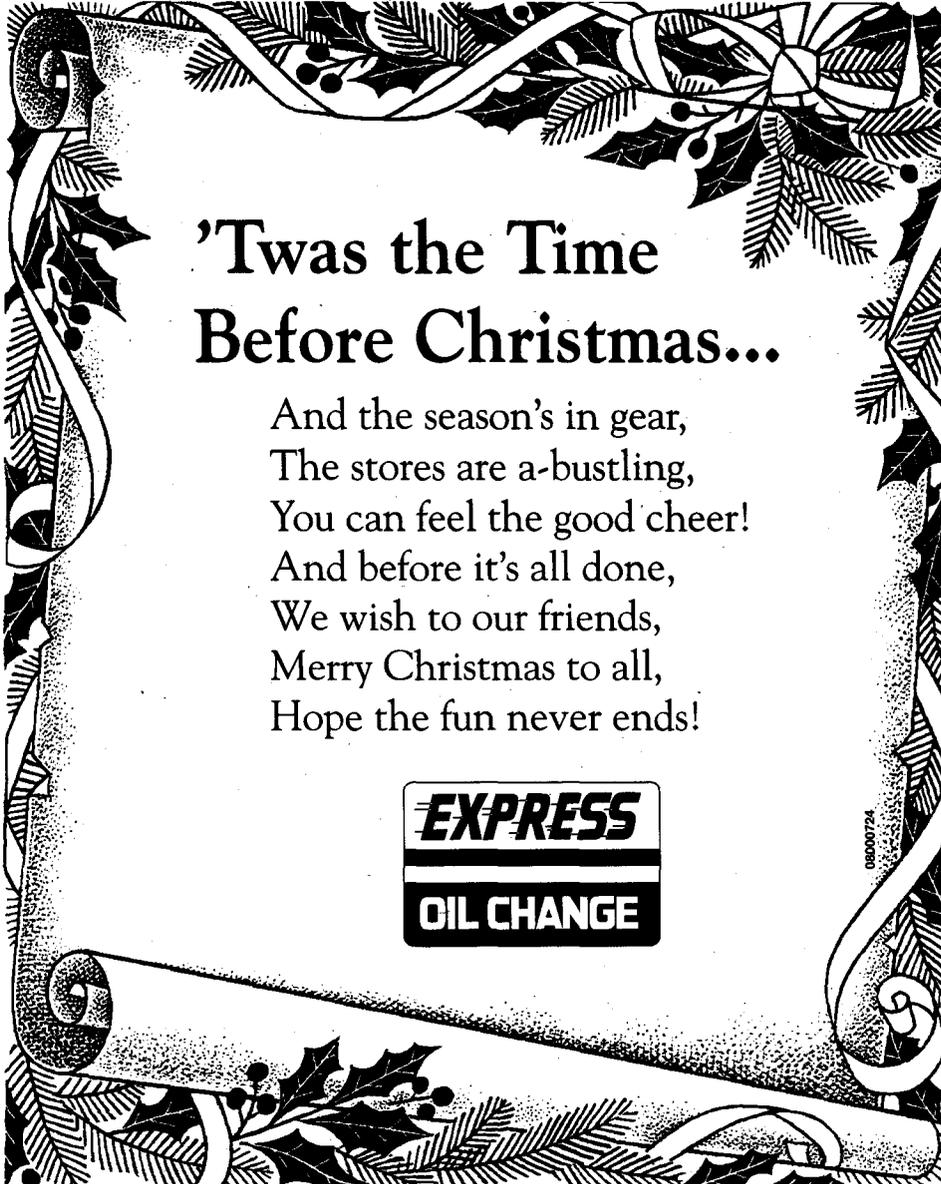
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**'Twas the Time
Before Christmas...**

And the season's in gear,
The stores are a-bustling,
You can feel the good cheer!
And before it's all done,
We wish to our friends,
Merry Christmas to all,
Hope the fun never ends!

EXPRESS

OIL CHANGE

Announcements

are also available for spouses of active duty, retired, reserve, or deceased commissioned or warrant officers who have been accepted or are attending an accredited college or university as an undergraduate or graduate student. All applicants must hold a valid military identification card and their primary residence must be in the Huntsville area. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible to apply. The deadline to apply for merit awards is March 7. Applications can be obtained by written request to Linda Butler, merit awards chairman, 49 Ripley Drive, Redstone Arsenal 35808. Include your phone number and the type of merit award you are applying for (i.e. high school, college or spouse) on all requests.

Tax assistance volunteers

Redstone Arsenal's Tax Assistance Program is looking for volunteers to help military retirees and family members file their personal tax forms. Volunteers must complete a training class scheduled Jan. 10-14 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Following the successful completion of the class, volunteers will be called upon to volunteer at the Tax Assistance Center which opens Feb 1. To register for the class or receive further information, call Capt. Chin-Zen Plotner 876-9005.

Science center

Sci-Quest, formerly called the North Alabama Science Center Inc., is located at 102-D Wynn Drive (the northwest corner of the Calhoun Community College campus) in Research Park. Since opening in early

1999, Sci-Quest has provided over 4,300 visitors (students, parents, grandparents and teachers) the opportunity to learn and grow in a stimulating, enjoyable environment. Designed to enhance science education in an informal learning setting, visitors not only gain understanding of today's technology, but also generate ideas and visions for tomorrow. Sci-Quest is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, noon-6 p.m. Saturday and 1-6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3.75 for seniors, \$3 for children 5-18, \$1.50 for children 3-4; and children under 2 are admitted free.

SMDC job openings

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands has the following vacancies which have already been announced or will be announced in the near future on the web at www.cpol.army.mil. Filling of these positions will be restricted to current permanent federal employees or reinstatement eligible. These positions are two year accompanied tours: GS 950-09 Paralegal Specialist, announcement 00C0251RH, closing Dec. 15; GS 560-09 Budget Analyst, announcement 00C027BR, closing Dec. 17; GS 801-14 Supervisory General Engineer, closing date to be announced; and GS 2001-12 General Supply Specialist, closing date to be announced. For more information, call Paula Brumlow 955-3301.

Union meeting

The National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), Local 405 will meet today at noon at the union office, building 3209 on Hercules Road. For information call 313-2252.

Fox Army Health Center

Fox Army Health Center will be on holiday hours Dec. 24, 27, 31 and Jan. 3. All clinics and Pharmacy will be closed, with the exception of the Evening Weekend Clinic. Evening Weekend Clinic hours for Dec. 24 through 27 and Dec. 31 through Jan. 3 are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule same day urgent appointments call the Advice Nurse, 24 hours a day, at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531. On Dec. 17, all clinics and offices will close at 1 p.m. The Pharmacy will close at 5 p.m. A physician will be available for same day urgent appointments until 8 p.m. To obtain these appointments call the Advice Nurse at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day, year round.

Holiday videotape series

Today, the Army Learning Center will present Dr. Stephen Covey's video, "A Matter of Character." Filmed in London, this film focuses on a brief but critical time in the life of a famous 19th century British author during which he faces serious personal and business problems. Fears of financial ruin are smothering his ability to write. We see how his creativity is finally unleashed when he discovers a personal mission that enables him to transcend his problems. This film captures the central themes of giving and sharing that associated with the holiday season. As the Army Learning Center concludes its Holiday Survival series, we find that stress, a common holiday problem, can be reduced when we focus on those things that are truly important in our lives. The videotape will run continuously from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the side section of the Sparkman Cafeteria. The Army Learning Center resources, located in building 5304, third floor, are available for all Team Redstone personnel. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 7:30-4. For more information, call 876-1061. The Army Learning Center wishes you and yours a very happy holiday season.

MWR activities

Holiday hours for morale, welfare and recreation activities include the following: Redstone Arsenal Club—closed Dec. 16 for lunch and open for dinner that evening; closed Dec. 24-25; closed for lunch and dinner Dec. 30, with business office open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. JOC (Just Our Club)—closed Dec. 24-25, closed Dec. 31 through Jan. 3. Soldatenstube—closed Dec. 24-25, closed Dec. 31 through Jan. 3. Redstone Golf Course—closed Christmas and New Year's. Army Community Service—closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Challenger Bingo—closed Dec. 23 and Jan. 4. Bowling Center—closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 2. Arts and Crafts—closed Dec. 24-27, closed Dec. 30 through Jan. 2. Auto Crafts—closed Dec. 23-25, open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 26, closed Dec. 30 through Jan. 1, open Jan. 2 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Redstone Flying Activity—closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. MWR Library—closed Dec. 22-27 and Dec. 30 through Jan. 2. Redstone Fitness Center—closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31 through Jan. 1. Recreation Center—open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 22-26, closed Dec. 27-28, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 29-31, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 1-2. Pagano Gymnasium—closed Dec. 24-25, Dec. 30 and Jan. 1. Sparkman Fitness Center—open 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 23, closed Dec. 24-25, closed Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. Wellness Center—open 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 23, closed Dec. 24-25, open 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 27-30, closed Dec. 31 through Jan. 2. School Age Services—closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Youth Services—closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Child Development Center—closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Outdoor Recreation—open Dec. 19 from 4:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset, open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 20-21, open Dec. 22-23 from 4:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset, open Dec. 24 from 4:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., closed Dec. 25, open Dec. 26 from 4:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset, open 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Dec. 27-28, open Dec. 29-30 from 4:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset, open Dec. 31 from 4:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., closed Jan. 1, open Jan. 2 from 4:30 a.m. until one hour after sunset; hours are subject to change based on the number of deer harvested.



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