

Redstone Rocket

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February 2, 2000

Get out and vote in 2000 election

Voting assistance officers gearing up to help soldiers with absentee ballots this year

By Skip Vaughn

Unless you've been living in a cave, you've seen the advertisements. You've heard the candidates and the issues. Well, duh. This is an election year. And the Army tries to ensure soldiers have the opportunity to vote no matter where on earth they're stationed.

Voting assistance officers have been designated throughout Redstone by unit commanders. These soldiers help their comrades exercise their fundamental right and responsibility as U.S. citizens.

"We want to encourage people to get out and vote," Joe Winston, the command's senior voting assistance officer, said. "We want to assist them in answering their questions and to ensure they have the right material in hand to do that."

"It's going to be a really busy year, I hope," Lew Spencer, the alternate voting assistance officer, said. "You want everybody to vote."

Each unit's voting assistance officer has information to help soldiers vote absentee.

"The voting assistance officers are responsible to ensure that information and assistance is made available to soldiers and their family members to assist them in exercising their voting privileges," Winston said. "They're also responsible for posting newsletters and information in high traffic areas within the unit or within the area of responsibility."

The voting assistance officer should have a copy of the 2000-01 Voting Assistance Guide, containing information on the various elections and the voting requirements. The guide also has information on each state's voting requirements.

"It's a constitutional right and a privilege that a lot of people in the world don't have," Spencer, deputy adjutant general at the Military Personnel Office, said. "And I think it's a responsibility for everybody to get out and vote and get the people in office that'll do the most good for the country. It's a lot harder for the soldier who's away from home to vote; and we try to make it a lot easier for them."

See Voting on page 7



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PATRIOTIC DUTY— Spencer, left, and Winston discuss the responsibility of citizens to vote in this election year.

RASA restructures now for reorganization later

QDR cuts and A76 study reshape future of Redstone Arsenal Support Activity

By Sandy Riebeling

It's coming down to the wire. On May 14, everyone will know the outcome of the three-year A-76 study being conducted at RASA. The question is whether or not the nearly 300 jobs included in the study will stay government or be contracted. The issue at hand is how to prepare for the change.

"Win or lose, this organization will change," Darrell Brewer, executive assistant, Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, said. "We are going through a restructuring See RASA on page 15



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PEOPLE ARE JOB 1— With all the changes taking place, Brewer lists his top priority as taking care of the work force.

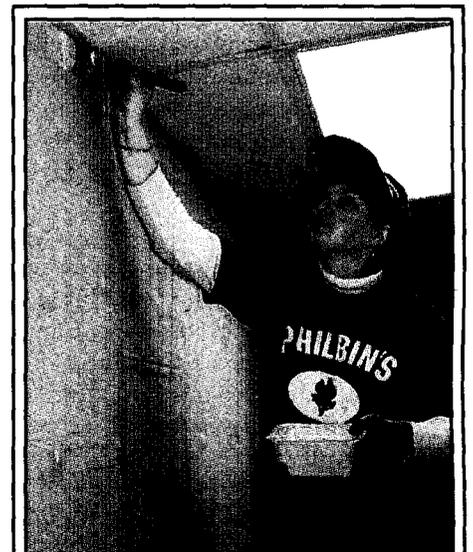


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

Facelift...

Volunteers and staff at the Thrift Shop say that the new building is a dream come true, even if it does need a little paint. This is the first of many walls Judy Morgida plans to paint. See story on page 8.

Office professionals plan seminar
Annual training

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Department puts ideas on display
Graphics group

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Choking victim rescued at work
Real lifesaver

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Letters to the editor

Soldatenstube history lesson

Your article on the Soldatenstube (Jan. 12 issue) generally was enjoyable but not totally historically accurate. When the German battalion moved to Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1993 the German colonel (Helmut Bosch?) felt the Lutheran pastors and his own chaplain stationed in Washington, D.C. would be more comfortable if the doublewide trailer was given to the chaplain section at Redstone Arsenal. This was done at a very public ceremony at the Soldatenstube with pictures being taken of the colonel officially handing over the keys to me.

Several factors militated against the chaplain section keeping the Soldatenstube although it was put to good use: unit meetings, bridge games, chaplain affairs, post meetings, etc. The roof leaked and the post engineers alleged they had not put money aside for the Soldatenstube repairs. The chaplains could not fund the repairs. Secondly the Enlisted persons Club (Soldiers) once again was a huge financial flop. Though in the area and open for lunch at least toward the end, it just could not cut it.

The MWR, especially the Officers Club, had an eye on the site for the business reason as a quasi annex. They came forward as a white knight.

I will not bore you with further historical details but you will note that the present Soldatenstube opened in October '94 and I retired on July 1, '94—surely an interesting phenomenon.

In context, I was post chaplain from late April '91 to July '94, and I participated in all dealings with the colonel and the Officers Club. I will always remember Maj. Gen. Joe Rigby's sage advice when I told him of my dealings and provisions of ownership with MWR: "Get it in writing."

I enjoyed your article, in fact the whole newspaper. Robert Schumann, the Soldatenstube manager at the present time, has either a poor memory, or has poor historical records. I should know, because I was there from the very beginning.

Rev. Norbert Bykowski
McHenry, Ill.

Valid driver's license requirement

In the Jan. 19 issue of the Rocket, there was a front page story about the new badging/decal process. In it, it was mentioned that updating a vehicle decal involves presenting a "valid driver's license." Since it is unconstitutional for any state to impose a requirement to obtain a driver's license, Alabama appropriately has no such law. Since one can legally drive on Alabama's and Redstone's highways without possessing a state-issued license, how can the decal office require it? What they should require in lieu of the "valid driver's license" is proof of employment at Redstone. Can you please have someone from the decal office respond to this?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Provost Marshal's Office provided the following response. "Title 32 of the Alabama Code and MICOM Regulation 210-2 requires a driver's license. Article 1, Drivers' Licenses, Division 1, General Provisions,

32-6-1. Required; numbers; renewal—Identification cards. (a) Every person, except those specifically exempted by statutory enactment, shall procure a driver's license before driving a motor vehicle upon the highways of this state.

Every new resident of the State of Alabama shall procure an Alabama driver's license within 30 days after establishing residence in this state.

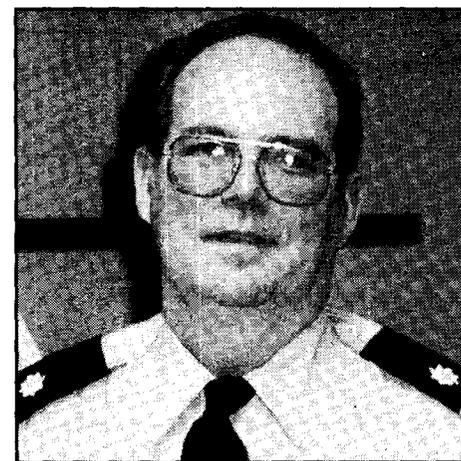
"MICOM Regulation, Jan. 28, 1993, No. 210-2: Appendix B, Traffic Regulations I. General Provisions. a. In accordance with the guidance provided by DoD Directive 5525.4, Enforcement of State Traffic Laws on DoD Installations, Nov. 2, 1981; AR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, July 8, 1988, those portions of the Alabama Motor Vehicle and Traffic Laws (Title 32, Code of Alabama 1975 or its successor) applicable to vehicle owners, vehicle operators, passengers and pedestrians, as well as those to penalties for violations are adopted and will be enforced on Redstone Arsenal."

Tribute to friend

Huntsville lost one of the University of Tennessee's biggest football fans at the beginning of what everyone called the new millennium. In a town full of Alabama and Auburn fans, Lee loved to show his support for the Vols (especially after Tennessee won the 1998 national championship). How could anyone miss his white van with two UT flags blowing in the wind? Well, they will be missed because Lee O'Dell Smith died Jan. 1 at the age of 45 in a tragic accident involving his tractor.

Lee, his wife Linda and their two young sons moved here from St. Louis in 1997 when the Army's Aviation and Troop Command (ATCOM) and Missile Command (MICOM) merged to become the Aviation and Missile Command. Lee worked in the Comanche Program Management Office, and Linda works in AMCOM's Aviation Engineering Directorate. Lee graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's in aerospace engineering and a master's in mechanical engineering. He began his Army aviation career in 1979 as a new lieutenant, just after completing graduate school, stationed at the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, Fort Eustis, Va. From 1982 to the present he continued that career as a civilian aerospace engineer at ATCOM in St. Louis and PEO Aviation Comanche Office at AMCOM in Huntsville. He also continued to serve as an active reservist, most recently at the rank of lieutenant colonel with the Tank-Automotive Armaments Command in Warren, Mich.

Lee was very active in his church and with the Boy Scouts. At Locust Grove Baptist Church, he established a children's library which benefits both teachers and children, and was one of the Royal Ambassador leaders, which introduces boys in grades 1-6, to world missions. He



LEE SMITH

was also a den leader in his sons' Cub Scout troop and had, in fact, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout as a young man.

In addition to his love for his family, his church and UT, Lee had a passion for building and flying aircraft. From an early age Lee shared his father's love of flying and became a licensed pilot at the age of 16. As a child he built an extensive number of model airplanes and even a wind tunnel. He made aerial pictures from a clipped wing J3 Cub to help finance college. Lee ran the Fort Eustis Flying Club while stationed in Virginia, more than doubling the membership as well as the number of aircraft that the club provided. Over the years, Lee helped build or reconstruct over nine different types of aircraft. The last effort was a couple of composite, single seat, aircraft that he and his wife worked on. In recent years, he was excited about building aircraft models with his sons in order to pass on that passion for flight.

Lee is survived by his wife of 23 years, Linda, and his sons, Spencer, 9, and Wesley, 7. He is also survived by his parents, Eugene and Kathryn Smith, of Talbot, Tenn. He will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him.

Andy Dobbs
SMDC

Leave transfer program idea

I would like to bring a problem with the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program (VLTP) to the attention of the Redstone Rocket readers. I recently had to undergo back surgery. Beforehand, I submitted and was subsequently approved for the VLTP. I never received any confirmation of this. After I returned to work, a co-worker told me that I was on the list at the

VLTP website:

<http://micnt7.redstone.army.mil/vltp/>. I found the link on the AMCOM site Subject Index, but found no indication at the site as to why I needed donated leave. Unfortunately, I received no donations.

The problem with the VLTP is that there is no publicity. I am sure there are

See Leave on page 12

Redstone Rocket

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Training to awaken the mind

Administrative professionals plan fifth annual seminar, education forum Feb. 15

By Margaret Banish-Donaldson

Though many people think of education as a calling, June Pockrus, president, and Ellen Mahathey, president-elect, Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals, see it as a way to challenge their thinking and help them gain a competitive edge in their careers.

"IAAP has opened up a network with the world for me," Mahathey said. "It has given me a chance to attend local, national and international conventions, and meet people from all over the world."

On Feb. 15, IAAP's Redstone Arsenal's Chapter will hold its fifth annual seminar and education forum at the Huntsville Hilton. Anita Reed, international keynote speaker, will give a talk on "Upgrading Your Skills to the Latest Version of Success."

For 20 years, Reed has developed and conducted seminars for major corporations, professional associations, government agencies, and educational institutions throughout the United States and foreign countries. As president of her own firm, she shares viable techniques to help others achieve the success they deserve. In addition to one's career, she strongly encourages everyone to capture the true feeling of success with a balance of family / career /

community.

"The funding from these seminars is what helps our chapter provide scholarships every year to high school or college students majoring in business," Pockrus said. "It also enables us to offer access to association programs and products to educators for their classroom. We are proud of what we're offering our schools and communities."

Concurrent workshop sessions will address issues such as simplifying and organizing one's work environment, self-esteem, power point made easy, home and office ergonomics, balancing life and work, retirement, avoiding injuries, estate planning and the latest in office equipment and supplies. The workshop topics change from year to year. The IAAP continually researches the demands being made at the seminars for the upcoming ones.

"It's simply not true that all training is boring or just for new employees," Pockrus said. "Training wakes up the mind and improves creativity. It is also insurance in case you want to find another job someday."

On the other end of the spectrum, according to Mahathey, supervisors worry that if they train their people, they will leave. From what she has read, studies show training actually reduces turnover and inspires loyalty.

Both Pockrus and Mahathey believe that management support of their chapter's effort is vital to its success. Therefore, last October they held their first Bosses' Day/Manager Awareness Day luncheon to honor their managers and to educate them on the mission, accomplishments and goals of their chapter.

"Perhaps more importantly, with the downsizing of the federal work force, there is a lack of new members," Pockrus said. "We see this as a challenge, so we are planning to install a new non-governmental chapter in Huntsville for secretarial and administrative professionals. A luncheon meeting is planned for Feb. 2 at the Golden Corral restaurant on University Drive from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to find out if there is any interest in this area."

Pockrus is secretary to Dr. William McCorkle, director of the Research, Development and Engineering Center. Mahathey is secretary to Mike Schexnayder, RDEC's associate director for systems and director of the Technical Management Directorate. After joining IAAP, they studied nine months to prepare for a one-day, three-part test to become Certified Professional Secretaries. The test is offered in May and November each year for a total cost of \$165 for IAAP members or \$190 for non-members. After passing the test, 32 credit hours are applied toward a college degree.



Photo by Margaret Banish-Donaldson

MAKING A PATH— Pockrus and Mahathey discuss plans for the upcoming "Pathways to Professional Excellence" Seminar.

"We are now considering partnering with someone to teach this CPS exam to our members," Pockrus said. "This would also help us meet the educational and professional development needs of our members."

In April 1995, the Redstone Arsenal Chapter was chartered as an official chapter of Professional Secretaries International with ceremonies held at the Sparkman Auditorium. In 1998, PSI changed its name to the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

Those interested in registering for this seminar should call Susan Douglas 876-6757 or Mahathey 876-4396.

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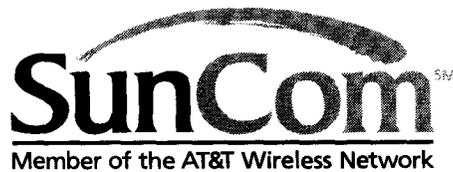


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Reaching out to research is no small business

AMCOM program coordinator receives Tibbetts award at ceremony in Washington

By Sandy Riebeling

In these days of belt-tightening and money crunching, how do you get the Department of Defense to fork out \$10 million in research and development money to investigate this sensor technology or that protective material possibility? Ask Otho "Buddy" Thomas Jr., program coordinator for the Small Business Innovation Research program at AMCOM. Last year, he wrangled \$9 million plus for the program, this year the projection is \$10.8 million. Is it any wonder he won an award?

Thomas received a Tibbetts Award in recognition of his unique contributions as an SBIR Model of Excellence.

"Buddy is humorously referred to by the people working here and those up in DA as 'Bottom-line Buddy,'" Dr. Steven Smith, deputy director, Advanced Systems Directorate and Thomas' supervisor, said. "Since Buddy took over the SBIR program, we've had a 20 fold increase in funds available to the organization—from \$500,000 to more than \$10 million. This is recognition for his hard work and dedication to the program. We are extremely proud of Buddy."

The purpose of the SBIR program is to enable small firms with strong research and



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

EXCELLENCE AWARD— Getting funding for Army research projects is no simple task. Thomas was recognized for his efforts as program coordinator of the Small Business Innovation Research program at AMCOM. The program exceeded \$10 million in funding for FY '99. From left are Herring, Dr. James Bradas, associate director for technology, Research, Development and Engineering Center, Thomas and Smith.

development capabilities to participate in solving defense related scientific or engineering problems. Each year the Army Research Office in Washington, D.C., requests SBIR topic ideas for meeting research and development needs. Once these topics are selected, contractors submit their proposals with proposed solutions for the R&D needs.

"One time a year we go out to the engineers and ask what topics they would like to see researched," Thomas said. "They may give us 30, 40, 50 topics. Dr. (James) Bradas, gets the list and prioritizes them

according to how he feels they fit into our mission here and in the future. Each command is assigned a maximum number of topics that can be submitted. Ours last year was 14. When Kathy and I got the list back we sent up the top 14."

Kathy Herring is the SBIR program specialist for the Advanced Systems Directorate and works as a team with Thomas. She and Thomas oversee the entire program which is extensive in processes.

The topics are sent to the headquarters of the Army Research Office and then compiled in a Department of Defense SBIR Program Solicitation Book. Contractors from across the country can get the book and submit proposals according to their abilities. Those proposals corresponding to the topics AMCOM submitted are given to Thomas and Herring for further action, prioritization, evaluation and so on.

The proposals that seem promising are sent back up to ARO and combined with other proposals from all the other commands and are prioritized. On average, AMCOM wins 17-21 awards per year. Some of the topics win nothing, some win multiple proposals. There's still more to the process—prepare technical award packages, work with the technical people connected to the topics, then get the packages through legal and to procurement for the actual contract award.

This in a nutshell, is called a Phase I contract, which lasts up to six months and is no more than \$70,000. After the six months, the team meets with the technical people and see which of them wants to continue the process and invite the contractor to submit a Phase II proposal which can last up to two years and be worth up to \$730,000.

Yes, the process starts all over again. It's a tedious job fraught with ethical and legal quagmires. Thomas is continually checking and rechecking the proper avenues of correspondence and specific information available to contractors during this process.

"I know people think I go overboard but it really pays to do it right," Thomas said. "You don't want to go through a congressional hearing on contracts. I know the process and I follow it. Over the years we've even written guidelines to help the technical people in the evaluation process, taking them step by step. Every year that we go through this, we try to make improvements to the program and we usually do."

Beyond the improvements and attention to detail is his enthusiasm for the program. Several times a year Thomas attends national SBIR conferences to meet with contractors and answer questions about the process, even point them in the right direction with a specific research project.

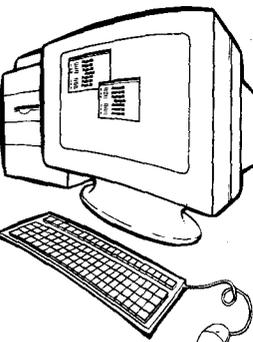
"I love going to those conferences," Thomas said. "I get to talk one-on-one with the contractors, hear their ideas, find out where they run into problems with their proposals. Sometimes I can give them a point of contact or at least make them aware of people who might need what they are developing."

The SBIR is something he believes in and it shows—in the pocketbook. Since coming on board with the program several years ago, the dollars have gone up, way up to the best year ever in FY '99.

"I was glad about the award," Thomas said. "We work so hard on the program to make sure everyone is treated fairly—to make it successful. It's nice that someone comes up and says thank you."

Thomas requested that Herring attend the awards ceremony with him, as a way to be recognized for her tireless efforts. Aida Alvarez, Small Business Administration administrator, presented the award at the Hotel Washington last Oct. 26. A reception was held at the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill.

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Unit commanders designate voting assistance officers

Voting

continued from page 1

Winston, chief of military personnel services and emergency operations division, was appointed last March by the commanding general as the senior voting assistance officer. Spencer was appointed as the alternate. The Federal Voting Assistance Program is geared toward U.S. citizens covered by the uniform and overseas citizens

absentee voting act. And that includes members of the U.S. uniformed services on active duty and merchant marine, their family members and citizens residing outside the United States.

"It's an important issue because No. 1 it's a constitutional right that each American has," Winston said of voting.

"It's a responsibility, too," Spencer added.

For more information about the voting assistance program, call Winston 876-7217 or Spencer 876-1671.

Voting assistance officers include the following:

- MEDDAC/DENTAC— Capt. Nancy Pixton 876-8287.
- HHC AMCOM— Capt. Aaron Bryant 842-7090.
- OMMCS— Maj. Kenneth Avery 876-5958.
- HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade— Sgt. Stephen Dix and Sgt. Elizabeth Fisher 876-0009.
- Headquarters & Alpha Company— SSgt. William Bailey 842-0583.
- B Company— 1st. Lt. Sam DeBoard 842-0609.
- C Company— Drill Sgt. Tuynuykua Jackson 842-1394.
- D Company— SFC Edwin Reyes 842-9873.
- NCO Academy, ANCOC— SFC Stanley Gore 842-0988.
- NCO Academy, BNCOC— SSgt. Leon Huggins-Richards 876-7953.
- 902nd Military Intelligence Group— 1st. Lt. Chris Martinez 876-8014.
- Marine Detachment— CWO William Holtzclaw 876-8441.
- 5th Brigade, ROTC— SFC Michael Brown 876-1310.
- 95th Maintenance Company (TMDE)— Capt. James Stevison 842-8755.
- Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas— Paul Boardingham DSN 861-2606/2671.
- Charles Melvin Price Support Center, Ill.— 1st. Sgt. Empett DSN 892-4241.
- Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa.— Sgt. Maj. Womack DSN 570-8301.



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Where's the Thrift Shop?

Don't worry, the Thrift Shop will reopen Feb. 16 at new location

By Sandy Riebeling

"I don't think we could have built a better building for the Thrift Shop," Sheila Torongeau, manager of the Thrift Shop, said. "They say it's 100 square feet smaller than the old building but it seems bigger. The layout is great. We have a closed off room for consignments, two bathrooms and the exact number of offices we needed. It's perfect."

Jan. 14 was the last day for the Thrift Shop at its ATACMS location near the post office. The shop has moved to building 3209 on Hercules Road (in the OMMCS area), and will reopen Feb. 16.

"We're very happy with the building and location," Mary McCarthy, volunteer representative and member of the board of governors for the Thrift Shop, said. "Being right here in the school area means the soldiers can walk over. When we were at the other location they had to find a ride if they wanted to come to the shop. The building is better than we dreamed."

What started out a year ago as a query for better exit signs in the Thrift Shop led down the path to relocation a year later.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling
ASSEMBLY LINE— Volunteers Francis Clowdus, left and Sharon Samuelson, reassemble file folder inserts for the desk drawers.

"It was a couple weeks after I took over as manager," Torongeau said. "I called about getting some new exit signs and when the inspectors came over to check, they made this huge list of things that needed to be done to bring the building up to code. Basically it was condemned as a fire hazard and we were told we would have to move."

Torongeau and McCarthy praised the efforts of Col. Steven Hamilton, RASA commander, Darrell Brewer, executive assistant, RASA and RASA Sgt. Maj. Lewis Lockett for helping to locate a building that suited the needs of the shop.

Preparations for the move began in October when consignors were notified of the move and requested to retrieve their stock. By Dec. 3, the shop was no longer taking consignments of new items and the contents of the consignment room was packed for the move. The shop closed two weeks during the Christmas holiday and reopened Jan. 3. Consignors had one week to remove their property. Everything that remained was marked down to 25 cents per item to clear out the remaining stock.

"We didn't want to move any stock," Torongeau said. "At the end of the clearance sale we had about 10 bags of stuff that we packed up and gave to Christmas Charities. We're moving shelves, clothing racks, office furniture and equipment but we're going to start out with all new stock. Our volunteers have been great, great, great. They are the absolute heart of the shop. We couldn't do this without them. They've really pitched in with the move."

The shop also purchased gondolas and shelves from local merchants.

"McRae's gave us a really good deal and we bought some shelves from the Service Merchandise that was closing in Huntsville," McCarthy said. "The PX has also been very generous. They were remodeling and donated two jewelry counters and gondolas. The timing worked out great."

The new building provides a room for hard line items such as pet supplies, electronics, tools, kitchen items, domestics, pictures and appliances. The soft line room will house clothing, jewelry, shoes and possibly books. An additional room will have



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

A LITTLE HELP FROM FRIENDS— Under the heading of community service, Pvt. Christopher Ernst and Pvt. Changa Martin, both from B Company, helped move shelves and office furniture from the old building to the new shop.

furniture, large items, toys and sports equipment. There will be a separate room for Thrift Shop Property, explained as items marked very low for a quick sale, a consignment room, dressing room, conference/break room for employees, and a donation room.

There is limited parking and handicap parking on the west side of the building where the main entrance is located. Other parking is available across the street in the Troop Dental Clinic and Clothing Sales parking lot.

Anyone affiliated with the Arsenal can consign. Consignments will be accepted at the new location beginning today through Friday on a walk-in basis, first come, first served, from 9 a.m. until noon. Most of the old rules apply to the new facility. There have been a few changes. Items are limited to 20 per consignor per day with a clothing limit of 12 items, and only three of each type.

"We're accepting everything (that was accepted at former location), but if you have large items, please call ahead and let us know, because we may not have the floor space available and we hate to send consignors home with anything," Torongeau said. "Before, we let people bring in 12 women's sweaters if they wanted but now we are limiting them to three articles of clothing in the same category, due to space available. Of course, the rules are flexible for families that are PCSing or if there's a death in the family. We're here to serve the soldiers and we don't forget that."

Consignors price their own merchandize with a 27 percent store fee and 73 percent going back to the consignor via a monthly check. Fast moving items are baby cribs and high chairs, book shelves, furniture, beds, desks and kitchen items. Some of the slow going items include shoes and electrical beauty equipment.

The store offers a phone number to call for a daily recorded message for the "no list" items, things that will not be taken on consignment the following day. McCarthy urges consignors to check the message daily.

The Thrift Shop is a self-sustaining, non-profit, non-federal organization which is open to the public. Proceeds, after expenses, are donated to several different organizations including the post chaplain's Christmas Basket program, Boys Scout troops on and off post, Tut Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville and non-profit organizations. They award at least one scholarship for a local child to attend Space Camp and they keep a continuous \$500 account available to Army Community Service who can issue vouchers to the shop as needed.

"We are really excited about the new facility and location," McCarthy said. "I think the customers are going to be pleased."

The shop reopens on Feb. 16 with regular business hours, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The grand opening will be March 1. The shop will not open until the ribbon cutting at 11 a.m.

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Job descriptions at click of a button

Automated system eliminates paperwork and accelerates personnel actions

By Skip Vaughn

Remember when job descriptions and related paperwork were stapled together and kept at the civilian personnel office?

Those days are gone. In case you haven't noticed, everything's on computer now. The latest innovation is a system on the Internet that has every job description for every worker serviced by the regional personnel centers.

It's called the Fully Automated System for Classification. And at Redstone it represents the fruits of a cooperative effort involving the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, and the Corporate Information Center.

"It's a time and cost saving tool," said Don Harris, chief of applications and programming support for group B at the Corporate Information Center.

Anybody on the worldwide web can access an individual's job description. It includes that person's name, job title, series, grade, the job number, and organization. It shows whether a given position is vacant. The system doesn't list current ratings or any other privacy data. It includes an organization's current structure only, and not any proposed structure that might be used for bidding purposes or studies.

"And it's particularly useful to personnelists," Lori Reynolds, chief of customer support A in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said. "It's things we used to keep manually over here."

Some 21,459 job descriptions in this region are available on the system, according to Jodie Massar, chief of the classification division at South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center. Some 485 others were to be added by the end of this week.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

COMPUTER GURUS— Computer specialist McKin, seated, and Whelan, chief of the functional automation branch at South Central CPOC, helped download job descriptions into the new system.

"You can get into every region except for Europe," Massar said, adding that more than 100,000 job descriptions are available altogether.

The system is available through civilian personnel on-line at the following address: www.cpol.army.mil.

Putting the system on-line last year represented some innovative work by the Corporate Information Center and the personnel offices. The former Missile Command did have an automated system since 1985 called JOBSCALL for job descriptions within the command. But that system, which required user passwords, ended when the regional personnel centers were created in 1997.

Computer specialist Jan McKin, who had helped create JOBSCALL, kept that outdated system on a tape for more than two years. Fortunately, she still had the tape when the new regional system started in 1999. The regional personnel center began FASCLASS last March through the tedious process of scanning individual job descriptions on paper.

In October, Vanessa Midgett of the regional personnel center called Reynolds to

Retired Army artist dies at his residence

John William Norris, a retired artist for the Army at Redstone, died Jan. 15 at his home. He was 74.

A memorial service in his honor will be held from 2-5 p.m. Feb. 12 at his residence.

Norris was a native of Toronto, Ontario, Canada and had lived in Huntsville since 1960. He was a graduate of Toronto Art College specializing in automotive design. He worked for the styling departments of Kaiser, Ford and Chrysler in the late 1940s and '50s. Moving to Huntsville in the early '60s, Norris became a graphic designer for the Army. He retired in 1990.

Survivors include his wife, Frances

Jean Norris of Huntsville; one brother, Thomas A. Norris of Toronto, Ontario; one daughter, Karlynn Norris Reeves of Lexington, Ky.; one son, John Timothy Norris of Huntsville; and two grandsons, Oliver Hall Norris and Owen Alexander Walker Norris, both of Huntsville.

In keeping with his wishes, the family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the John W. Norris Endowed Scholarship Fund at the University of Alabama-Huntsville or Hospice. Contributions to the John W. Norris Endowed Scholarship Fund can be made through the UAH Foundation, AH 102, Huntsville, Ala., 35899.

see if the data on the old computer system could be downloaded into the new system.

Agnes Davis, a personnel classification specialist at the regional center, was also involved in this effort. Fortunately, McKin and her original tape were still around.

"But my data base was not Y2K compliant and I had to change it," McKin said. She restored the data and sent it electronically to Reynolds, crashing the e-mail system in the first attempts to transfer 18,000 records. Reynolds then sent the data to Jim Whelan, chief of the functional automation branch at South Central Civilian Personnel Opera-

tions Center. The process was finished in December.

"They really had to want to do it and they were good," Reynolds said of the cooperative effort. "Anytime they hit a roadblock, they worked it out. And I really appreciate that. I really do."

The result is an automated system that provides the following benefits: cuts manager's and classifier's time through less paperwork; eliminates antiquated file systems; standardizes Army classification processes; and provides more efficient service to customers.

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Arsenal artwork in action

Graphics department designs everything from viewgraphs to 3-D displays

By Sandy Riebeling

Their work is everywhere on Redstone Arsenal. It may be in a safety poster or a framed award hanging on a cubical wall. You may see it on a program for a retirement ceremony or while sitting in a meeting. The work of the nine illustrators in CIC's graphics department goes beyond the gates of the Arsenal as well, to places like the Huntsville Airport and the Space and Rocket Center. They create the artwork that others can only imagine.

"The job is never boring," Dwight Gooch, government monitor for the graphics department, said. "The customer comes in with an idea of what they want their program or chart to look like and our illustrators talk with them, ask questions and figure out how to put it together. The Corporate Information Center's exhibits group does a fantastic job of taking our drawings and constructing elaborate displays and awards."

Graphics services include retirement mementos, picture framing, computer generated briefings, posters, charts, plaques and displays for 86 AMCOM customers, with a very small staff of contractors, from DTSV/WANG. In the last month, the graphics department handled about 225 jobs. Advances in computer technology and possessing the latest computer hardware make the job easier and better, according to lead illustrator Malcolm Lowery, who man-



AIRPORT DISPLAY— This exhibit began as one of Lowery's thumbnail sketches.

ages the department.

"I remember when we used to have to do everything by hand on the boards," Lowery said. "Computers have made things a lot simpler and the quality is really good, but it's tough to stay up with the latest technology because it changes overnight."

While the illustrators can take a few

ideas from their customers and develop original artwork, some customers already know exactly what they want and bring it to the office on a disk. In most cases it saves time but technology differences can make it impossible to use on the more advanced systems, which means the illustrator has to recreate the project on his own



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

GIANT PRINTS— This Encad printing machine can produce large scale pictures and drawings. Illustrator James Hodges checks the print quality of a computer generated schematic.

equipment.

"Probably the worst part of the job is the last minute jobs that have to be done right away," Lowery said. "We can usually work it out somehow but it's hard on our scheduling."

And the best part?

"The finished product," Lowery said. "It's amazing some of the things that go out of this office. I'm especially proud of the airport display I designed. It started off with just a thumbnail sketch and grew into this wonderful display. I'm always impressed with the way CIC can take the drawing and actually build the display. They do a terrific job."

Boeing Huntsville site receives certification

The Boeing Company in Huntsville has received ISO 9001 certification following an eight-day audit by DNV Inc., a third party registrar. ISO 9001, established by the International Standards Organization, is a quality management system that sets a global standard for design, manufacturing and quality processes.

The certification is valid for three years from the issuing date, and includes not only the Huntsville site but also a satellite organization, Space Hab Inc., at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

"Boeing-Huntsville represents the leading edge of the new Boeing culture being created out of the mergers of the past several years," said Henry Pugh, the acting Huntsville site manager. "Preparation for the ISO audit was our first opportunity as an integrated site to prove what we could do if everyone focused on a common objective and committed to achieving it. The excellent report given us by the ISO audit team should be a source of pride to all of us." (Boeing release)

HHC 59th on roll in unit basketball

HHC 59th kept its unbeaten record intact with two wins last week in unit basketball.

Here are the standings as of Friday:

- Eastern Division: HHC 59th (5-0), AMCOM (5-1), Marines (4-2), Bravo Company (3-2).

- Western Division: Charlie Company (3-1), Delta Company (1-3), MEDDAC (1-3), Headquarters & Alpha (0-5), and ROTC (0-5).



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Laboratory director receives national management honor

By Skip Vaughn

Dr. Bill McCorkle had a hard time getting through the metal detector at the airport on his way home from California in January.

An object in his suitcase set off the alarm and raised the suspicions of the security folks. But of course they had nothing to fear. It was a national award he had received from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

McCorkle's medal from AIAA was the coveted Missile Systems Management Award. The annual honor was presented Jan. 20 at the professional association's Strategic and Tactical Missile Systems Conference in Monterey, Calif.

"I'm usually considered more technical so it's nice to get (an award for management)," McCorkle, director of the Research Development and Engineering Center, said. "That was a surprise."

The citation recognized him "for dynamic leadership in missile research and development and championship of innovative cooperative problem solving which has resulted in critical technological advances for the United States Army."

McCorkle, an AIAA member, was nominated for the award by Stephanie Patty, vice president for tactical systems integration division at Computer Science



Photo by Skip Vaughn

COVETED AWARD— McCorkle shows his secretary, June Pockrus, the AIAA national award he received.

Corporation-Nichols Research. His nomination was endorsed by Roy Nichols, co-founder of Nichols Research, Walt Hollis, deputy undersecretary for operations research of the Army, and Dr. Henry Dubin, director for assessment and evaluation for the Army.

McCorkle, 71, is a native of Tennessee. He graduated from the University of Richmond and earned his doctorate from the University of Tennessee. He has been working here for 42 years, the past 19 as RDEC director. His wife, Nancy, didn't make the Monterey trip this time.

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- 11:15am-12:10pm **Key Standards for Secure Virtual Private Networks**
Presented by: Onix Networking/Newbridge/Timestep
- 12:10pm-1:15pm **Break to Visit Exposition**
Exposition Hours 9:30am-1:30pm
- 1:15pm-2:05pm **Multi-Agency Cooperation in Information Systems Security: What Works & What Doesn't**
Presented by: The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization
- 2:20pm-3:00pm **Windows 2000 and Information Assurance**
Presented by: Microsoft Corporation

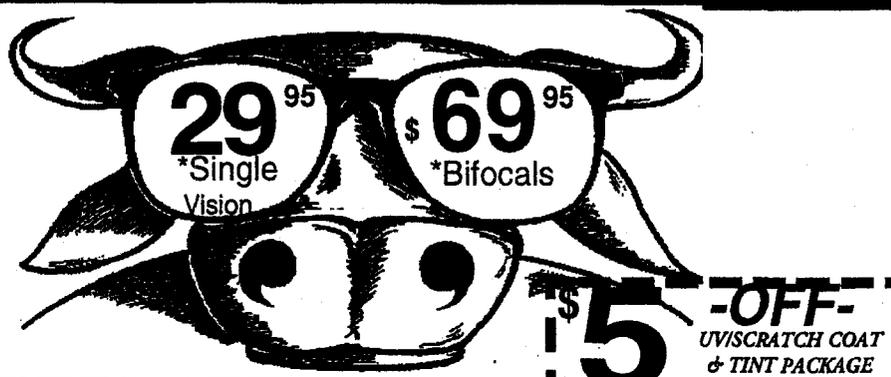
- 9:00am-9:40am **Integrating Intrusion Detection Systems**
Presented by: The Army Aviation & Missile Command
- 10:00am-10:50am **Advances in LAN Infrastructure Security**
Presented by: Cabletron Systems
- 11:15am-12:10pm **The Importance of PKI**
Presented by: The Department of Defense
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Letters to the editor

Leave

continued from page 2

many kind people at Redstone who would have donated leave they were going to lose. But how are they to find out they can do this and how to go about it? Having it posted on a website is great but inadequate. In the three years I have been with the Army I have received only one notice concerning VLTP, and that was generated internally for an individual in the MRDEC. Personally, I wouldn't care much for advertising for myself. I know that most donors work with or are related to the recipient, but that doesn't work for everyone.

I suggest that the Rocket publish the names of the agreeable recipients, and point to the website. Another good suggestion a co-worker had is to establish a pool for donated leave. This would be nice for those that wish to remain anonymous, and could make donating easier and unbiased. I know there had to be thousands of hours of Annual Leave lost, while there were good causes overlooked.

Jim Dempsey

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "The Voluntary Leave Transfer Program deals with very sensitive information. When an employee submits an application to become an approved leave recipient, the employee must indicate, in writing, if he wants his name publicized and whether to include the reason. This is required in order to protect the privacy of individuals. Current policy is, unless the employee authorizes us, in writing, to release their status as an approved leave recipient, the information is not published. If the employee authorizes us to do so, his or her name, organization and reason are posted on the AMCOM Bulletin Board. Also, an e-mail is distributed to the Redstone community. It is the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center's desire that this information receive the widest dissemination possible, however, some organizations have a central point that receives these notices and further distributes them to their work force. Other organizations have the information go directly to their

employees. The method by which Team Redstone e-mail is distributed within an organization is a decision of each organization. If you are not receiving e-mails regularly regarding approved leave transfer recipients, we encourage you to check on how Team Redstone mail is distributed within your organization.

"The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is currently reviewing your suggestion to have the information published in the Redstone Rocket. The feasibility of this must be further explored, however, we will be working on this issue and will inform the work force of our decision.

"In regard to your proposal to establish a leave transfer bank, when leave transfer was first proposed on Redstone Arsenal the current program and a leave bank were both considered. A survey of employees and management indicated the current program was preferred. Leave banks required the establishment of an employee governing board that accepts, reviews and approves applicants. Only employees who donate to the leave bank are eligible to be recipients. This puts a burden on employees who have little or no leave requiring them to donate leave to the bank in order to be eligible to be recipients in the future. The current system has no membership requirements. Recipients are determined to be qualified by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center based on a doctor's statement estimating the duration of the employees' incapacitation and the amount of leave employees have available for use. If the duration of the illness will result in an employee facing 24 or more hours of unpaid leave, he or she will be approved. All leave donations are voluntary and as long as an employee does not attempt to donate leave to their supervisor or donate more than half the annual leave he will earn in a leave year the donation is accepted. Therefore, the current system is self-policing allowing employees to select any approved leave recipient. When the recipient's medical emergency is over, any leave that is donated but not used is returned on a prorated share to the donors, if possible. If the remaining amount is not enough to return on a prorated share basis, the leave is liquidated."

Gym landscaping project

I am totally flabbergasted at the recent removal of the shrubbery and the well received "rustic railroad ties" assembly in the front of Pagano Gym. The Officers Wives Club and my staff spent countless hours preparing the front of the facility for the historically famous ACOE concept that this installation pursued, with great success. Additionally, three previous installation commanders were laudatory in their assessment of the "project." Without a single word of notice or explanation, the entire front area was demolished by DPW. My concern is, do we as employees ever fall into the category of "customers"? Was it absolutely necessary to embark on such a hasty misdeed? Was the requirement absolutely imminent?

**Ted Compoc, director
Sports & Athletic Training**

Editor's note: CSM Lewis Lockett, command sergeant major for Redstone

Arsenal Support Activity, provided the following response. "The Pagano Gym landscaping project is part of the installation's landscaping renovation plan for the north end of Redstone Arsenal. It was not the intent of this command to alienate the employees during this effort, but to remove old landscaping and replace with more manageable shrubbery and landscaping. New shrubbery and landscaping for Pagano Gym is scheduled for completion on or before Feb. 11. The entire north end of the installation has had significant landscaping done and it has improved the beauty of the installation. Any employee or agency that requires more information or wants to become a part of the installation's landscaping revitalization program, please feel free to contact the CSM for RASA at 876-5331 or 8850."

Health insurance open season

During the recent Federal Employee's Health Benefits Open Season, I filed to change my health coverage from GEHA to Blue Cross and Blue Shield. As of January 12, I have not received anything. By this I mean, I have not received a membership card, I have not received my copy of the Enrollment Form, absolutely nothing. This means that medical providers will treat me as if I have no insurance. I have asked for the form, and was advised that a number were sent to the wrong organization. Apparently no one is able to get me a copy of the form. I was advised that CPOC had not mailed the forms until Dec. 29. This is only four days before the new health insurance is in force, and my old health insurance is no longer in force. As I see it, CPOC has delayed the mailing of the forms, and then instead of ensuring that the forms got to the employee, someone sent them to the wrong organization.

What can be done to ensure that employees get critical documentation in a timely manner and to ensure that things that can critically impact employee health, finances and morale is done correctly and in a timely manner? Is someone in CPOC responsible for this mismanagement, and if AMCOM or other employees suffer financial losses due to this mismanagement, do we have legal recourse?

I hope CPOC can start "taking care of

people"; this certainly gives the impression that they just don't care. I believe the people who are being affected by this deserve an answer and corrective action.

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Lee Williams, director of South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center, provided the following response. "The enrollment changes submitted during the Federal Employees Health Benefits Open Season create a cyclical increase in workload that has always taxed our personnel resources. This year our CPOC processed 2,351 FEHB enrollment changes, 487 of which were from employees serviced by the CPAC at Redstone Arsenal. The Civilian Personnel Operations Center (CPOC) and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers (CPACs) of the region work together to avoid problems such as those experienced by this employee.

The established procedure is for employees to submit the change forms (SF 2809) to the CPAC which forwards them to the CPOC. The CPOC, in turn, records the change in the automated personnel data system and mails the forms directly to the various Federal Health Insurance Carriers that issue the insurance cards. Contrary to the information received by the writer, changes were mailed to the carriers on a

See Insurance on page 13

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Base Supply Center moves closer to Sparkman complex

Retired master sergeant hires on as new manager, just in time to do the packing

By Sandy Riebeling

Shopping made easy, is the motivation for the upcoming move of the Base Supply Center from its Buxton Road location to Maintenance Row, near the Sparkman complex.

"It's a good move," Elbert Campbell, new manager of the Base Supply Center, said. "The new facility, building 3775, has a better climate—heat and air in the whole building—and is more convenient for our customers. They have less of a drive and less time away from their work."

Planning this move is the biggest challenge facing the new manager of the center. Campbell, a retired sergeant major, joined the staff Jan. 11, just in time to begin organizing the move and packing the boxes.

"We're going to stock our new location with our warehouse inventory from here, then move our shelf stock over after this location is closed," Campbell said. "Our intention is to close the doors here on Friday afternoon, Feb. 25, and reopen the next Monday, Feb. 28, without interruption of service to our customers. We may have to cut deliveries to Monday, Wednesday and Friday a week or two before the move; other than that, everything should go smoothly."

While the new facility is a little smaller than the current store, Campbell said they will still carry the same stock and even add some of the special order items that are ordered frequently. To compensate for less space, the shelves will have to be stocked

more frequently.

"We want to enhance customer service and maintain good customer relations with our customers," Campbell said. "Our prices here are comparable with retail and a lot are even below fair market value. Of course, we're striving to improve quality of service to the community and stock our items based on customer demand. I want to hear from the customers if they have special needs."

The Base Supply Center operates to meet the needs of government buyers but it also meets the needs of the disabled. The center is operated by the Alabama Industries for the Blind, who employ visually impaired people to work in the centers.

"AIB is one of the country's largest employers of blind people," Campbell said. "It doesn't just create jobs and training opportunities for the blind, it offers good benefits and a greater sense of self-worth for the employees, knowing that they are independent."

Campbell didn't arrive in Huntsville or at Redstone by accident. In fact, he's no first-timer. A Louisiana native, Campbell served at Redstone from 1990-92 as a material fielding specialist involved with supplies and equipment that successfully fielded seven Patriot missile systems and one Avenger missile fielding package. This tour was sandwiched between tours in Germany, Southwest Asia, and Panama. His last duty station was Fort Campbell, Ky., but he managed to make it back to Huntsville, taking his first civilian job in 21 years as a produc-

tion supervisor.

"The Army was what I wanted to do," Campbell said. "It was a career choice from the very beginning. But I knew back in 1992 that I wanted to settle down here in Huntsville when it was over. We bought a house in 1998 and planned to stay. I'm glad for the opportunity to be back here at the Arsenal."

The "we" Campbell refers to includes his wife of 21 years, Joyce, who works as a customer service representative at Huntsville Utilities, and their daughter, Shadana, 18, a student at Alabama A&M University.

"I'm glad to be here," he said. "I have a wonderful staff already in place. The assistant manager has been here two-and-a-half years and they all have a wonderful rapport with our customers. With the new location and enhanced services we hope to draw in business from the other federal agencies in the area."

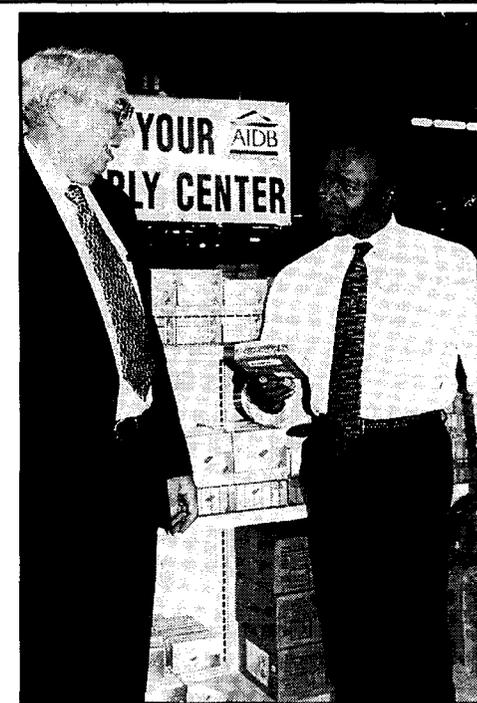


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

READY TO GO— The Base Supply Center makes the move to Maintenance Row at the end of the month. Larry Bennett, left, military operations manager, Alabama Industries for the Blind, talks with Campbell about the upcoming move.

Shelton outlines role of military in 21st century

By Kevin F. Gilmartin

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.— "The military makes a great hammer in America's foreign policy toolbox, but not every problem that we face is a nail," the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told more than 200 people at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government here, Jan. 19.

Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton spoke about the intersection of force and diplomacy and discussed the importance of the American public's support for any use of America's military abroad.

"As a world superpower, can we dare to admit that force cannot solve every problem that we face?" Shelton said. "I think that the decision to use force is probably the most important decision that our nation's leaders can make. Of course, it has to be a civilian decision. It has been, and hopefully always will be, based on sound military advice."

"Let's be realistic," Shelton said, "I think

that in any intervention that we face, anytime that we use our forces abroad, we are going to face opposition here at home. This is not only the nature of American democracy, but it is at the very heart and soul of our very system."

He said America should set clear parameters as to when the use of military force is appropriate.

"The fundamental purpose of our military forces is to fight and win the nation's wars," the chairman said. That's not the only purpose, however. "The military can do a lot of other things in support of our foreign policy and national interests, including maintaining America's presence around the globe, providing deterrence where appropriate and intervening if necessary."

He outlined three categories in which he believes military intervention could be used: vital national interests, important national interests and humanitarian. (Special to the American Forces Press Service)

Insurance

continued from page 12

daily basis, throughout the five-week open enrollment period. In anticipation of possible pay problems associated with Y2K, we took extra care to process the changes and mail them to the carriers as quickly as possible. However, the volume of changes also affects the ability of the insurance carriers to get insurance cards out early in January. As an interim measure, employees sometimes ask for a completed copy of the SF 2809 to be used to validate their participation in the respective health plan. We treat these requests as a high priority. Any employee who needs a copy of the form can obtain one by contacting their CPAC.

"The Defense Finance and Accounting Services set a deadline of Dec. 29, 1999 for submission of all personnel actions

which would impact pay. It appears that the significance of this date was somehow erroneously communicated to this employee as the date when FEHB changes were submitted."

LeRoy Daniels, the civilian personnel officer, added the following. "I share Lee's comments regarding how we have worked hard to meet the needs of the employees in this matter. However, we realize that some employees may need a copy of the SF 2809 which will serve as evidence of their health benefits enrollment. If the employees will contact CPAC, we will coordinate an expeditious receipt of a copy of the completed 2809. If problems still remain, the employee may contact me directly and I will communicate with the health care providers as well as the insurance carrier to resolve the problems."

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Alert worker proves to be lifesaver

Heimlich maneuver credited with saving choking victim at logistics center

By Skip Vaughn

Now that it's over, everyone in the office can laugh about it. But at the time, this was a life-threatening event.

Billy King is known around his office as a jokester. So everyone just assumed he was kidding when he started gasping for air. But this was real.

"I had some hard candy in my mouth. And I coughed and a piece of it got caught in my throat and I couldn't get it out," said King, team leader in the logistics data management branch of IMMC's Logistics Support Directorate.

The leftover Christmas candy got caught in his throat when he was in the bathroom on the third floor of building 5302. He came out and went into the break room to try to get water. But he couldn't swallow nor catch his breath. "I was choking to

death," King said.

Others heard his gasps and rushed into the break room. Mary Ann Kelly, a management analyst in the Business Management Directorate, got there first and tried to use the Heimlich maneuver to help King. But she wasn't having much luck.

"I was just trying to do what I thought I knew how to do," Kelly said. "But I wasn't sure of the force."

That's when Pat Carter, also a management analyst, stepped in and saved his life.

Carter grabbed the 6-foot-2, 200-pound King from behind and performed the Heimlich maneuver.

"Next thing I know she had me lifted off the floor and the piece (of candy) came out and I started breathing again," said King, 54, father of two grown daughters.

King expressed his appreciation to Carter, who he has known for years at

IMMC. He has been working here since 1979. "She works over in personnel, just around the corner from where our office is located now," he said.

"Like I told her, I was just proud she was there," King said of the incident that happened in early January. "If she wasn't there, I don't know where I'd be."

Carter took a Red Cross CPR class years ago. When her now 22-year-old son was 4 or 5, she did the Heimlich on him when he was choking on a French fry in a restaurant. She recommends that everyone learn this lifesaving technique.

"I think it's important for you to know not only for friends and co-workers but for your family as well," Carter said.

After she helped King, everybody applauded and she went back to work. It didn't hit her until later that she saved a man's life, but she doesn't consider herself a hero.

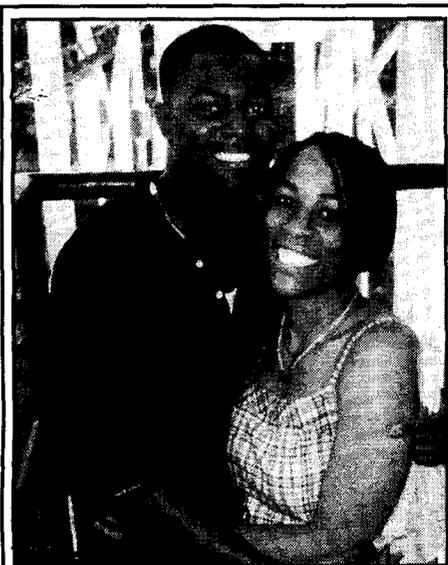


Photo by Skip Vaughn

THUMBS UP— In the break room where he nearly died, King hugs the two women who helped him: Kelly, left, and Carter.

"Faced with the possibility of somebody might die before your eyes, I think you do what you have to," Carter said.

Now King and his co-workers can joke about what happened. "They keep giving me candy now," he said. "I don't know why."



Courtesy photo

NCO nuptials...

Sgt. Arthur Tinsley and Sgt. Shana Cathey invite their Redstone community co-workers and friends to their wedding at 1 p.m. Feb. 26 at Bicentennial Chapel. A reception at the Rustic Lodge will follow the ceremony. Tinsley is a member of 59th Ordnance Brigade; and Cathey is with HHC AMCOM.

National Guard soldiers hone skills at depot

Corpus Christi Army Depot workers get help on Apache transmission workload

By Ralph Yoder



Courtesy photo

JOINT EFFORT— From left, CCCAD workers Albert Flores and John Lauer work with SSGts Antonio Lambert and David L. Hanson from the California AVCRAD.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas— The Army is very serious when it comes to the helicopter fleet and when it is forced to ground aircraft for mechanical reasons every effort is made to get the parts fixed and the fleet back up.

On Dec 6, Corpus Christi Army Depot commander, Col. Mitch Dockens, contacted Dan Rubery, deputy to the commanding general, Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, to get their approval to invite the National Guard AVCRAD soldiers to the depot to assist with the Apache transmission workload. He also conferred with Col. Alberto Jimenez, of the Army National Guard, Aviation Division, who also concurred.

"This is a part of Army Materiel Command's, Gen. John Coburn's program on Warfighting where all assets in the Army (active, Reserve and National Guard) work together to get the mission accomplished," Dockens said. "Money to bring the National Guardsman to CCAD was provided from

See Depot on page 20



Christy Jollynn

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■ Redstone Arsenal Support Activity restructuring for future

RASA

continued from page 1

now to get into position to implement the MEO. My first concern is our employees. We need to make sure that they are taken care of. I want to make sure everyone is kept informed."

In short, an A-76 study is conducted to determine if a specific group of jobs could be done better and/or cheaper by contractors than by government employees. Companies look at the work performed and offer a bid to do the work. At the same time, the government organization studies ways to consolidate and trim the excess and establish its Most Efficient Organization. The contractor bid is compared to the organization's MEO and a decision is made. No

matter who wins, things change.

As part of the restructure, the Directorate of Public Works will be combined with the Directorate of Environmental and Master Planning. Mike Hubbard, currently the director of EMP, will be the director of the combined organization.

"These two organizations used to be together but were separated about four years ago," Brewer said. "Once they split, they lost the synergy that was there. It's just natural configuration to have environment and engineering together."

New to RASA is the creation of a Major Subordinate Command staff element that comes under the deputy post commander and will provide engineering, logistical and environmental technical and programmatic guidance to MSC elements, such as Charles Melvin Price Support Center, Granite City,

Ill., Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., and Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas.

"Providing technical support to these places is something that we already do—the duties are integrated into RASA. This staff element will take over those responsibilities. Dr. David Branham will be the MSC chief."

Brewer said that the combination of organizations and the managerial changes should have no adversarial effects on the employees.

"Once the managers are in place, they can help bring everything together in preparation for the reorganization later on this summer," he said. "I believe we have a very strong chance of winning the bid. It's not a question of whether contractors can do the work but I think the government can do it cheaper and better."

Even if the government wins in April, RASA will lose jobs. The Quadrennial

Defense Review mandates a decrease in organizational strength by 83 slots. RASA's current numbers are 515 appropriated fund positions and 341 non-appropriated positions. The study includes 292 APF positions; some are government-in-nature. Once the decision is made, there is a 60-day window for appeals concerning "contractable" positions. Sept. 8 is the official decision date. Once the decision is final, RASA has six months to complete the transition to MEO.

"Not all 83 jobs will be cut from positions in the study," Brewer said. "Obviously, I can't publish the numbers in each of the organizations because of the bid competition. But we will do everything we can to help our employees. VERA/VSIP will be requested and we anticipate that it will be available."

Brewer expects that the restructure and ultimate reorganization will have little effect on customer service.

"We are going through a massive downsizing and there may be a slight reduction in capabilities," he said. "Our business is taking care of this installation. We are doing our best and will continue to serve our customers in the best possible way. The only thing I would ask is that everyone be patient during this time."

Some of the services provided by RASA include the engineering and design of renovations to facilities on post. It may take a little more time to get drawings or plans done because of the decrease in the work force. Processing documents including transfers on property books, travel and transportation may be slowed slightly. Some things will take longer, according to Brewer, but the job will get done.

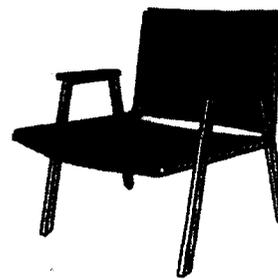
Another part of the restructure is the formation of the Business Office. There will no longer be a Directorate of Management and Operations, Contract Management Office or Resource Management Office. The three groups will be consolidated under the new RASA Business Office.

The good news is that once this study is complete and the reorganization has occurred, RASA is not expected to undergo another reduction through at least 2007.

"The key to a smooth transition is preparation now," Brewer said. "We're already a little behind but we're making good progress. We expect everything to go smoothly for the reorganization."

We're saving a seat for you

at the next Environmental Information Meeting
6-8 p.m. Thursday, February 10.



For several years the Army at Redstone Arsenal has been actively working to restore environmental sites affected by past disposal activities. At our February 10 meeting, we will share with you:

- An overview of the overall cleanup program
- The current status of the OU-10 off-site investigation
- Information about possible formation of a Restoration Advisory Board and how it may help you better understand restoration activities at Redstone Arsenal.

Why don't you join us? Come meet our program officials at the Redstone Arsenal Club located in Building 130 at the end of Golf Course Road. Light refreshments will be served.

Directions from Rideout Road. Heading south on Rideout Road, turn left at the red light onto Goss Road before passing through Gate 9. Turn left onto Golf Course Road. The Redstone Arsenal Club is on the right in Building 130.

Directions from Drake Avenue. Heading west on Drake Avenue, go straight through the intersection of Drake Avenue and Jordan Lane. Go through Gate 8 and turn right onto Golf Course Road. The Redstone Arsenal Club is on the right in Building 130.



For more information contact:

Commander
U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command
Attention: AMSAM-PA (Ms Pam Rogers)
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5020
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Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Golf league

The OMMCS Golf League will have its opening 2000 season meeting at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at the Redstone Golf Course Clubhouse. It appears that at least two of the 20 league teams will not field a team for the 2000 season. The league is seeking teams to fill this void. The league plays each week, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3:45-4:45. Each team will only play one day per week, fielding a team of four players. Each team roster has to have a minimum of four players and a maximum of 12 players. The OMMCS league will begin play April 4 and run through the second week in September. A team entry fee of \$110 is charged to all teams, which is used to pay to winning teams for the first and second parts of the season, as well as individual and team wins each week. For more information, call Bob Kruse 881-3404 (home) or Dean Anderson 313-3477 (work).

Bowlathon

The 15th annual Junior Achievement Bowlathon is scheduled for Feb. 19-20 and Feb. 26-27 at Parkway, Plamor, Pin Palace, and the Madison Bowling Centers. Publix SuperMarket is the title sponsor of the Junior Achievement Bowlathon for the fourth consecutive year. The Bowlathon is a two-weekend fund-raising and public relations event, which involves men, women, and students from all levels of companies and organizations in Huntsville and Madison County. Bowlers compete for prizes based on their ability to raise pledges. Last year, Junior Achievement raised \$92,000 from 1,219 bowlers and 65 companies. The maximum number on a team is four, but companies and organizations may have as many teams as possible. The registration fee is \$12 per person to cover the cost of three games, shoes and a T-shirt. Bowlers are asked to raise a minimum of \$35 per person and set a goal of \$50. For more information, call Brett Beard at the Junior Achievement office 533-4661.

UAH hockey tickets

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council (CWFC) has bought out the upcoming

hockey game between UAH and Bemidji State. This is a rematch from the 1998 National Championship Game and could determine who will be second seeded for the 2000 National Championship. The game will be played at the Von Braun Center on Friday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$1 each, first come-first served. For tickets, call your CWFC representative or Mary Ann Meyer-Schuck 313-1698, Valerie Carey 955-6739 or Debbie Donius 313-4010.

Life 5K/10K

The Run For Your Life 5K and 10K run will be held Feb. 12 at Goosepond Colony Civic Center in Scottsboro. Both races will begin at 8 a.m. with registration starting at 7. Cost is \$12 and includes a long sleeve T-shirt. Trophies will be awarded in several age divisions. Registration forms are available at Jackson County Hospital and First Place Athletics in Huntsville. The run is sponsored by Jackson County Hospital. Proceeds from entry fees will go to the American Heart Association and the Scottsboro High School Cross Country Team. For more information, call (256) 218-3349.

Hunter safety course

Outdoor Recreation is offering the Alabama Hunter Education Course. Youths and adults may attend this class; however, youths must be at least 10 years old by Nov. 11, 2000. Class dates are Feb. 14, 15, 21, 22 and March 6 from 4-7 p.m. at the Post Theater (building 3712) and March 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation (building 5132). All sessions must be attended to have the opportunity to pass the course. For more information and to pre-register, call Bill Kerlin at Outdoor Recreation 876-4868/6854.

Miscellaneous

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.

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 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.

Aviation conference

The Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) and AMCOM will hold the Worldwide Aviation Logistics Conference and Product Support Symposium during the week of Feb. 21 at the Sparkman Center. The conference is Feb. 22-23 and the symposium is Feb. 24. For more information, call Pat Hopkins 313-2066 or Kimberly Daniel of AEPCO Inc. 464-9191.

Financial readiness training

Financial readiness training for first-term soldiers will begin in February. This training is mandatory for all first-term soldiers. Other military and family members who are interested in increasing money management skills are invited to attend on a space available basis. This training will be held 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 7-11 in building 3447. The training includes eight lessons: principles of personal finance, planning and budgeting, banking and checking accounts, credit, insurance, savings and investing, large purchases, and consumer scams and getting ripped-off. To register for this class, call Army Community Service 876-5468.

Garden plots

Due to the ongoing construction of new

family housing, the Wesson Circle, Area 2, garden plots cannot be utilized. All personnel desiring garden plots for the year 2000 planting season must utilize the Vincent Drive (Area 1) plots. There are only 54 garden plots available in this area. Consequently, there may not be enough to accommodate everyone's request. The procedures for requesting and assigning garden plots will be the same. Priorities have been established to better serve all interested personnel. First priority: active duty military, must request their plots between Feb. 15 and March 1. Second priority: retired military, must make their requests March 2-16. Third priority: DoD civilians, must make their requests March 17-31. If there are any plots left after this time, assignments will be first come, first serve. Unfortunately, due to the limited number of plots available, only one plot will be assigned per family until after March 31.

OCWC donations

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is accepting requests from organizations seeking financial assistance. Written requests should outline the groups' programs, reasons for requesting help, how funds will be used, and whether other groups or organizations have been solicited for the same donations. Send correspondence to: RSA OCWC Welfare Chair, P.O. Box 8113, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35808. The letters must be postmarked by March 1. The awards will be presented in early May.

Administrative professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) will hold its fifth annual seminar, "Pathways to Professional Excellence," Feb. 15 at the Huntsville Hilton. Anita Reed is to speak on how to "Upgrade Your Skills to the Latest Version of Success." The seminar includes a luncheon workshop, with three concurrent sessions in the afternoon. Topics to be covered include Organizational Skills, Self Esteem, Power-Point Skills, Ergonomics, Balancing Priorities, Avery-Dennison products, Retirement and more. The course code is 2000PTE. For more information call Susan Douglas 876-6757, Ellen Mahathey 876-4396, or Ivagene Baxley 828-7420.

Defense industrial group

The National Defense Industrial Association will hold its annual general membership dinner Thursday at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Thomas Devanney, deputy program manager for National Missile Defense Joint Program Office, is to present the "NMD Program Status and Overview." Social time begins at 6:30 p.m., and dinner at 7. For reservations call Jodi Weiner 533-5923.

See Announcements on page 17

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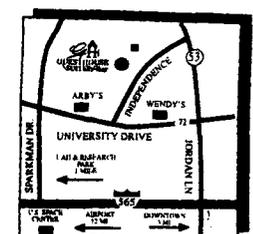
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Announcements

Ammo/missile/TMDE meet

The Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School will hold the 2000 Worldwide Ammunition, Missile, and TMDE Conference, March 15-17 at Redstone Arsenal. Information about the conference and on-line registration can be found on the OMMCS website at <http://www.redstone.army.mil/ommcs>. For other information not available on the website, call the WAMTC 2000 coordinator, Capt. Duncan MacMullen 876-9177.

Field artillery members

Brig. Gen. John Holly, program executive officer for tactical missiles, and the North Alabama Field Artillery Association will hold this year's St. Barbara's Day Celebration on Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Scheduled speaker this year is Maj. Gen. John Ryneska, deputy commanding general, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, N.C. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend, call Renee McArdle 876-1142 or use the following e-mail renee.mcardle@msl.redstone.army.mil.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 17 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.

Young Marines

The Young Marines of Alabama will have a car wash at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Burger King on post.

Master's degree program

Nova Southeastern University will have an information meeting on its Master of Business Administration program at 6 p.m. Feb. 11 at Calhoun Community College, conference room/front entrance, 102 Wynn Drive. For more information, call (800) 672-7223, ext. 5039.

Force protection conference

The Army Materiel Command's annual Antiterrorism/Force Protection Conference will be held Feb. 7-11 at Redstone Arsenal. More than 70 personnel throughout AMC worldwide will descend on the Arsenal for a week's worth of presentations, and interaction/networking. The Logistics Support Activity, under the leadership of Col. Jerry Warnement, is sponsoring the conference. This year's conference will focus on Installation FP Programs.

Professional development

American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) will hold its annual Mini-PDI,

March 22-23 at the Sparkman Auditorium. The seminar leader for the two one-day sessions will be Mark Towers; and his presentation will be on "How to Do More With Less." Bus transportation to and from lunch will be provided by ASMC. All government approved training must be charged to a government credit card. For information and reservations, call Nancy Bales 955-5615 or Brandy Moss 955-1123. Cost of the seminar is \$60 for ASMC members and \$85 for non-members. Note that the training is for one day, either Wednesday the 22nd or Thursday the 23rd. Attendees outside AMCOM's training jurisdiction should send their registration and remittance to ASMC, P.O. Box 8154, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35808.

Officer/civilian women

The OCWC luncheon will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. There will be a fashion show by the European Boutique. The menu is an Italian buffet featuring tossed salad, veggie lasagna, spaghetti, fettacini alfredo, assorted cobblers and garlic bread. For reservations call (A-L) 772-0977 or (M-Z) 464-0583.

Claims office

As of March 1, household goods claims will be accepted by appointment only Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. "Walk-ins" will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis only on Wednesday (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) and Friday (12:30-3 p.m.). The Claims Office is in the Legal Office located in building 111, phone 876-9007.

Speech contest

Universal Communicators, International Training in Communication, will hold its Annual Speech Contest at 5 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. The cost is \$20. All are invited to attend. For more information, call Janice Isbell 313-4216.

Scholarship applications

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) has scholarship applications available upon request. The envelope must be postmarked by May 15. For more information, call Arnita Lee 876-8082 or Susan Douglas 876-6757.

Astronomical society

The Von Braun Astronomical Society and its president, Gus O'Donnell, invite you to test your astronomical knowledge and enjoy nature's explosive beauty, nebulae, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. After the show, join the VBAS astronomers at their telescopes

to see Jupiter and Saturn. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 464-0945.

Space talk

"Our Expanding Universe and other Theological Anomalies" is the subject of a space-related talk by George McKay, retired NASA aerospace engineer and Bible historian, from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday in the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library auditorium, 915 Monroe St. Sponsored by the Huntsville L5 Society chapter of the National Space Society, this free event is open to the public. For more information, call Ellen Cozelos 726-6387 or 883-4873.

PX news

James Patrick of Huntsville has won a Sharp 27-inch color television at the One Stop. Patrick, family member of a retiree, is the lucky winner of a drawing sponsored by Jim Beam Brands Inc.

Education committee

The Army Community Service (ACS) Education Committee will meet at noon Feb. 16 in the ACS conference room, building 3491. Scheduled speaker is the DA school liaison officer. This meeting is open to everyone. It is helpful to call in advance concerning problem areas that need to be put on the agenda. For more information, call Ann Cooper 876-5397.

Computer security expo

AMCOM and SMDC will hold an Information Assurance Conference and Exposition, Feb. 9-10 in the Sparkman Auditorium. The conference hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the exposition hours are 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The conference and exposition are free and open to the public. "Information Assurance 24/7 Protection (Anything Less = Compromise)" is the theme of the conference which will focus on the current information technology threats to the military community and the solutions that are available in the marketplace. There will be speakers from the military, the federal government, and corporate leaders in the computer security industry. To register and for more information, visit on-line the following address: www.TechnologyForums.com or by calling toll free 877-4IT-EXPO.

Jazz concert

Internationally acclaimed jazz pianist Ellis Marsalis will perform in Huntsville for the Tennessee Valley Jazz Society's 12th annual "Celebrating Black History Thru Jazz." Marsalis is the headliner for a jazz dinner and concert at 6 p.m. Saturday at the west campus complex of Alabama A&M University. While the doors for the concert will open at 5 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m. and the concert starts at 7. Tickets are \$25 for the dinner-concert and \$15 for the concert alone. Student tickets are also available. Tickets may be purchased at James Records and Tapes, T&L Records, Alonzo's Styling Salon, the Arts Council of Huntsville and, in Sheffield, at Janice's Salon. For more information, call Howard Bankhead 858-0409.

Prep school event

The Booster Club of St. Bernard Prep School will hold its first "Draw Down" at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Fazi/Richard Gymnasium at St. Bernard in Cullman. For ticket information, call Leon Joly 883-0016 (home).

Thrift shop job

The Thrift Shop has a job opening for assistant manager. This job requires knowledge in retail sales, computer skills, organizational skills, and interfacing with volunteers and paid staff. Applications are available at the Thrift Shop, building 3209, during operating hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday. Applications are also available at Army Community Service. For more information, call Thrift Shop manager Sheila Torongeau 881-6992.

Videotape series

Today, the Army Learning Center will start its Leadership videotape series with "The Leadership Challenge." 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's resources, located in building 5304, third floor, are available for all Team Redstone personnel. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 7:30-4. For more information, call 876-1061.

See Announcements on page 18

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Announcements

Black History Month

February, as authorized by the first presidential proclamation of 1976, has been established as African-American /Black History Month. This DoD ethnic observance was initially proclaimed in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History Inc. In support of this yearly event Team Redstone is holding a celebration Feb. 29 from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Sparkman Auditorium. Anyone who wishes to be an active participant in the program committee or be personally involved in the Feb. 29 program may call Mr. Johnson 876-2116. Additionally, Team Redstone is sponsoring an Essay and Static Display Contest. Essays, two pages or less, should be on this year's theme: "Though We Are Many, We Are One." Essays should be submitted by Feb. 18 to: SFC Quesenberry at OMMCS, Attn: ATSK-AE, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35897; fax 842-6853 or call him at 876-9224. Plaques will be awarded for the top two essays. For the unit/department static display contest, notify Quesenberry of the location and point of

contact by Feb. 18; judging will take place Feb. 22. Trophies will be awarded for the top three displays.

African-American festival

The Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles, MLRS Project Office presents the fifth annual Festival of African-American Art, Music and Portrayals at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 29 at the Sparkman Auditorium. The festival, part of Black History Month, is educational for the entire community. The sponsors want to remind everyone that the history and culture of every race is richly unique and very significant to this country. This year's theme is "Though We Are Many, We Are One." Special guest narrator for the festival is Kimberly Essex, news anchor for television station WAFF-48. Prizes will be given away throughout the festival.

Modeler's club

The Huntsville Plastic Modeler's Society will have a club meeting tonight at 7 at the Redstone Arsenal Recreation Center. Contact the club at 851-6842, email, HPMSWeb@geocities.com or <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaver>

al/Hangar/8390/.

Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold its monthly

meeting Feb. 14 at 4:30 p.m. at building 3202.

All employees are invited to attend. For more information, call 876-4880 or 881-7430.

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.

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
BKM05781	Pharmacy Technician	3-Feb-00	Medical Activity	GS-0661	5	5
00D0424WT	Supv. Engr. Data Mgmt Sp	5-Feb-00	AMCOM CIC	GS-0301	15	15
00B0491SH	General Engineer	8-Feb-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	III	III
00B0433SH	Technical Support Assist.	9-Feb-00	AMCOM RDEC	DK-0303	III	III
00B0515DT	Secretary (OA)	9-Feb-00	AMCOM RDEC	DK-0318	3	3
00C0520IG	Munitions Destroyer	10-Feb-00	RASA	WG-6505	8	8
00D0441BL	Information Mgmt Officer	11-Feb-00	AMCOM DSA	GS-0301	14	14
00C0416BR	Operations Resrch Anal	11-Feb-00	SMDC	GS-1515	13	13
00B0509SS	Engineering Technician	11-Feb-00	AMCOM RDEC	DE-0802	III	III
00C0533RC	Equipment Specialist	11-Feb-00	AMCOM IMMC	GS-1670	12	12
00D0352WT	Computer Specialist	11-Feb-00	AMCOM CIC	GS-0334	12	12
00C0517BR	Patent Attorney	22-Feb-00	SMDC	GS-1222	13	13
00D0512BL	Deputy Product Manager	24-Feb-00	AMCOM DSA	GS-0340	14	14
00D0524BL	Command Ombudsman	26-Feb-00	AMCOM CG	GS-0301	15	15
00A0525PA	Supervisory Architect	28-Feb-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0808	14	14
NC08699	Criminal Investigator	13-Apr-00	CID	GS- 1811	9-12	12
00B0479SS	Aerospace Engineer	18-Jan-01	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-0861	III	III

**CRIME STOP
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Office of the Provost Marshal
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Redstone Arsenal



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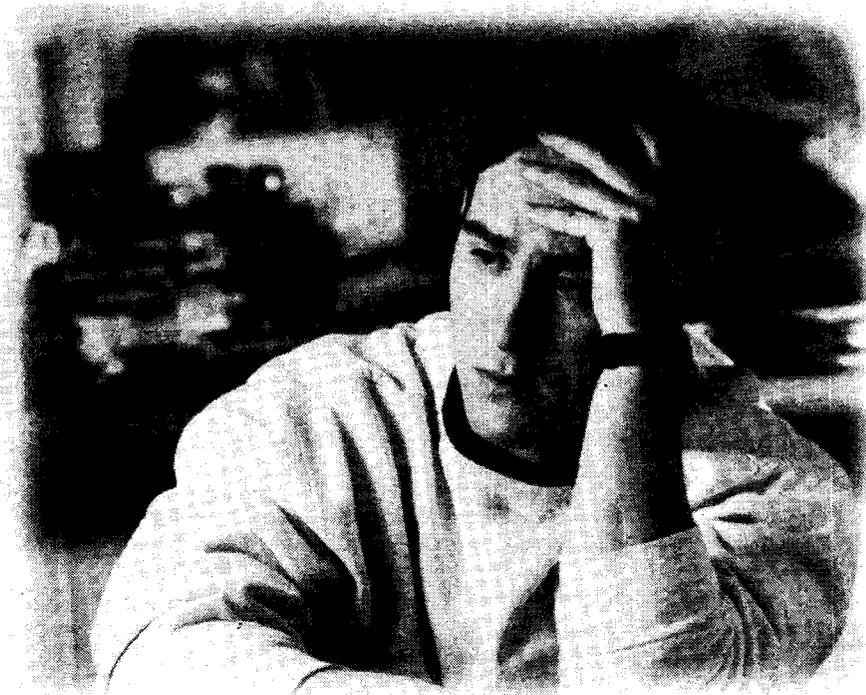
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Depot

continued from page 14

a training fund and we hope they will be here for months and months. The Apache Transmission work should be done by the end of March, but there are other areas in the depot where their skills are needed.

"Originally, there were 485 Apaches grounded with the transmission problems. CCAD has finished about 150 and they are going into aircraft to get them airborne, that is why this work is so vital," he said.

There are four (Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot) AVCRADs in the U.S. who are like mini rotary wing depots with Army National Guard soldiers assigned who do essentially the same work as Corpus Christi.

According to Blaine Withers, civilian executive assistant, "This event marks the first time in almost 20 years at CCAD that the National Guard has been used in a surge capacity.

"It offers the Guard member an intense training environment, due to the fact that they see in a few days more real life work on their military occupational specialty weapon system than they would in years at their home station. The work rotation has been structured to allow the most hands on integration with regular CCAD workload and skilled artisans. But the real benefit is CCAD and the National Guard provide an overwhelming contribution to Army Aviation Readiness when we work as a team to get the AH-64 fleet back in the air around the world

"We are also exploring more ways to integrate the skill of the NG into the business needs of CCAD and provide a benefit to both," Withers said.

Rubery said, "Having the AVCRAD personnel moving to CCAD fulfills a number

of critical mission essential training tasks for the Guard's go to war objectives. First and foremost, the AVCRADs have a mobilization mission and the primary task is to augment aviation depot production. This effort, working in the shops side by side with the CCAD work force, enhances the partnership and facilitates our abilities to actually meet the wartime objective. The secondary impact is having the total team work on the recovery of our attack helicopter fleet; a team effort that will bring the fleet back into action on a compressed time line."

It was decided to send 10 soldiers to the depot on Jan. 18 who were to come from each of the four AVCRADs. They are: 1106th, Fresno, Calif.; 1107th Springfield, Mo.; 1108th, Gulfport, Miss.; and the 1109th, Groton, Conn. AVCRAD troop strength is authorized at over 300 soldiers at each site.

The soldiers are: from California, SSgts Antonio Lambert and David Hanson and Sgt. Jeffrey Vantassel whose hometown is Clovis. From Mississippi: SFC Vernon J. Dedeaux, SSgt. Bradley A. Bhe and Sgt. Jeffrey S. Letort from Gulfport. From Missouri: SFC Terry Hampton, Willard; Sgt. David Thurman, Aurora; and MSgt. Charles Meadows, Web City. From Connecticut is Sgt. Edmund Hart, Uncasville. Also, officer in charge is Maj. Terry O'Mahoney from Fresno, Calif.

According to Sgt. Maj. Douglas Freburger, Bel Aire, Md. at the MACE (Mobilization AVCRAD Control Element), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., "Our task is to augment the surge workload that is going on at the depot with the Apache transmissions. This is one of our mission essential task lists to provide a surge workload capability to CCAD. Our soldiers are trained and will be able to step in and help on this important project."

Rollover incident causes minor injuries during PPD

by Sgt. Stacy Wamble

WASHINGTON— Three soldiers sustained bumps, bruises and other minor injuries Jan. 10 in a rollover incident during the Platform Performance Demonstration evaluations at Fort Knox, Ky.

The safety precautions and rollover drills that the soldiers go through daily helped to prevent more serious injuries to the soldiers, according to Fort Knox Public Affairs Officer John Rickey.

"While this was an unfortunate incident, we are fortunate in the fact that the strict safety guidelines the soldiers received prevented a more serious situation," said Rickey. "Soldiers train in dangerous situations every day, and it is a testament to the units involved who practice safety daily that we didn't have more serious injuries.

"One of the critical factors commanders and soldiers have focused on is safety during the PPD."

The accident occurred during the advanced driving portion of the evaluation. That part of the evaluation assesses the vehicle's mobility on a basic driving course, a cross-country driving course and an advanced driving course.

During the basic driving courses the vehicles are evaluated on their abilities to master different terrain and obstacles, according to Staff Sgt. Kenneth Kispert, a tank commander at the driving course.

Vehicles navigate such obstacles as a land trench, rocky terrain, heavy vegetation, and a mud course. Each vehicle's ability to maneuver in a European-modeled village— around sharp turns and across bridges — is also evaluated.

The PPD is used to assess medium-armored technology of vehicles from six countries for use with the Brigade Combat Teams slated to become operational this year.

The vehicles will be evaluated on six main criteria, which are mobility (including swim capability), deployability, lethality, sustainability, survivability, and MAN-PRINT - or the ease in which soldiers are able to operate the vehicles.

"These evaluations will allow soldiers to partner with industry," said Rickey, "and put the warfighter insight into the developmental processes." (Arnews)

(Editor's note: Sgt. Stacy Wamble is assigned to the Fort Knox Public Affairs Office.)