

Redstone Rocket

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Acquisition Center moves in

More than half of work force already moved to the Sparkman Center, more to follow as renovations are completed

By Sandy Riebeling

Operation Smaller Footprint takes another step toward the goal as the Acquisition Center work force relocates from building 4488 to buildings 5303 and 5308 of the Sparkman Center. More than 300 of the approximately 575 employees have made the move since the effort began Jan. 18.

"Overall, the move is going very smoothly," Jim Maples, chief, base operations division, Acquisition Center, said. "We move 16 people each day. We could move more but if you move too many at one time you start getting in the way of each other. With this number we can keep up the telephone and computer hookups as the people move. My job is to make it as easy as possible for those 16 people to get their belongings from one place to the other. I think things are going very well so far."

Currently the first and second floors of building 5303 are occupied. There was a brief lull in the move last week due to construction of an office suite on the third floor. Fumes from the stain and lacquer finishes on the woodwork in the suite were too intense to populate the area but have since dissipated and the move is expected to continue today. It will take a couple of weeks to

complete the move to the third floor of 5303.

"Our greatest challenge is getting the telephone and computer hookups and personal items moved," Maples said. "Everyone is keeping their same phone number and e-mail address. It cost a little more to do it that way but it's well worth it."

Approximately 85 employees will remain in 4488 until the renovation of half of the basement in 5308 is completed at the end of the month. Relocation of all of the employees is expected by the end of April.

The move, totaling \$1.6 million, will vacate 4488, which costs \$900,000 annually to maintain. This also clears the way for renovation of the building that will allow government agencies leasing space off post to move to the Arsenal.

"It's a great move for us," Maples said. "Change is difficult, but the building is so much better. It's newer, cleaner, healthier. Building 4488 is a good building but it's old. The carpets are old; the cafeteria is old; the air handling system is old. The building desperately needs to be modernized. It can be brought up to date but it can't be done while people are still sitting in it."

Although the physical move began Jan. 18, plans have been in the works for more than a year. Part of Maples' job in prepa-

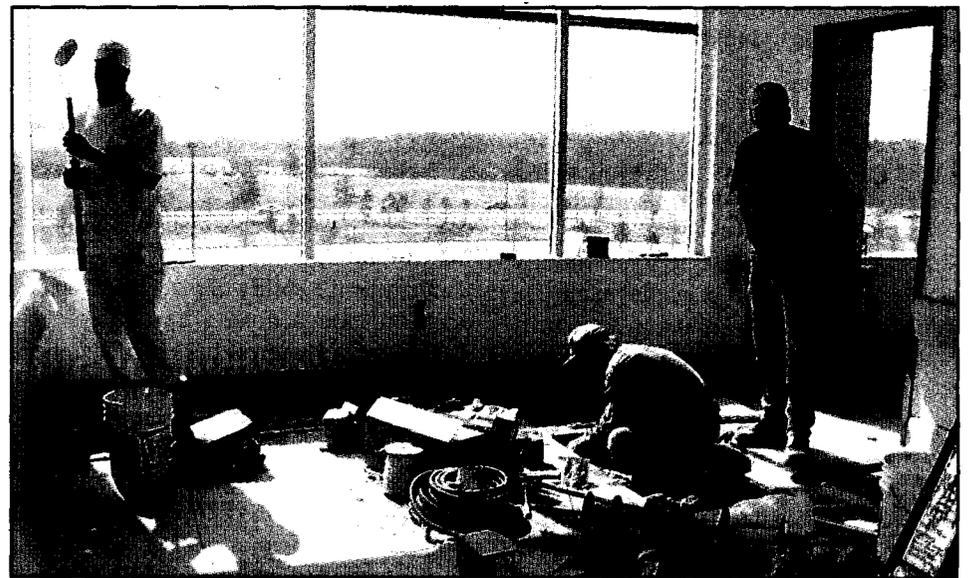


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HOME SUITE HOME— Building 5303 in the Sparkman Center is the new home of the Acquisition Center work force. The first and second floors of the building are already populated. Employees are expected to move onto the third floor this week, as work is completed on the director's office suite.

ration for the relocation was to study the floor plans at the Sparkman buildings then place each organization appropriately. For instance, the Competition Management office needed to be on the first floor to be accessible to contractors visiting the office.

"My job was to divide up the space and make sure everyone fits," Maples said. "On average, we have the same amount of workspace as before. Most of the workstations are 8-by-8 and there are a percentage that are 6-by-8 feet. We had mainly 6-by-6 feet

and 6-by-9 feet before. The managers' offices are a little smaller but are still within the Army regulation for space utilization. What we are really missing is file space. We had tons of that over at the old building."

Throughout the planning and moving stages, Maples worked with move coordinators assigned to each major organization and relied heavily on the assistance of two women in his office that "helped me in the day-to-day, hour-to-hour and minute-to-minute details."

See Move on page 8



Photo by Skip Vaughn

DOOR PRIZE— Lake, left, and Gail Askew, ticket chairman, show "Street of Old Rome" by Russian artist Anatole Krasnyanksy. This painting is among four door prizes at the art auction.

Club's 28th annual art auction slated for Saturday night

Why sit at home this weekend when you can go see great works of art?

That's the message from the Officer and Civilian Women's Club which will hold its 28th annual art auction and exhibition Saturday at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. The exhibition starts at 5:30 p.m. and the auction at 7.

"This has a long tradition," Karen Lake, OCWC president, said. "It's always a fun evening. It's an elegant evening. It's very non-intimidating for people who have never collected art. And those of us that work it just have a hoot."

Proceeds benefit the OCWC welfare

fund. Tickets cost \$5 and are available at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. They are also available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Friday outside the Sparkman Cafeteria. Tickets will be sold at the door Saturday night.

There will be hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. With reservations the dining room will offer a buffet dinner at 5 p.m.

The four door prizes include works by Russian artist Anatole Krasnyanksy, Frank Frazier, John Kelly and Jane Wooster Scott.

This event is presented by the Perry Berns Gallery from Dallas, Texas. For more information, call Martha Brouse 534-2510.

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Letters to the editor

Veterans preference facts given

This is in response to the letter to the editor in the Feb. 16 edition of the Rocket where the writer indicated that Congress is trying to eliminate veterans preference.

Veterans preference in employment is reserved for military members who served during periods of armed conflict. If someone entered the military after Oct. 16, 1976 and did not serve during Desert Shield/Storm period, he/she is not entitled to veterans preference in employment unless he/she actually served in an armed conflict. This policy is not new and goes back to the original Veterans Preference Act of 1944.

Even if a bill has been introduced, the likelihood of it passing in the 106th Congress I would think would be extremely poor. Efforts in the past to reduce or eliminate veterans preference going all the way back to the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 have failed. There are currently 50 bills pending in the Congress that support veterans. However, veterans lobbying groups and veterans need to stay vigilant.

On the contrary, the 105th Congress strengthened preference and veterans employment opportunities. First, section 1102 of Title XI of the Defense Authorization Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-85), Nov. 18, 1997, expanded veterans' preference to military members who served on active duty during the period beginning Aug. 2, 1990 and ending Jan. 2, 1992 and who meet certain other conditions. Second, the 105th Congress passed the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA) of 1998 (Public Law 105-339). This law provides several benefits. First, this law requires agencies to open

merit promotion announcements to veterans and prior military members anytime an announcement is open outside the agency (in our case, DoD). Although merit promotion announcements are merit based and no preference is given, this allows prior military members the opportunity to compete. Second, the law created a new excepted service hiring authority that could be used to hire veterans and prior military members. Finally, the law strengthens the ability of veterans to challenge improper actions.

The 106th Congress has continued the trend of passing legislation favorable to veterans and prior military members. Section 651 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (P.L. 106-65), Oct. 5, 1999 repealed the reductions in retired or retainer pay previously required of retired members of the uniformed services who are employed in the federal government. Now retired members do not have to give up part of their retired pay when they come to work for the government. Also, Section 511 of Public Law 106-117 amended the VEOA retroactive to Oct. 31, 1998 to add a career-conditional appointing authority for veterans who are selected from merit promotion announcements

Further information on the VEOA, a veterans guide, and other information for veterans can be found at the Office of Personnel Management's web page at www.opm.gov/veterans/index.htm. Also there are several websites that you can use to monitor bills before Congress, such as <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Don Dixon
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

Touched by angels

In 1977 I was diagnosed with chronic and acute peptic ulcer disease. For 12 years I had suffered inflammable pains, 24 hours a day. Medication such as Mylanta, Tagmet and Zantac only made me worry about things.

On Feb. 6, 1989, I underwent nine and a half hours of surgery. Findings at the time of surgery for peptic ulcer disease were large and small marked amounts of surrounding inflammation on the ulcer, especially over the head apthha pancreas.

During the surgery, God had sent five angels and a white horse from heaven. I remember getting on the horse and traveling through space at an unbelievable speed seeing the darkness and stars. Within a split second we were through a tunnel of light and at the end of the tunnel was the sun. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. An angel was in the sun. I remember the voice of the angel saying "Bring him to the father." I saw something that was so great, his eyes were red, clothing was white with red lined and he wore crowns on his head. He would not reveal his face or the person to my right. Two angels were on my left and right side and I never did see their faces. I remember not saying a word, just looking around God's Kingdom and how peaceful it was. God said, "Go back and tell the people I give them two choices, Heaven or Hell. I will send back for you." God knows what we are thinking, because before I could say "I am not leaving," he said, "You'll be coming back."

Next thing I knew we were traveling through space again and I awoke in the recovery room.

On June 5, 1989, I was rushed back to the hospital and found out that my intes-



Courtesy photo

TURNER

tines had twisted up and that I had to have a five and a half hour surgery once again. I honestly can say that I was scared this time. All I kept thinking was that God had said, "I will send back for you." During this surgery, five angels came to me with the white horse. We traveled through space again at an unbelievable speed, but we did not go through the tunnel this time.

All the angels went to the left and the white horse took me to the right. The horse stopped and he never did look down and a voice said to me "look down." For minutes I envisioned peoples faces in hell and they were grabbing at me trying to pull me down, but they could not reach me. Thank God for His mercy. The horse took off and we went traveling through space and he stopped. I couldn't look around or back for some unknown reason. The angels took their places and we were traveling through space again at an unbelievable speed. I awakened in the recovery room. Three days later I asked my doctor, "Did you lose me at any time during my operation?" He said, "Yes, on the first and second operation." It only took seconds to travel to heaven or hell. I'll leave you with this, if you are unsure where you are going please read John 3:16.

Marlon L. Turner

Old Courthouse debris cleanup

Traveling to and from work on Redstone Road, I noticed that the Old Courthouse building had become so dilapidated that it was an eyesore. When questioning others, I was relieved to be told that it was soon to be burned down. The controlled burn occurred about two months ago. Since then, the lot has not be cleared. Why not? The site is even uglier now than it had been. Not only is there all kinds of rubble,

but charred twisted metal pieces also. In this period of "Operation Smaller Footprint," it seems like the clearing/cleanup of this site should be on someone's priority list. When should we see improvement in this area?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "The task to demolish the Old Courthouse building 7132, has been in

the works for several years. One of the major problems was where to move the Courtroom fixtures. A building was made available due to one of the early moves coordinated by Operation Smaller Footprint. During September 1999 the Courtroom fixtures were moved to the new location which allowed DPW to proceed to the next step. A decision had been made during the early planning stage to allow the Redstone Fire Department to burn this building as a training exercise. The Fire Department proceeded with the training and provided valuable real life

fire training to the employees. DPW decided to use the FY '00 Demolition contract to remove the debris left from the training exercise. This contract is being negotiated with the contractor and should be awarded during March. After award this will be one of the first tasks to be accomplished. We regret the delay in clearing the site but had to wait for the FY '00 Demolition funds to be received before doing the final contract scope. This site will be cleared of all building debris and the Arsenal will have a better appearance."

Redstone Rocket

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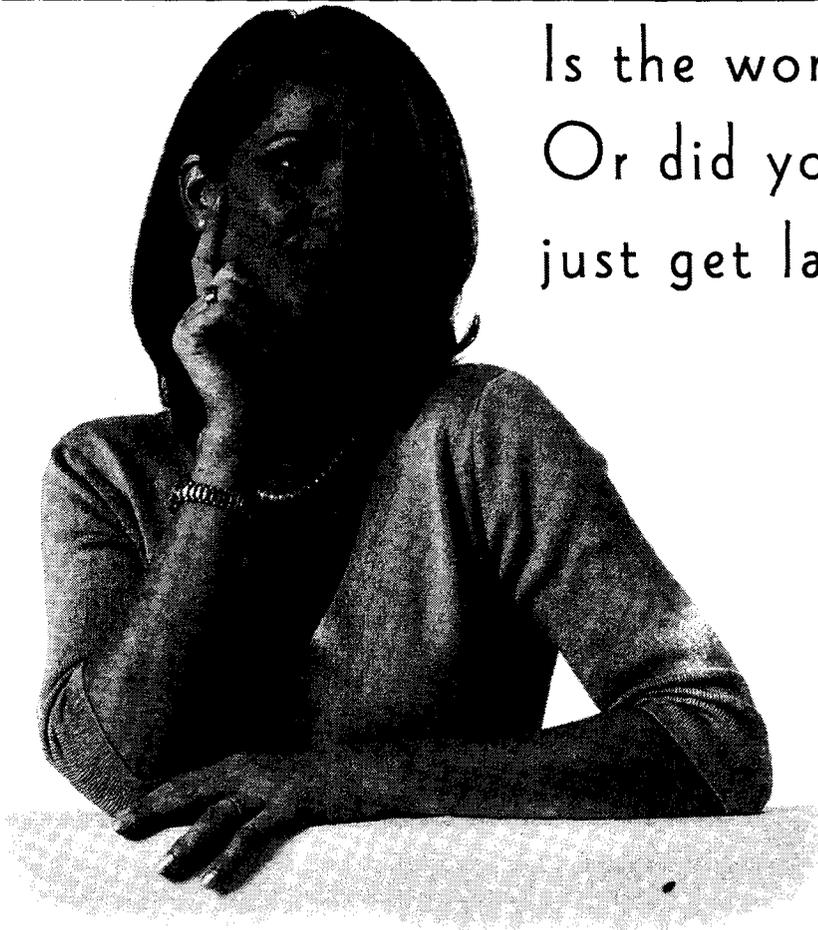
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Labor relations do matter

CPAC serves as commander's focal point for union matters

By Skip Vaughn

It's tough enough staying relatively happy yourself these days. Imagine the dilemma of AMCOM's labor relations folks.

They must deal with two unions, nine union agreements and 12 bargaining units. But the process works, mainly due to cooperation from all parties involved.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center serves as the commanding general's focal point for labor relations matters. This includes providing labor agreement interpretations, giving technical advice during the negotiation process, assisting in the processing of unfair labor practice charges and union-employer grievances, and helping in arbitration cases.

"I think that we do have an excellent working relationship with both unions," Jackie Bennett, supervisory personnel management specialist, said. "While we sometimes don't agree, we've learned to respect each other's opinions and move toward resolution of issues in a professional manner."

Two unions, the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Federation of Federal Employees, represent segments of the work force at Aviation and Missile Command. Larry Jones is president

of NFFE Local 405; and Jim Brothers is president of AFGE Local 1858.

An election, ordered by the Federal Labor Relations Authority out of Atlanta, was held last Oct. 7 to determine whether the work force wanted union representation and if so which union would have exclusive rights. The FLRA sealed the votes pending its ruling on appeals from both unions.

Meanwhile, AFGE represents 6,281 civilian employees of Team Redstone; and NFFE represents 1,265.

"One of our very major daily roles and responsibilities is to facilitate consultation with the unions on changes in conditions of employment," Bennett said. Conditions of employment include such things as reorganizations and office moves.

"The labor relations staff is a direct link between management and the union on matters affecting working conditions," Bennett said. "However, when the employees have employment concerns or dissatisfactions, they should contact their servicing CPAC representative."

Workers should contact their CPAC representative for issues regarding such things as pay and benefits, as opposed to working conditions concerns.

Two CPAC workers, Walter Pickett and Brooks Woerner, are on the front lines in the labor relations field. Pickett is a labor



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PERSONNEL TALK— Discussing labor relations issues are, from left, Pickett, Bennett and Woerner.

relations specialist; and Woerner, a personnel management specialist.

"We provide advice concerning representation petitions and representation elections," Pickett said of just one of his labor relations duties. He helped negotiate a contract last Sept. 2 between AFGE and the Logistics Support Activity.

"It took three years to negotiate that contract, and that's not unusual," Woerner said.

Until last year there were variances in procedures regarding merit promotion for

the former Missile Command workers and the former members of the Aviation and Troop Command from St. Louis. CPAC helped standardize these procedures in an agreement reached last Oct. 25. An agreement on Alternative Work Schedule was implemented last Aug. 12.

"We really believe that we have a wholesome relationship with the unions," Bennett said, "and that we work cooperatively in resolving areas of concern. We work in partnership to resolve these issues."

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Experimental fuel passes test in satellite launchers

The Army has announced the development of a low-toxicity fuel that ignites on contact (hypergolic) with nitrogen tetroxide or inhibited red fuming nitric acid (IRFNA).

A recent test successfully demonstrated that the experimental fuel could be used in satellite launchers that use Aerozine-50, a carcinogenic hypergolic fuel.

Known as Competitive Impulse, Non-Carcinogenic Hypergol or CINCH, the new fuel has been in development since 1994, and is a safer all-purpose replacement for a wide variety of hydrazine and hydrazine-based fuels.

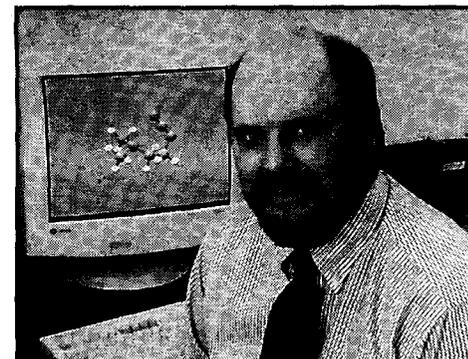
"CINCH is extremely versatile and can be used in many rocket propellant applica-

tions," Darren Thompson, Aviation and Missile Command chemical engineer said. "In 1998 CINCH was successfully tested in a monopropellant thruster. Theoretical calculations also indicate that CINCH performs better than RP-1 with hydrogen peroxide or liquid oxygen."

Marshall Space Flight Center has conducted a preliminary evaluation of the fuel and demonstration projects with Edwards Air Force Base and the Marshall Space Flight Center are planned, using hydrogen peroxide and liquid oxygen with CINCH. NASA plans to pursue the concept of using CINCH with several different oxidizers, and as a monopropellant in a satellite

launch vehicle. This concept would greatly reduce logistical costs, since only one fuel would be necessary for an entire mission. Unlike many developmental fuels, CINCH is commercially available. For example, 3M has a pilot plant producing CINCH to meet numerous requests from liquid propulsion developers.

Funding from environmental research organizations has helped advanced the development of CINCH. The Army Acquisition Pollution Prevention Support Office funded CINCH research through 1999, while a pollution prevention joint effort, including DoD agencies and NASA, is currently funding the project.



Courtesy photo

CHEMICAL ENGINEER— Thompson says the new fuel is versatile and can be used in many rocket propellant applications.

Basic allowance for housing restored to last year's rates

Soldiers nationwide got good news last week that their monthly housing allowance won't decline this year after all.

Redstone officials are still awaiting further word on this change. Secretary of Defense William Cohen announced last Wednesday that many soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines will get an unexpected increase in their basic allowance for housing (BAH) rates as a result of his decision to restore the allowance to 1999 rates in areas where the 2000 BAH rates had been decreased.

"They've approved this but of course the implementation date is to be determined,"

Joe Anderson, chief of military pay here, said. "DFAS-Indianapolis will actually make the changes to the pay account."

The change, when it does occur, should be retroactive to Jan. 1. The 2000 rates represented a 7 percent decrease for soldiers who arrived at Redstone this year. Soldiers who were stationed here before January were not affected by the new monthly rates.

Unlike in previous years, the 2000 rates were based on a national survey that was done by an independent company. The housing allowance previously was determined by the prevailing rates of a given geographical area. The new rates were

determined nationally, rather than based on the actual rent and mortgage rates entered by local finance offices.

Cohen explained his decision to restore the 1999 rates in a prepared release. "This action will result in greater equity among all people assigned to the same duty location, and will also allow the Department to pause and examine how we survey and determine the average cost of housing," he said. "It is extremely important that in every area, nationwide, we are providing an allowance which allows our men and women to live in quality housing.

"We have heard two things: First, that

the difference between the old and new rates in areas where the rates decreased is simply too much, and second, that the allowance is not enough to rent the type of housing our people are actually occupying. As a result, I have decided to return areas in which rates decreased to their 1999 rates," Cohen said.

Servicemembers, whether single or married, are provided either government housing or a monthly stipend known as basic allowance for housing to procure commercially-owned housing in civilian communities around military bases in the United States.



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Patriot Project Office people get awards for performance

The following awards were presented at a Patriot Project Office ceremony Jan. 31:

- Certification of Service, 30 years-- Donald Conn
- Patriot of the Month for January-- Jeanette Cooper
- CFC Leadership Award-- Cynthia Gurley and Regeana Henderson
- Value Engineering Achievement Award-- Dan Beck
- Performance Award-- Donna Cancel, Mike Mardis, David Fogg, Winston Sconiers, Lisa Moreland, Bob Wilson, William Caudle, Edward Fowler, Jean Chambers, Regeana Henderson
- QI-- Ollie Toney III, Brant Garner, Phillip Burroughs, Jim Miskelley, Mike Nowakowski, Audrey Tucker, Beverly Shoulders
- Special Act Award-- Tom Harris, Timothy Dean, Eric Baker, Kathleen Anderson, Thomas Kelley, William West, Brenda Dunn, Jacqueline Crepeau, Jaime Zapata, Brian Sheehy, Danny Davis, Almetris Turner, Yolanda Jones, Kathy L. Irving, Dan Beck, Glenn Davenport, Jennifer Shepherd, William Pearce, Brian Sheehy, Carroll Roberson, Ollie Toney III, Millie Smith, Pete Peterson, Dian Weller, Jerry Simmons, Brant Garner, Audrey Tucker, Jim Miskelley, Greg Greenemeier, Phillip Burroughs, Anthony DiCerbo, William Varnon, Martin Belgrave
- Army Achievement Medal-- Lt. Col. Edward L. Mullin (three oak leaf clusters)
- Achievement Medal for Civilian Service-- Dennis L. Day, Valeta Crandall, Julia Cole, Arthur Tischer and Jack Glandon.

CTI receives contract to fix Apache blades

AMCOM has awarded a \$3.4 million contract for the repair of AH-64 main rotor blades with spar disbonds to Composite Technology Inc. (CTI) of Grand Prairie, Texas.

Due to this defect, AH-64 main rotor blades' service life limit averages only 800 hours. CTI is therefore returning to service main rotor blades that are currently considered scrapped for a quarter of the cost of a new replacement blade. Some 138 blades have been received at CTI facility and the first delivery of repaired blades to operational squadrons will begin in June.

The scope of the repair, as outlined in the contract, includes Depot Maintenance Work Repair and spar disbond repair. The latter, developed by CTI and approved by

AMCOM engineering in 1998, consists of a carbon fiber patch which is bonded over the spar bondlines. The patch is applied to both surfaces from the tip of the blade to the root doublers. A nickel leading edge and erosion shield, located at the tip region, protect the forward edges of the patches.

CTI has developed other innovative repairs, all approved by AMCOM engineering, for the Apache aircraft. One is a supplemental abrasion strip for AH-64 tail rotor blades, which prevents damage to the leading edge area of the blade and allows the blade to reach its full service life limit. The other is a repair, which eliminates charring, of the heat damaged inner panels of AH-64 engine nacelles. (Composite Technology Inc. release)

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Guest speaker...

Michael D'Ostilio, inspector general for Army Materiel Command, speaks to the American Society of Military Comptrollers members during the ASMC monthly luncheon Feb. 10.

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Training to help save lives

Safety coordinator instructs co-workers in CPR and first aid for emergency treatment

By Sandy Riebeling

Do you know what to do if the person sitting next to you has a heart attack? His or her life may depend on how you react in an emergency situation.

"When there's an emergency, the first response should always be to call 911," Steve Caudill, safety and environmental coordinator for the Propulsion and Structures Directorate, RDEC, said. "But then what? What if there's no pulse or the person's not breathing. Those first few minutes in an emergency are critical. You may have to step in and be that person's life support until emergency medical support arrives."

The prime reason Caudill spends time teaching CPR and first aid training to his co-workers is to fill that critical time gap.

"We work with propellants, explosives, hazardous toxic chemicals, trucks, forklifts," he said. "The nature of our business demands a work force adequately trained in first aid and CPR. By doing the training in-house, we can keep the costs down and train more people. Our goal is to have 75 percent of our work force in the Propulsion and Structures Directorate trained and certified in first aid and adult CPR."

OSHA doesn't list a specific number to be first aid certified within an organization. In fact, they only recommend and do not require any CPR training at all. The directorate determined the percentage according

to the risk factors on the job site, geographical location of their employees and fluctuation in attendance.

"We need a large percentage trained because we are spread out in six buildings over five or six miles," Dr. John Prater, acting deputy director for Propulsion and Structures Directorate, said. "We're not going for just one or two people nor are we shooting for 100 percent. We need an adequately trained work force which takes into account people going TDY, on vacations and even the AWS. The probability of an event occurring is very low, but there's always the unknown. It's the same reasoning for using a seat belt. You want to have it in place just in case. We want to be able to cover the unknown."

Caudill has two courses scheduled in March, which should bring the work force up to the 75 percent training goal. Each course is taught in one day, two and half hours for first aid and four hours for adult CPR. Class size is limited to 10 people due to equipment availability. He has five mannequin torsos for CPR training, on loan from the learning resource center, and blankets from Fox Army Health Center.

"Everyone who successfully completes the course is Red Cross certified in first aid and adult CPR," he said. "It costs the students \$2 each to cover the cost of their certification cards."

Caudill, a retired Army warrant officer, spent a great deal of his military career in the high risk field of nuclear weapons

maintenance. He has always considered safety to be "paramount" in the workplace. He became first aid and CPR instructor certified by the Red Cross in 1993. When he retired in 1997, he went to work for ERC (Engineering Research and Consulting Corp.) in 1997 which provides support to the Redstone Technical Test Center. He began teaching first aid and CPR classes while working at RTTC. In 1999, Caudill moved over to the Propulsion and Structures directorate and began teaching there. He still works with RTTC for the first aid and CPR training.

First aid and CPR instructors are required to recertify every two years through their certification agency. For those taking the classes, first aid certification must be updated every three years with a refresher course and CPR certifications must be updated every year.

"So, once I get these classes finished, I'll be done teaching for a while," Caudill said. "But next year, I'll just be doing CPR, because the certification for first aid lasts three years. I believe it's a good idea to take the training every year so that you can retain what you have learned. You have to have hands-on practice."

"Teaching this training is only a small part of Steve's job," Prater said. "But it's

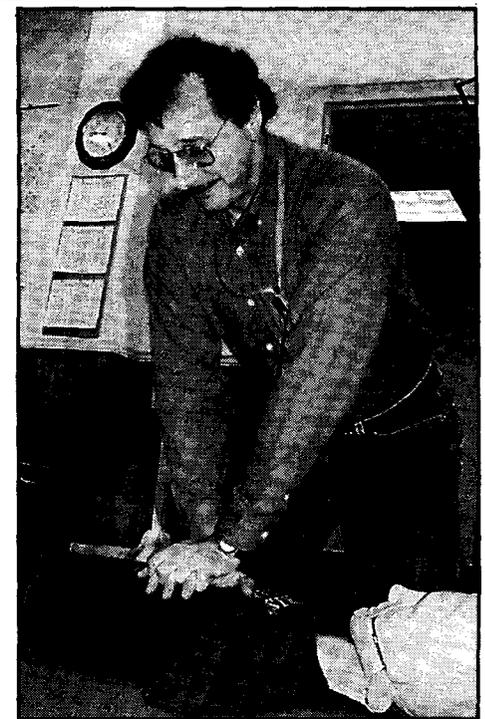


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

CHEST COMPRESSIONS— Knowing how to perform CPR may mean the difference between life and death. Caudill teaches CPR and first aid to co-workers in the Propulsion and Structures Directorate, RDEC.

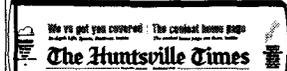
great to be able to have the training available in house. Government employees as well as contractors can attend and it doesn't cost them anything except the \$2 for the certification card."

Caudill replenishes his supplies for the class with funds from the safety budget.

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Blast off with essay contest

ACS education committee offers Space Camp scholarships to local military children

By Sandy Riebeling

If you've ever dreamed of going to Space Camp or Space Academy or Aviation Challenge, now is the time to make it happen, for free.

Impress the judges with an original, two-page handwritten essay on why you want to go to Space Camp and you could receive a free week of camp this summer.

The Army Community Service (ACS) Education Committee is offering at least eight scholarships to send local children of active duty soldiers or retired military to camp June 11-16. The scholarship money was donated from several organizations on post to lend a hand to this popular program.

"This is our 16th year to send kids to Space Camp," Ann Cooper, family services coordinator at ACS, said. "A lot of kids went to Space Camp free with their schools

in the past but that program isn't being offered this year to the fifth-graders so I expect we'll have a lot of essays for these scholarships. We had about 50 entries last year."

Cooper said that there would be at least eight scholarships, possibly one or two more, depending on funds available. Previous scholarship winners will be allowed to apply this year, to attend a camp other than the one they have already attended. To be eligible for Space Camp, applicants must have completed grades 4, 5 or 6; for Space Academy and Aviation Challenge, applicants must have completed grades 7, 8 or 9. Students must have at least a C average and live within a 50 mile radius of the Arsenal to apply. Applications will be available beginning March 10 at ACS, building 3491, and various locations on post, yet to be determined.

"We are also sending application packets

to Madison County Schools, Huntsville City Schools and Madison City Schools," Cooper said. "We have a couple of volunteers, Alice Mockensturm, chairman of the Space Camp committee, and Marsha Collins working on marketing and publicity, that have done a wonderful job for us this year. They have really worked hard to make this event a success."

Applications must be returned to ACS by March 24 at noon. Essays will be judged by representatives from the sponsoring organizations, which include, the Thrift Shop, Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club, Officer and Civilian Women's Club, Association of the United States Army, and the United Services Planning Association and Independent Research Agency.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for community children," Sue Paddock, ACS chief, said. "We really appreciate the sponsor support that makes this happen."

Winners will be notified April 12-13. The awards ceremony will be May 24. For more information, call ACS at 876-5397.



File photo

Synergy speaker...

John Johns, principal assistant deputy for systems acquisition, is to speak on "No Change Required" at the first meeting of the Synergy Forum from 9-11 a.m. next Tuesday at building 5304, room 4253. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Jim McGraw 313-0851.

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Acquisition workers moving into Sparkman Center

Move

continued from page 1

Because of the procurement sensitive data, security stations have been placed in the main entrance to 5303 and in the hallway connecting the building to the rest of the complex. In addition, card readers have been installed on the side doors of the building to limit access. All contractors and visitors must sign in at the security desk upon entering the building.

Maples said that the only surprise during this move so far has been the quick phone line connection and computer hookups. Most employees had their service moved and usable on the same day they moved.

"CIC and the phone company have been great," he said. "My only real worry is about moving the computer server after everyone has been moved. It has to be

completely disassembled, moved, and then reassembled. They say it shouldn't be a problem but it's still kind of scary. You never know, it may go as smoothly as the phones."

Maples also praised the efforts of Carol Meekins and the Sparkman Management Office staff.

"This move would not have gone so smoothly without their assistance," Maples said. "Working with Carol and her staff has been wonderful. I couldn't have done it without them."

Most of the employees affected by this move are from the Acquisition Center. A few offices located in building 4488, such as the Small Business Administration office, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization office, Competition Management office, and the Defense Contract Audit Agency, who support the Center, will be moving to the Sparkman Center acquisition area as well.

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Italian general leads international project

NATO's MEADS enters risk reduction phase as Parisi takes helm

By Sandy Riebeling

Rome is his home but Lt. Gen. Franco Parisi admits he enjoys the quiet life of Huntsville— until the tornado sirens begin to wail.

"We were impressed with the detailed weather coverage of the storms last week," Parisi said, adding that tornadoes are not a problem in Italy. "We have strong storms but no tornadoes."

Parisi arrived in Huntsville Jan. 3 to take his position as general manager for the NATO Medium Extended Air Defense System Management Agency, replacing Brig. Gen. Hunrich Meunier of Germany. Huntsville serves as the operating base for NAMEADSMA, which was officially established July 15, 1996, under the direction of Meunier.

"This is a very unique and challenging program," he said. "What makes it so unique is that this is the first NATO agency to be managed in the United States. It's also the first example of full cooperation of the United States, Germany and Italy conducting a program from the beginning, from definition through development and production."

The agency's mission is to develop, produce and field an advanced air and missile defense system to satisfy the operational requirements of the three countries involved. Primary interest for the United States is to develop a mobile system to protect contingency operations that take place outside the country. While this also interests Italy and Germany in certain crisis areas, the system's ability to protect their homelands and the surrounding critical areas is most important.

During the first three years of the program, the office was established and the requirements of the system were defined. Two concept proposals were offered from two different companies. MEADS International, an integrated entity comprised of the U.S. company Lockheed Martin and teams from the German company DASA (Diamler-Chrysler Aerospace) and the Italian company Alenia, won the

contract.

"We are working under an interim contract that will expire in the middle of the year," Parisi said. "One of our first goals is to place the contract for the risk reduction effort with MEADS International. The goal is to refine the concept and to identify and eliminate the problems as they arise."

Parisi will track the progress of the system through program reviews.

"When you begin a project like this there are some doubts about how things will perform. We are using new technologies, new ideas, and these things— you have to find out if they work in the way it's needed. We will see the results through the program reviews during the next years."

As the general manager, it is Parisi's responsibility to ensure that the work carried out by the contractors is really what the nations have asked them to provide. By the end of this three-year contract, Parisi expects to have part of the next contract drafted, which will be a development contract that will produce a working prototype of the system. But this, he said, is several years away; much of the progress depends on the availability of funds.

"I am looking forward to the challenge," he said. "I'm satisfied to be here."

Professionally, this assignment was a good one for Parisi who has, for the last five years, worked as the general director of the ARMAEREO (Air Equipment Procurement Branch) in the Italian Minister of Defense Procurement.

It is his first assignment that brings him to the United States for an extended period of time, as well.

"I've been to Washington a few times, but only for short visits," he said. "This is my first time here. I like the nature and quiet here very much, provided there are no tornadoes. Life here is quiet. In Rome there is so much noise and traffic."

Parisi's wife, Antonella, arrived in Huntsville a few weeks after him. She will travel back and forth between Italy and the U.S. during Parisi's assignment.

"What I miss most are my daughters, Tiziana and Flavia, and my granddaughter,



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

NEW IN TOWN— Parisi, right, talks with Chester Domaracki, deputy general manager of the NATO-MEADS Management Agency, about the progression of the risk reduction contract to be awarded this summer.

Giulia. Of course, I will miss my friends too, but that's what happens with moving. I will find new friends here."

Parisi said his daughters plan to visit him during his stay in the U.S.

Personnel center keeps lines open

Customers can reach their staffing specialist on web or by telephone

Workers complained at the latest Family Symposium that they did not know how to reach their personnel staffing specialist.

Well, the members of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center want to correct that communication problem. They have provided a list of electronic-mail addresses and phone numbers.

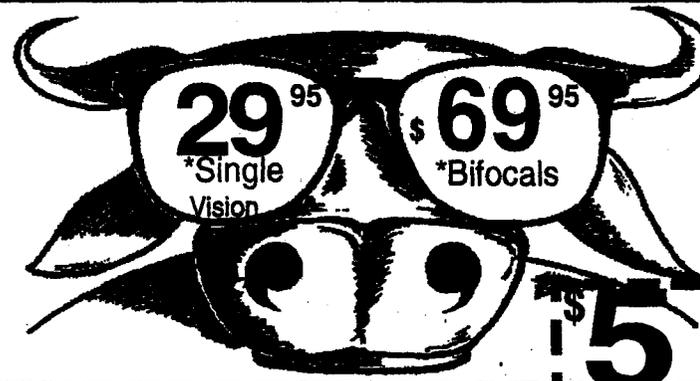
"The CPAC agreed during the Family Symposium to publish a list of POCs (points of contact) and a website in the Rocket because the Redstone community brought that up as an issue they had with the CPAC," Susan Davis, a personnel management specialist, said. "Customers at the symposium stated they were unable to obtain accurate and timely information and responses; customers no longer know whom to contact for services."

Members of the personnel center did a staff analysis and determined that all CPAC employees have voice mail which

See Website on page 12

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Broken hearts can be mended

Heart surgery survivor helps others by volunteering for Mended Hearts support group

By Margaret Banish-Donaldson

Patients who need new heart valves—usually because of a congenital heart defect or an infection—must rely either on donors (either humans or animals) or a prosthetic valve for replacements. Donnette Smith of the Research, Development and Engineering Center was only 40 years old in 1988 when her aortic valve was replaced with a human heart valve. The donor was a 41-year-old woman from Tuscaloosa.

A heart valve is a complex mechanism, with several flap-like leaflets that regulate blood flow. The valve must open and close, and allow the blood to flow in only one direction. Complications from the human heart valve replacement caused Smith to have heart surgery again five years later in 1993. However, this time she received a Saint Jude mechanical heart valve and a prosthetic aortic arch, the result of an aneurysm.

After the first surgery, Smith came back to work in six weeks but realized that was too soon. When she had her second surgery, she waited the entire eight weeks, and then came back to work part time for a while before resuming her duties full time.

When Smith had her first surgery, a volunteer visited her from a support group called Mended Hearts. The volunteer

helped her to deal with the frightening aspect of heart surgery. When Smith faced surgery again in 1993, the chapter had disbanded. While recuperating from her second surgery, Smith began her quest to again have a chapter in Huntsville. With the help of the American Heart Association, and the regional director for the Southern Region, Donna DeLeese, Smith formed a new charter chapter in September 1994.

Mended Hearts is a support group for heart patients, families, caregivers and friends. Volunteers help people deal with the emotional recovery from heart surgery, and provide information to the families on what they can expect from their loved ones when they get home from the hospital.

"A key aspect of recovery is the goal of having the heart patient return to his or her normal role in the family and community," Smith said. "It is important not to make the patient feel like an invalid."

Smith recalls visiting a 36-year-old single male patient the day before his surgery. He thought he would be an invalid for the rest of his life, and unable to go back to work. He also had a strong fear that he would not wake up after the surgery. Smith had had those same feelings herself when she had her surgeries.

"Just by talking to him, I was able to reassure the young man," Smith said.

"Sometimes the mere presence of a heart survivor is enough to give a patient the 'I can do it too' attitude."

In addition to talking to the patients and their families, Mended Hearts volunteers provide patients with heart pins, packets with information on how to help manage their condition and return to normal life after surgery, and tiny red heart-shaped pillows.

Smith got the idea for the pillow from the late Cloe Tucker, who also helped her in getting the Huntsville Chapter started. Tucker gave Smith a square pillow decorated with pansies the day before her surgery. Smith used it as a coughing pillow, and she still has it sitting on her bed today. She called it her security blanket.

Huntsville Hospital provides the funding for the pillow project. Smith gets volunteers from local church groups, schools and senior citizen centers to sew and stuff the pillows for the heart patients.

Every other Tuesday night Smith visits patients on the fifth and sixth floors at the hospital. Last year, trained volunteers visited 900 patients; and the four heart surgeons at Huntsville Hospital performed 1,200 surgeries.

The youngest volunteer is 17 years old and the oldest is 92. The oldest credits his long life to walking two miles a day, taking one aspirin a day, and drinking a martini at 5 p.m. every day.

There are two chapters in Alabama, Huntsville and Auburn/Opelika, and more than 265 chapters nationwide. The Mended Hearts Huntsville Chapter No. 260 has 110 members with 15 trained accredited volunteers. Volunteers focus mainly on adult patients. Monthly meetings are held at the Blackwell Medical Tower with speakers providing talks on a range of subjects like hospice, diet, exercise, estate planning, HEMSI (when to call an ambulance), and new heart procedures.

National conventions are held every year. Last year Smith chaired the national convention held in June in Nashville. More than 650 heart survivors attended the event from the United States and Canada, and even a couple was there from Australia.



Photo by Margaret Banish-Donaldson

SOFT HEART— Smith picks up the red heart-shaped pillows that were stuffed for the heart patients from the Senior Center.

Their chapter is called the Zipper Club. They attended the convention to gain information on how to pattern their group after the Huntsville Chapter.

A reunion of heart patients is held each year in the spring, sponsored by Huntsville Hospital. The staff, doctors, nurses and patients attend. The hospital provides all the heart-healthy food, music and entertainment. The cardio-thoracic surgeons give T-shirts to the heart patients in attendance.

After forming the Huntsville Chapter, Smith was president for two years. She is now the assistant regional director for the Southern Region. She is in charge of helping interested groups start Mended Hearts chapters in Alabama and Tennessee. Smith is getting ready to go to Dothan to present a charter and provide training to get a chapter started.

Volunteers who wish to visit at the hospital are required to take an initial four hours of classroom training and must be reaccredited each year. Chapter and national dues are required to join Mended Hearts. Each member receives a heart lapel pin and a paid subscription to HEARTBEAT magazine.

Smith and her husband, Tom, who retired from the Systems Simulation and Development Directorate, have two children: a daughter, Dana Sanders, a nurse in Albertville, and a son, Darrin, a sales representative for a major coffee manufacturer. They have one grandchild, Ty Sanders, 2.

For more information about Mended Hearts, call 880-6600 or 536-0400.



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Three-peat no problem for Marines

Marine Detachment captures third consecutive Commander's Cup all-sports trophy

By Skip Vaughn

When CWO 2 William Holtzclaw arrived at the Marine Detachment last August, his fellow Marines didn't ask him if he played softball. They asked him what position he played.

That's how serious the Marines take sports. And that's why they won their third straight Commander's Cup sports trophy.

The Marines finished first this year with 394.2 points followed by Delta Company with 358.8 and Headquarters & Alpha Company with 341.1. Units compete each season in seven sports: flag football, basketball, golf, racquetball, volleyball, softball and 5K run.

"This year was harder because Hawk instructors are all gone," Sgt. Dax Hammers said of the declining numbers of fellow Marines.

"A diminishing pool of athletes caused these guys to have to play multiple sports," Holtzclaw added.

The detachment has only 20 permanent-party members. "So you're talking about little depth," Holtzclaw said.

Despite their limited numbers, the Marines garnered points in all seven sports



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS— The Marines hold their latest Commander's Cup. From left are SSgt. Larry Freetage, Hammers, SSgt. Richard Nyman, Holtzclaw, Sgt. Brad Hollifield, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Red Hodges. Not pictured are Maj. Thomas Neis, unit commander; MSgt. Catfish Slaton and SSgt. Ryan Stewart.

during the 1998-99 sports year. They placed second in the racquetball tournament; first in the softball regular season and second in the tournament; third in the golf tournament; second in the volleyball season and fourth in the tournament; fourth in the basketball season and seventh in the tournament; third in the flag football season and second in the tournament; and second in the 5K run.

"These guys had to build on each other's

strengths," Holtzclaw said.

"We play from racquetball to golf, we play everything," Hammers said. "We play every sport."

Ted Compcoc, sports director, conducted the Commander's Cup presentation last Wednesday at Pagano Gym. Sgt. Maj. J.C. Winston, of Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, presented trophies to the top three finishers of the 10 units on post.

Gators pop MEDDAC in hoops season finale

The troop basketball season ended on a winning note for Headquarters and Alpha Company.

The Gators beat MEDDAC 47-34 last Thursday in a battle of teams that struggled throughout the season. All the teams will see action during the postseason, double-elimination tournament that began Monday and ends next Monday.

Headquarters and Alpha (2-10) trailed 19-17 at halftime in the game at Pagano Gym but rallied in the second half. Rodney Murrell scored 16 points and Robert Bullard added 10 for the Gators.

MEDDAC (2-10) was led by Darwin Williams with 13 points and Danny Leach with 10.

Here are the final standings for the regular season:

- Eastern Division— AMCOM (10-1), 59th (9-2), Marines (7-4), Bravo Company (3-8).
- Western Division— Charlie Company (9-3), Delta Company (7-5), ROTC (3-9), Headquarters & Alpha (2-10) and MEDDAC (2-10).

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Helping steer teens in right direction

Electronics engineer devotes time to Junior League projects such as teens home

By Margaret Banish-Donaldson

Laurie Fraser, an electronics engineer in the Research, Development and Engineering Center, is among millions of people who understand the joys of volunteering. While working full time and raising a family, she still finds time for PTA, Boy Scouts and helping in Sunday school classrooms. In addition, four years ago a friend, Cindy Pearsall, extended an invitation to Fraser to join the Junior League of Morgan County.

"I joined the JLMC because I was impressed with what this group of women have accomplished by pooling their talents and applying them to community needs," Fraser said.

The Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Currently, Fraser is serving as co-chairperson of the public relations committee. She has used her software and computer skills to create the JLMC's yearbook and as past editor of their newsletter.

Each volunteer gives a minimum of 30 hours of service per year, supporting the

League's 10 to 15 ongoing community projects. The League's major project for the past five years has been the funding, building and opening of the Helping Adolescents Needing Direction and Supervision Home. In 1991, the JLMC undertook a study of the needs in Morgan County. With the help of Community Advisory Board member, Judge David Breland, the League determined that a Children in Need of Supervision home was needed.

CHINS is a legal definition of teens, ages 10 to 18, who are at a high risk of becoming juvenile delinquents, or school and society dropouts. These teens do not have substantial substance abuse problems or criminal charges against them, yet they are in need of guidance within a structured home-like environment.

The JLMC named their CHINS facility the "HANDS Home." It opened in October 1999, and houses eight to 10 girls at a time. The girls can stay for up to two months. The volunteers strive to create a safe and accepting environment to rebuild the self-esteem of these girls and teach them responsibility through positive group living.

"The success of this project has been phenomenal and the JLMC still provides support through leadership and donations,"

Fraser said. "I look forward to identifying our next community interest project."

Fraser began her government career as a co-op student at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., in the Value Engineering Department in 1980. After graduating from the University of Iowa in 1983, with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, she married Garth, also an engineer, and moved to Birmingham. She worked as a methods engineer for Southern Company Services until 1987 when the couple moved to Decatur, and Fraser came to work at the RDEC as an electronics engineer. She is now manager of the Advanced Prototyping, Engineering and Experimentation Lab, a facility where engineers and soldiers test future weapon systems in a simulated battlefield environment.



Photo by Garth Fraser

HOUSE VISIT— Laurie Fraser serves as a volunteer for the Junior League of Morgan County.

The Fraser's have two sons, Evan, 6, and Kyle, 11.

For more information on the JLMC and HANDS, call the Junior League of Morgan County (256) 350-1917 or HANDS Home (256) 301-5525.

Website

continued from page 9

allows callers to leave messages as necessary. The center employees' telephone numbers are available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://micnt7.redstone.army.mil/cpac/cpacdir.asp>. This website also contains the assignment of each CPAC employee. By using this website, customers should be able to determine who

to contact for the services they need.

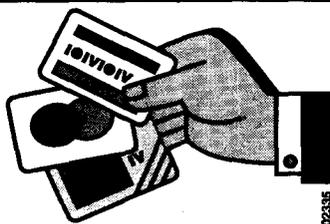
To reach the directory, customers can contact the following website: <https://intranet.redstone.army.mil/>. Then select "directorates," and the Personnel and Training Directorate. Next select CPAC on the P&T page, and then "CPAC Directory." All of the center's personnel lists are listed on that page.

Workers are advised to bookmark or save that address for future use.

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Photo by Louise Olszewski

Multicultural choir...

Eugene Edwards directs the Redstone Multicultural Choir during its performance Feb. 22 at the Sparkman Center for the monthly Prayer Breakfast sponsored by IMMC.

Diabetics

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**Florida
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**Announcement:
Master of Science
in Computer Information Systems**

Florida Institute of Technology Graduate Center, Redstone. Will host information sessions 9 March from 12:00 to 1:00 pm and 6 April from 12:00 to 1:00 pm and 5:00 to 6:00 pm, building 5304. Seating is limited.

Interested personnel should contact our admin. office at 881-7878 or e-mail, www.segs.fit.edu/-redstone

Redstone officials trying to weather timber damage from storm

A recent storm left more damage than meets the eye, according to post forester Jesse Horton.

Horton has accessed the natural resource damages to Redstone caused by high winds Feb. 13.

"Although the Arsenal sustained substantial real property damages to buildings, fences and utility lines, there were other environmental damages to the natural environment that seemed to go unnoticed," he said in a prepared release.

"An approximate 600 to 800 foot wide swath of extremely high winds began its damage to mature forestland starting just north of the water tower at Test Area 5 and departing the Arsenal just north of gate 2 off Buxton Road. In its track it left approximately 83 acres of broken topped, blown down and leaning mature pine and hardwood timber."

The Mobile District Corps of Engineers, resident forester is working with the installation forester to salvage the damaged timber as soon as possible. The urgency of sal-

vaging the timber is to reduce the government's timber income loss and prevent a potential threat of a pine beetle infestation that generally occurs when the beetles are attracted to damaged pine trees.

"Although there is a good likelihood that the majority of the damaged timber may be salvaged, the final result will be immediate reduced timber income from damaged and now considered low value timber, long term economic loss due to negative timber asset, and destroyed habitat for certain wildlife," Horton said in his release.

"The estimated harvest income of \$25,000, which does not return to the installation for immediate program operations, will fall far short of that required to prepare the area for reforestation and other environmental improvements. But just as Redstone weathered the pine beetle epidemic that deforested over 200 acres in 1996, a request will be made to acquire special DoD funding to bring the area back to an acceptable environmental state."



Photo by Pam Rogers

TREE LINED— High winds Feb. 13 damaged 83 acres of pine and hardwood timber.

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Courtesy photo

Exceptional service medal...

Maxine Maples receives the Secretary of the Army's Exceptional Civilian Service Medal in a Pentagon ceremony. Making the presentation at right is Dr. Bernard Rostker, undersecretary of the Army. Maples was recognized for her significant contributions while serving as director, program operations, and special assistant to the Program Executive Officer, Air and Missile Defense, from May 1994 to February 1999. She is currently the special assistant and Southern Region director for Acquisition Career Management. From left are Gen. John Coburn, commander of Army Materiel Command; Paul Hoeper, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology; Maples, and Rostker.

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Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Baseball weekend trip

Civilian Welfare Fund Council is planning a baseball weekend trip to Atlanta, Aug. 25-27. Two games, Friday and Saturday nights, Atlanta Braves vs. St. Louis Cardinals. Tentative plans are as follows: Bus to leave Redstone Arsenal, Friday afternoon and return Sunday afternoon. Bus, games, hotel — based on double occupancy — will cost approximately \$175 per person. More details to follow. If interested, call Mary Ann Meyer-Schuck 313-3395.

Volleyball league

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring a Coed Volleyball League and players need to sign up by next Monday. Both "Recreation" and "Power" Leagues are planned based on the number of players. The league is open to all Team Redstone employees, including government, contractors working on the Arsenal, and the military. All games will be played at the Arsenal's newest gym, the Redstone Fitness Center. An organizational meeting will be held next Wednesday at the Fitness Center, followed by a practice session. Sign up now. For more information, call Mary Ann Meyer-Shuck 313-3395.

Youth baseball/softball

Baseball/softball registration for ages 5-12 continues through March 18. A copy of each child's birth certificate and a current physical will be required at registration. The cost is \$25 per child. Take advantage of the "Family Sports Plan" which is \$100 per family for one year. Active duty, retired military, DoD, DA, NASA and contractor

family members are invited to sign their children up at the Youth Center, building 3148, Monday through Saturday, 1-7 p.m. For more information, call 876-2255. Babe Ruth baseball is available through Brahan Springs Recreation Center at 883-3710 for youths 13-15.

Helicopter pilots

Huntsville Heli Flyers will hold its "Fun Fly," April 29-30 from 8 a.m. until dark at Huntsville Heli, Chase Road, Huntsville. There is a \$20 landing fee for pilots. Other activities include an auto contest, drag races, food and lots of fun. For more information call Joe DeWitt 650-3757, Lynn Cummins 767-6368 or Terry Thomas 721-1048.

Bowling weekend special

Rocket Lanes is offering a Weekend Special now through April. Cost is \$1.25 per game open bowling every Saturday from noon until 11 p.m. and Sunday from 2-5 p.m. Rocket Lanes is located in building 3707 on Aerobee Road. For more information, call 876-6634.

Youth dance classes

Youth Services is offering Ballet, Tap and Jazz Classes beginning in March. The cost is \$28 a month for one weekly class, \$45 month for two weekly classes, or \$55 a month for three weekly classes. Call 876-5437 for more information.

Redstone 10-miler

The 27th annual Redstone Arsenal Ten Miler and 5K road races will be held March 18 in front of Pagano Gym. The 10-miler starts at 8 a.m., and the 5K at 9:45. Registration for both events begins at 7. The entry fee is \$3 for one or \$4 for both

races postmarked by March 12, or \$4 and \$5 thereafter and on race day. For more information call William Alvarez, race director, 430-1071.

Cajun dance

The Cajun/Zydeco Connection of Huntsville will hold a "Tardi Gras" concert and dance with music performed by Roux du Bayou, featuring Paul Gregoire of Dulac, La., from 8-11 p.m. March 11 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3053 Leeman Ferry Road. Free beginner dance instruction begins at 7:15 p.m. Admission is \$12 (\$10 for members). For more information, call 880-2653.



Miscellaneous

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 next Tuesday. 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.

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.

Quarterly retirement ceremony

The Quarterly Post Retirement Ceremony will be held March 16 at 4 p.m. between buildings 5303 and 5304 at the Sparkman Center Parade Field. Military retirees who wish to participate in the ceremony should call MSgt. Loew, RASA Support Operations, 876-2819 by Friday.

Art auction

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold an art auction at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. There will be an exhibition of the art to be auctioned starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and available now through the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Included in the admission price are complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. For more information, call Martha Brouse at 534-2510. The Officers' and Civilians' Club will also offer a buffet dinner starting at 5 p.m. For dinner reservations, call the Officers' and Civilians' Club 830-2582.

Fashion show

The Designers Against Breast Cancer (DABC) will hold a Fashion Show Extravaganza at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Tickets are \$20. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. For ticket information call 837-5678, 539-0001 or 536-1855.

See Announcements on page 5

TICKETS

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Redstone Arsenal Command
will celebrate its annual **National Prayer Breakfast**
March 2nd at 0630-0800.
Redstone Arsenal Club.

This year's guest speaker is
Retired Chaplain (Colonel) Billy Fowler.

You can purchase tickets at
Bicentennial Chapel
or at the door on March 2nd.

The suggested donation is \$5.00.

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Announcements

Government/industry symposium

The upcoming Government/Industry Supportability Engineering Exchange (GISEE) 2000 is accepting proposals for presentations. The symposium will be held June 20-22 at the Sparkman Center. This year's event is co-sponsored by the Logistics Support Activity and the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics (SOLE). The symposium will provide participants with an insight into new and changing, high-level Department of Defense (DoD)/service policies. The symposium will again be an open forum, affording both industry and government personnel the opportunity to share ideas relating to best practices, lessons learned, process improvements, and new techniques for logistics acquisition. You can submit your proposals to any of the following addresses: mailing address Commander, Logistics Support Activity, Attn.: XMMLS-AL (Emerson McAfee), Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35898-7466; access the e-mail address: emerson.mcafee@logsa.army.mil or robert.salinas@logsa.army.mil; or via fax 955-9865. For more information, call Emerson McAfee 955-0808.

Reengineering certification

The Strategic Planning Office, teaming with the Quality Institute, is sponsoring the DoD Business Process Reengineering certification program at Redstone. Mountain Home Training & Consulting Inc., the former Army Management Engineering College BPR Group, will conduct the training. The series of classes in this program includes the original seven-course training curriculum developed by AMEC and required for completion of the DoD BPR Certification Program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense. Classes begin March 21 and run through Aug. 11. For more information on the certification program, call Danita Clarke of the Strategic Planning Office 842-9456 or e-mail her at the following address: danita.clarke@redstone.army.mil.

Community donations

March 17 is the deadline for contribution

requests from the Thrift Shop. Anyone who qualifies under the 501c category of non-profit organizations is eligible to make requests. Requests for funds for the needs of a specific individual are ineligible. Requests must be specific about what the money is needed for and must include: name and address of the requesting party; to whom the check must be made out to; and a telephone number in case more information is needed. Also, include in the request if funds have been requested from other organizations. Gift certificates may also be requested; and these certificates are for merchandise from the Thrift Shop and must be used within a certain length of time, to be determined by the board of governors. The Thrift Shop makes welfare contributions twice a year. Requests can be addressed to the Thrift Shop, welfare chairperson Fran Rubery, building 3209, Redstone Arsenal 35898 or faxed to the Thrift Shop 881-9807.

Synergy forum

The first meeting of the Synergy Forum is 9-11 a.m. next Tuesday at building 5304, third floor, room 4253. The Synergy Forum is a meeting to exchange ideas and experiences in subjects like change management, the Capability Maturity Model, and Business Process Reengineering. There will be guest speakers, videos and group chat sessions about subjects that improve how we work. The first scheduled speaker is John Johns, principal assistant deputy for systems acquisition. Everyone is welcome. For information call Jim McGraw 313-0851 or Cheryl Wise 313-0638.

AFGE union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold its regular monthly meeting 4:30 p.m. March 13 at building 3202 (union office). All employees are invited. For more information, call 876-4880 or 881-7430.

West Point birthday dinner

The West Point Society of the Tennessee Valley will hold a Founders Day Dinner honoring the 198th Birthday of the U.S. Military Academy, at 6:30 p.m. Friday the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Cost for din-

ner is \$26 per person. For reservations and/or more information, call Dave Roesler 726-2929.

National prayer breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast will be held 6:30-8 a.m. Thursday at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Scheduled speaker is retired chaplain Billy Fowler. For information or tickets, call Bicentennial Chapel 842-2173. Limited tickets will be available at the door.

Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association will hold its informal monthly breakfast at 8:30 a.m. March 11 at Mullins Restaurant. All members and guests are invited. For more information, call retired Col. Jim Allred 882-6286.

Sealed bid sale

A sealed bid sale of DoD surplus property will be held at the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, building 7408 on Warehouse Road. Property inspection and bid submission are scheduled through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bids may be faxed (876-9634), hand-carried, mailed or sent electronically to the following address: www.drms.dla.mil. Verbal bids will not be accepted. The bid receipt deadline is 8 a.m. next Monday. To view material for the sale and to submit bids, report to building 7414 on Redstone Road. For more information, call Donna Davis 842-2570 or Elizabeth Couch 842-9474.

Union meeting

NFFE Local 405 will meet at noon today at
See Announcements on page 16

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
00D0624DW	Intern. Prog. Mgmt. Spec.	1-Mar-00	AMCOM SAMD	GS-0301	14	14
00D0623BL	Admin. Officer	1-Mar-00	AMCOM SGS	GS-0341	9	9
00D0613BL	Ops. Research Analyst	1-Mar-00	AMCOM SAOS	GS-1515	12	12
00B0617SS	Engineering Technician	1-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DE-0802	II	II
00B0615SS	General Engineer	1-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	III	III
00B0614SS	General Engineer	1-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	III	III
AC-00-588	Personnel Mgmt Spec	3-Mar-00	SCCPOC	GS-0201	7	11
00B0630-AC	Electronics Engineer	3-Mar-00	AMCOM RTTC	GS-0855	12	12
00D0627WT	Management Analyst	6-Mar-00	AMCOM RMD	GS-0343	9	11
00C0644FM	Personnel Mgmt Spec	6-Mar-00	AMCOM CPAC	GS-0201	12	12
00D0639BL	Investigative Opera Assist	7-Mar-00	CID	GS-1802	5	7
00C0647RH	Management Assistant	7-Mar-00	SMDC	GS-0344	6	6
00C0645FM	Computer Specialist	8-Mar-00	LOGSA	GS-0334	12	12
00C0643JH	Quality Assurance Spec	9-Mar-00	AMCOM IMMC	GS-1910	12	12
HA00A3109	Electrical Engineer	10-Mar-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0850	12	12
00C0653FM	Supply Technician	10-Mar-00	LOGSA	GS-2005	7	7
00C0646FM	Military Personnel Clerk	10-Mar-00	AMCOM P&T Dir.	GS-0204	5	5
GU-00-052B	Supervisory Electric Engr	23-Mar-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0850	13	13
GU-00-052A	Supervisory Mech Engr	23-Mar-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0830	13	13
GU-00-052	Supervisory Civil Engineer	23-Mar-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0810	13	13
NC08699	Criminal Investigator	13-Apr-00	CID	GS-1811	9-12	12
00D0581DB	Training Instructor	9-Aug-00	USAOMMCS	GS-1712	11	11
00D0582DB	Training Instructor (HD)	14-Aug-00	USAOMMCS	GS-1712	11	11
HA00A3082	Civil Engineering Tech.	31-Dec-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0802	12	12
HA00A3080	Elect, Mech, Civil Engineer	31-Dec-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0850		
				0830,0810	13	13
00B0479SS	Aerospace Engineer	18-Jan-01	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-0861	III	III

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91 TOWNCAR	\$2000	93 ACCORD	\$1100
91 EXPLORER	\$1750	93 SHADOW	\$ 650
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Announcements

the union office at building 3467 on Vincent Drive. For more information, call 313-2252.

Entertainment volunteers

If interested in volunteering to critique the entertainment at Panoply, April 28-30, call Janice Nash 876-5689, Amy Harris 922-1022 or Margaret Banish-Donaldson 842-0558.

Astronomical society

April White, an astronomer and teacher from the Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta, is scheduled speaker for a program 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. For more information call Mitzi Adams, of the Von Braun Astronomical Society, 464-0945.

Retired employees

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will meet March 11 at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Martin Barinata of the Redstone Federal Credit Union is to address financial counseling, planning and investments geared toward seniors. Refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m., and the program at 10. For more information, call 837-0382 or 881-3168.

Space Camp scholarships

Each year Army Community Service awards full scholarships to attend a week of Space Camp (fourth, fifth, or sixth graders), Space Academy (seventh or eighth graders), and Aviation Challenge (seventh, eighth, or ninth graders). These scholarships are open to children of active and retired military living within a 50 mile-radius of Redstone Arsenal. Applications for the Space Camp/Space Academy and Aviation Challenge Scholarship will be distributed through the schools and are also available at the Post Exchange, Commissary, and ACS beginning March 10. For more information, call Ann Cooper 876-5397.

ACS education committee

The Army Community Service (ACS) Education Committee serves as a liaison between the Redstone Arsenal community and the Huntsville City Schools. The committee meets monthly (during the school year) with representatives from the area schools. Any parent interested in the educational needs of their child is invited to attend. The next meeting is noon March 15 in the ACS conference room, building 3491. 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.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting March 16 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.

Army family members

Army Family Team Building (AFTB) is an educational, self-development program for military family members which provides the knowledge and skills necessary for personal and family readiness. Topics covered will include military terms, acronyms, customs and courtesies, Introduction to the Chain of Command, Chain of Concern, military and civilian resources, benefits and entitlements, family and military expectations, impact of unit mission and family life, and beginning problem solving. Join the group March 20 and 21, from 6-9 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3491. This class is fun and informative, so bring a friend. Call 842-8375 to register.

Enlisted spouses

Enlisted Spouses Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 9 at the Challenger club. For more information, call Evelyn Teats 722-8493.

Children's inspirational show

The "Psalty and Friends Live" show is coming to the Whitesburg Baptist Church auditorium March 17 at 7 p.m. This professional touring show features life-sized animated characters that sing and perform. The show focuses on character-building principles for children from ages 2 through 9. Advanced tickets are available for \$5 at Lifeway Book Store, Family Christian Stores, Whitesburg Baptist Church or order by ticket line 1-817-491-0855. Call 880-5300 ext. 245 for more details.

Spouses of veterans

Jan Laney, a student in the Department of History at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is researching American-born wives of U.S. soldiers living in Germany between 1946 and 1952. The subject of her honors' thesis centers around the lifestyle and day-to-day life of these unique women, as well as their general impressions of living in a military community within a war-ravaged country. Though there is some published work about this period from other standpoints, little is written from the perspective of the military spouse. If you lived in Germany with your soldier husband between 1946 and 1952 (give or take a few years), or know someone who did, call

See Announcements on page 17

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E-mail: Hr@Perceptics.com; fax 432-966-9330 or mail: Director, Human Resources, Perceptics Corporation, 725 Pellissippi Center, 9737 Cogdill Road, Knoxville, TN., 37932-3350. (An Equal Opportunity Employer).

0800

Announcements

Laney (205) 982-8031. She would like to learn more about your experiences.

Wine tasting

An "International Wine Tasting" will be held March 24 from 6-8 p.m. at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Tickets are \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door. Open to the entire Redstone community. For more information, call 830-2582.

Childbirth class

The Public Health And Education Center has openings for their Healthy Pregnancy/Healthy Baby course, open to all military beneficiaries. This American Red Cross course is taught by registered nurses and is designed to focus on healthy living and responsible decision making. The course will be held at the New Parent Support Building, 1220-B Lacrosse Drive on March 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information and enrollment, call PHEC 842-0196.

Officer/civilian women

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold a luncheon March 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Trees & Trends will be there with some unique home ideas. The menu is marinated chicken, rice pilaf, green beans almondine, tossed salad and hot fudge sundae, or chef salad. For reservations call: A-L 772-0977 M-Z 464-0583.

Ordnance ball

Ordnance Ball 2000 will be held 6 p.m. March 17 at the Officers' and Civilians' Club. Scheduled speaker is Maj. Gen. Robert Shadley. This formal event includes a meal, entertainment, the guest speaker, mementos, and several displays. The menu is chicken breast supreme (\$23) or char-broiled ribeye (\$25). For tickets call 1st Lt. Sam Deboard 842-0609.

Logistics center reunion

The former Joint Logistics Systems Center will hold a reunion 4-7 p.m. March 22 at the Officers Club, Wings Room at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. All former JLSC government personnel and contractors are invited. For information call Sue Shirey (937) 255-0341

Williams school

Williams Elementary School is looking for volunteers to assist in the cleanup of its Big Backyard/Outdoor Classroom. The cleanup will take place March 11 from 8 a.m.-noon. Individuals interested in assisting with this project should call Patty McKee 772-5130.

Corvette owners

Some Redstone Corvette owners are joining Circle City Corvettes of Dothan in their April 28-29 Corvette Caravan to Panama City Beach, Fla. Last year more than 200

Corvettes participated in the caravan. Any Corvette owner who would like to participate should contact Randy McClure at c3vette79@hotmail.com or Jim Worrall at explosivedog@gateway.net.

Home mortgage seminar

A free Home Mortgage Seminar will be held 7-9 p.m. next Tuesday at the Officers' and Civilians Club. To reserve a seat, call Tommie Crowder at Platinum Mortgage Inc. 461-8677.

Cost estimating group

The Huntsville Chapter of the Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis (SCEA) will hold its monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. March 14 at the Holiday Inn Madison Square. Dr. Stephen Balut, director of the Cost Analysis and Research Division of the Institute of Defense Analyses, is scheduled speaker. Cost of the luncheon is \$10. For reservations call Wayne Johnson 971-6632.



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

Young visitors...

Huntsville Chamber of Commerce requested a tour for 60 eighth-graders from Whitesburg Middle School during Industrial Week at building 5400, Feb. 10. In foreground from left are Grant Jordan; Alex Jolly, chief, Hardware-in-the-Loop; Aaron Graf and Thomas Walker. In back row are George Landingham, acting director of Systems Simulation and Development Directorate, and Brandon Kent.



Knoxville Geographic Information System Knoxville, Tennessee

GIS Director

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GI Joe: man of the 20th century

Author recognizes American servicemembers for their sacrifices to ensure freedom worldwide

By Linda D. Kozaryn

WASHINGTON—“There are millions of people today who owe their freedom to GI Joe,” author-historian Stephen E. Ambrose proclaimed during a tribute to “The Hero of the Century — the American GI.”

The keynote speaker Feb. 21 at the second annual Pentagon Pops concert, Ambrose was among the many celebrities, military chiefs and government officials in attendance at Daughters of the American Revolution's Constitution Hall here. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and

his wife, Janet Langhart Cohen, hosted the show, dedicated to America's military heroes, past and present.

“People in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, need to say thanks, every day, to the American service men and women and their allies for the sacrifices they made to ensure the triumph of freedom and democracy,” Ambrose said in his address.

“With the end of the century, the question of who to name the most important person of the century is being asked everywhere,” he continued. “My own nominee, the one who is the obvious winner the

moment you think about it, is GI Joe — the soldier, the sailor, the airman, the Marine, the Coast Guardsman of the 20th century.”

Ambrose's major works include “Band of Brothers,” a history of an airborne company; “Duty, Honor, Country: a History of West Point”; “D-Day”; and “The Victors,” about Eisenhower and the men of World War II. He's also written “Citizen Soldiers,” Undaunted Courage,” and multivolumed biographies of Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon. (American Forces Press Service)



Courtesy photo

Program assistant...

Donna Harris, a child and youth program assistant at the Child Development Center, has been awarded a Child Development Associate Credential in recognition of outstanding work with young children. The credential was awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C., which represents the early childhood profession.



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn

TRIBUTE—Servicemembers in historical uniforms from World War II to the present serve as a backdrop as author Stephen Ambrose speaks at Pentagon Pops 2000, a tribute to America's military heroes. In his address, the author nominated GI Joe as “the Man of the 20th Century.” The Feb. 21 concert salute was at DAR Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C.

Joe Sartain

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Healthy pregnancy, healthy baby care

Community health nurse prescribes childbirth class

By Barbara Anderson

If you've just found out that you are expecting a baby and are overwhelmed by many feelings, there are many things you can do that will benefit you and your baby during this miraculous event.

Prenatal care, of course, is essential. Even a low-risk pregnancy can be high risk if there is no or poor prenatal care. Good prenatal care means seeing a qualified practitioner regularly and being an active participant in your medical care. Being an active participant means not smoking, abstaining from alcohol and drugs, exercising sensibly, avoiding environmental or occupational toxins, and preventing infection or getting prompt treatment for infection. A nutritious diet is most important for mother and baby and physicians usually prescribe a prenatal vitamin. All women of childbearing age need to include foods rich in folic acid in their diet to prevent birth defects.

Being an active participant also means the expectant parent needs more than just checkups and a good doctor. Parents need complete and accurate information about pregnancy and childbirth to decrease risk, prevent illness and injury and enjoy pregnancy. It is clear that couples who receive complete and accurate information about pregnancy and childbirth find their childbirth experience as "more satisfying overall" than those who haven't received education. Another bonus to pregnancy and childbirth education is that labor may be slightly shorter than that of women who haven't received education. Understanding and preparing for the labor experience may enable the expectant mom to work with, instead of against, the work of the uterus during labor.

There are many avenues you can take to educate yourself. Your physician's office is a good first direction. They can offer booklets, pamphlets and sometimes videos that offer sound facts on the birthing experience. The hospital that delivers your baby may offer classes on childbirth, breastfeeding and infant care. A visit to the bookstore can offer magazines and books that can be tremendously helpful. Of course, the expectant parent should be cautious about medical advice they hear or read about and check with their physician before taking any medication, herb or vitamin, or making any diet or lifestyle change.

Expectant parents who attend an education class may find it more rewarding than just reading a book. Expectant couples may enjoy the opportunity to spend time with other couples, to share pregnancy experiences and make friends. The expectant

father learns about the process of pregnancy, labor and delivery so he feels like a part of the process and learns to be a more effective coach. Learning and practicing relaxation and breathing techniques in a class setting is often a better rehearsal for real labor and delivery than reading text or watching a film. Classes are also a good opportunity to ask questions, learn coping strategies that increase your ability to understand and tolerate the labor and delivery experience. It makes sense for the expectant parents to find a childbirth class to help them learn the skills necessary to make informed decision and healthy choices.

For military beneficiaries, Fox Army Health Center is offering a "Healthy Pregnancy/Healthy Baby" program. The course is designed to be fun and to give participants the awareness and motivation to improve their lifestyle for a safer and more enjoyable pregnancy. The course is taught by registered nurses from FAHC.

The content of the course prepares all participants to understand the emotional and physical changes that occur during and after pregnancy, recognize warning signs and how to respond to them appropriately, cope with physical discomforts and stress, and prepare for and cope with labor through a variety of creative approaches. Parents will learn about nutrition and exercise during pregnancy. Nutrition for the newborn and breastfeeding will also be covered. Parents will also participate in learning activities such as using proper body mechanics during pregnancy, stress management, and breathing and relaxing techniques helpful during labor and delivery process.

As injuries are a leading cause of death in children, parents will also be made aware of simple measures that they can take to ensure their baby's safety, such as how to properly install an infant car seat. As infant's symptoms of illness are often different from those of older children and adults, it is important for parents to learn how to "read" these symptoms and to know when to contact their health care system. Well baby care, immunizations, common childhood illnesses and keeping baby safe are topics parents will not want to miss.

"Healthy Pregnancy/Healthy Baby" will be held March 15 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the New Parent Support Group building, 1220-B LaCrosse Drive. Expectant parents interested in this program should call Public Health And Education Center, 842-0196 for information and to enroll.

(Editor's note: Anderson is a community health nurse at Public Health And Education Center, Fox Army Health Center.)