

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 49 No. 13

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

March 29, 2000

Will we land Space Based Laser?

BMDO director to decide among final four candidate sites as early as May

By Skip Vaughn

Good news could come in late May for Team Redstone.

That's when Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, may decide on the site for the Space Based Laser test facility. Redstone Arsenal is among the final candidates for the facility which will represent a multibillion dollar program and employ more than 200 people.

"Redstone is one of four sites of an original 300 or more sites that is being considered for the Space Based Laser test facility," said Mark Burroughs, project manager in the Master Planning Office, Environment and Public Works Directorate. "SBL is a defense system that is satellite based. It orbits and protects from global air strikes."

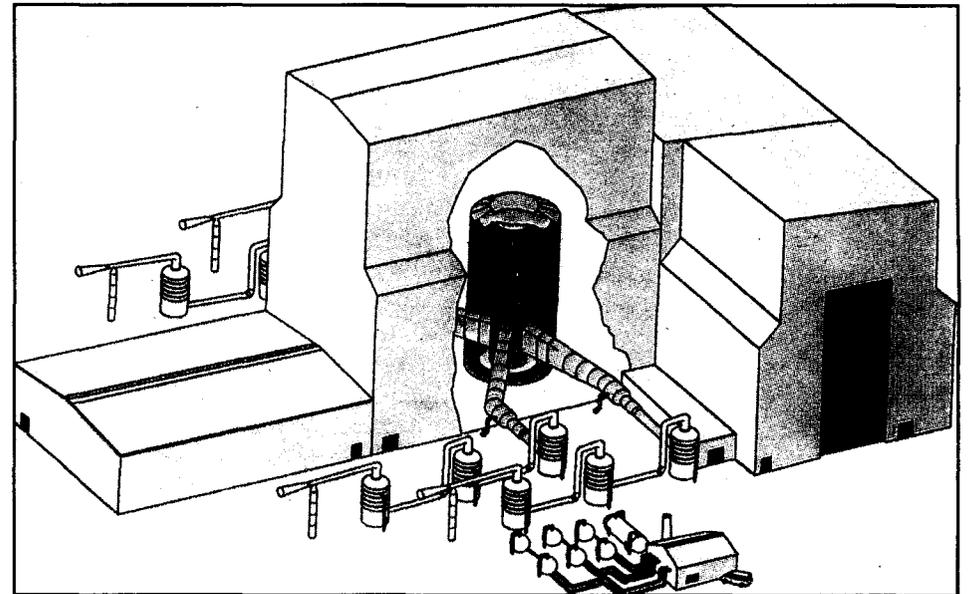
The four finalists include Redstone; Stennis Test Center, Miss.; and Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center in

Florida.

A team consisting of the Aviation and Missile Command, Marshall Space Flight Center, City of Huntsville and other Defense Department agencies has partnered as Team Redstone to offer supporting facilities, technical assets and infrastructure to support the SBL program.

On March 14, Team Redstone served as host for a visit by Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) along with Kadish and key staff to discuss the SBL program. The visit included briefings concerning the Redstone community and its capabilities that are available to support the program. The visitors toured the facilities and transportation capabilities.

This visit was part of the final analysis of the potential sites and will lead to a decision as early as late May, according to Kadish. The program is managed by the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, based in Washington; and the Air Force is the executing agent.



Courtesy graphic

TEST FACILITY— This is an artist's concept of the test facilities for Space Based Laser.

The SBL lifecycle budget is estimated at \$20-30 billion. The program would employ 200-300 people onsite, not including the construction phase and spinoff support requirements.

A joint team consisting of Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and TRW has been awarded the responsibility for executing the fielding of the system.

See Laser on page 9



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SLIP SLIDING AWAY— Children at the Child Development Center are looking forward to marching in the Month of the Military Child Parade next week. Having a little playground fun on the slide are Romeo Pleasure, front, son of Dorinda Pleasure, and coming down right behind him, Breonn Pooler, son of SSgt. Debra and Maxie Pooler.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

ON THE MOVE— The weather was perfect for a quick lap around the CDC playground for Denetria Crowder, daughter of SFC Darryl and Sharon Crowder.

Celebrating military children

Month of the Military Child kicks off with parade at Child Development Center April 3

By Sandy Riebeling

April is the Month of the Military Child; and Child and Youth Services is ready to kick up its heels and have a little fun. There will be an Olympics day, talent show, block party, egg hunt and to round up the month, western day.

The celebration kicks off with a parade April 3 at 10 a.m. Children will assemble at the CDC next to the Bicentennial Chapel and march around the area then back to the center.

"We want to get everyone involved this year," Marian Anderson-Caudle said. "We're expecting more than 100 children from the CDC, 40 or so from Family Child Care and another 40 from the New Parent Support Group, to march in the parade. It's a great chance for us all to get together and show our support, for each other and for military families."

Caudle is the Child and Youth Services

training and curriculum specialist responsible for coordinating the special events and activities for the Month of the Military Child.

Youth Services will sponsor a talent show the evening of April 7. The talent search is in full swing. Children ages 4-18 are welcome to perform but must register their act by April 3. The show begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.

"The talent show is a lot of fun," Caudle said. "If you haven't even been, or been in it, I would recommend it. The kids have a great time and there are a lot of laughs."

The following weekend is jam-packed with games, activities, sports and more with Olympics Day on April 14 and the Block Party April 15.

"Our Olympics will be at the Babe Ruth field next to the Bicentennial Chapel," Caudle said. "The kids get out there and

See Children on page 9

Logistics reps serve with soldiers
War and peace 4

Advisory group meets quarterly
Community panel 6

Engineers design cockpit of future
Intuitive flight 13

Letters to the editor

E-mail usage rules explanation

Are there any rules on sending e-mails using the SPARKMAN-MLR address, which reaches virtually everyone in the Sparkman Center?

There was an e-mail recently sent to that address concerning a credit card that was found. The name of the person was obviously on the credit card. I looked in the e-mail address book and that person was listed. Why not just contact that person directly? There was another recent e-mail to the SPARKMAN-MLR address concerning a check that was found. The person's name on the check was in the e-mail address book and their phone number could be found through the Redstone homepage on the Internet. My question is why send an e-mail to virtually everyone in the Sparkman Center for something that only concerns one person — especially when it's relatively easy to find that person with a minimum amount of effort. Why disturb thousands of people for no reason?

Other e-mails sent through this address include death announcements, meeting notices, or mentioning that some poor soul in a maroon Ford left their lights on. I thought we had a Community Bulletin Board for this sort of thing! It would probably be cheaper to let someone's battery go dead than to disturb several thousand people, who would have no idea who owned such a vehicle anyway.

Sending an e-mail using the SPARK-

MAN-MLR comes with a great deal of responsibility. Thousands of e-mails are sent through servers tying up limited memory. Valuable time is wasted by people who have to open and delete these messages when they have absolutely nothing to do with them. A little thought needs to be given before hitting that send button!

I think some rules over the use of the SPARKMAN-MLR address need to be implemented. Everyone should not be allowed to use this address. There should be a central clearinghouse where someone with a minimum of common sense can decide whether or not a particular e-mail needs to go to everyone! Remember — just say "no" to junk e-mail!

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Bob Garfield, of the AMCOM Legal Office, provided the following response. "The letter makes some good points. The e-mail subject matters the employee describes are permitted by the Joint Ethics Regulation and our command policy, which is based on the JER. JER 2-301a (2) (e) provides that communications of this nature should not overburden the communication system, such as broadcasts and group mailings, and create no significant additional cost to the agency. The letter writer is correct; common sense must prevail in the circumstances described."

Providing optional service

I have to agree with the person who wrote about the baggers. By the time you pay a surcharge and a bagger, we really don't get a benefit from shopping at the commissary. And if the baggers are licensed, why aren't they taught to bag the groceries correctly? It is really irritating when you have given someone \$5-plus to bag and carry your groceries to find flat loaves of bread, bags so heavy they rip, bruised fruit, and melting ice

cream that was packed with warm things when you get home. If it is considered a service then they need to provide one. Don't get me wrong, some of the baggers are very good.

I also have never been asked if I wanted to use the service, it has always just happened, so if it is optional they need to let people know they have a choice.

Just something to think about.

Name withheld by request

Mileage rates for employees

Several months ago the mileage rates were dropped to \$.31 per mile because the cost of operating a vehicle dropped due to the "decrease in fuel prices." Since then we have seen obscene increases in the price of fuel that significantly drive up the cost of vehicle operation per mile. While I realize that the decision authority resides in Washington, not at Redstone, is there anything being done to raise the mileage rate to fairly compensate employees using personal vehicles?

**Joe Morton
IMMC**

Editor's note: The Resource Management Directorate provided the following response. "The current mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned vehicles is \$.325 which was effective Jan. 14. The rates are set by the General Services Administration (GSA). The Per Diem and Allowance Committee states that GSA is not currently performing any surveys to determine if another rate increase is appropriate. Any future changes will be posted on the web at the following address: <http://policyworks.gov/org/main/mt/homepage/mtt/pov.htm>."

Contracting officer cited

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill.—Maj. Gen. Joseph Arbuckle, commander of the Industrial Operations Command, has presented the Superior Civilian Service Award to Catherine Olvera, headquarters IOC, for her superior performance as the contracting officer for the 2.75-Inch Rocket System's FY 99-03 contract award.

The 2.75-Inch Rocket Team successfully planned, solicited and awarded a major

5-year rocket system contract valued at \$1.2 billion. The contract made provisions for direct delivery to the warfighter, insertion of new technology, electronic solicitation and bids, and evaluation of Performance Specifications and Technical Data Packages to comparable standards. Through their efforts, the best value is being brought to the user better, cheaper and faster.

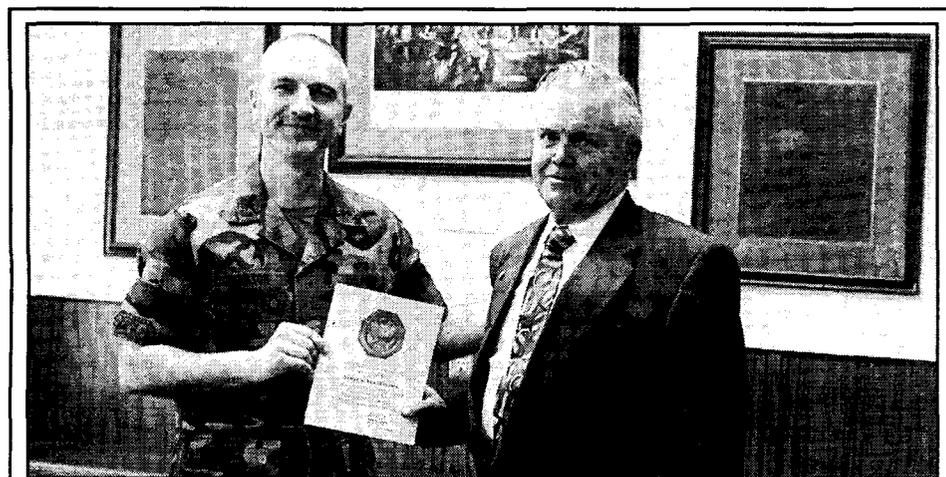
Marshall Center's Saucier receives NASA's top honor

Sidney P. Saucier III, associate director of Marshall Space Flight Center, has received NASA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal.

The award, presented by Joseph Rothenberg, NASA's associate administrator for space flight, recognizes Saucier's extraordinary contributions to the nation's

space program during his more than 35 years of service.

Among his accomplishments, Saucier was instrumental in developing highly complex propulsion rocket stages capable of reaching planetary orbit, as well as advanced propulsion technologies to reduce the cost of space transportation.



Faye Yates/RASA

Forty years service...

Col. Steven Hamilton, Redstone Arsenal Support Activity commander, presents James Beadenkopf with a 40-year federal service certificate and pin at a recent ceremony. Beadenkopf was active duty military for 25 1/2 years and retired in 1982. His civil service career began in Fort Stewart, Ga., the same year. In 1985, he transferred to Redstone Arsenal where he worked in the Integrated Materiel Management Center. He has worked at RASA as a general supply specialist since 1989.

Redstone Rocket

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

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

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

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

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The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for *The Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We

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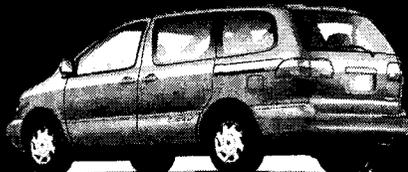
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Practical tactical technicians

Civilians deploy and work side-by-side with soldiers during war and peace for support

By Sandy Riebeling

Civilians have been supporting U.S. military forces since before there was an official United States. We're not just talking about organizing aluminum drives and working in munitions factories. Where there was war, there were soldiers and civilians working side-by-side on the battlefield.

In later days, as the military took on the roles of humanitarian and peacekeeper, civilians have continued to deploy with military units in support of the mission.

In the early 1960s the Army gave these brave and selfless civilians a name: Logistics Assistance Representatives. The Army currently has about 750 LARS in AMC's Logistics Assistance Program, 207 of which are from the Aviation and Missile Command.

"They are scattered around the world in their normal course of business from Korea to Southwest Asia," William Vaughan, chief, logistics assistance division, LOGSA, said. "Their job is to help the soldier keep equipment operating in the field by providing technical support, assistance and guidance."

LARS currently deployed from AMCOM include five in support of Task Force Falcon in Kosovo; 12 in support of

Task Force Eagle in Bosnia; two in Saudi Arabia and two on a temporary exercise in Kuwait."

"We've had people in Saudi since 1990, supporting the Patriot missile system there," Norbert Lutz, chief, AMCOM Logistics Assistance Division, Readiness Directorate, said. "LARs typically stay in the field on a short-term basis, 90-179 days."

It takes a special type of person to be a LAR, according to Lutz. The majority of the personnel are ex-military, because the lifestyles are similar.

"It's exciting work," he said. "They deploy with the Army units, work in the field, fix problems, provide intelligence back to the organization. But it's also stressful, especially for the families. LARs deploy at an hour's notice— not usually, but it happens — and are gone for several months at a time. They PCS about once every three years so that they can learn to do the job in different parts of the world and to familiarize themselves with the Army and areas of service."

The lifestyle is a great draw for most of the men and women serving as LARS; but it can also be a deterrent for some. While deployed, they endure the same conditions as soldiers— they dress like soldiers, live like soldiers, fall under command like soldiers —but they are civilians.

"Our people serve in all types of situations, from contingencies to humanitarian efforts," Vaughan said. "Sometimes it's in support of Apaches that fly food and supplies into a natural disaster area. Sometimes it's to support a missile system during a peacekeeping mission."

"When soldiers come out of their weapon systems training, like over at OMMCS, they get good training but they're not qualified until they get field experience," Lutz said. "I went through 51 weeks of training but when I got out there and saw the radar up close, I saw things on there we'd never even talked about. Coming out of the training makes you an apprentice. LARs are there to help the soldiers become qualified on their particular system and reach journeyman level. It could be any system— helicopters, missiles, guns, radars, chemical equipment, uniforms — anything the soldier uses."

It's not easy to get into the LAR program.

"It's a great opportunity to see the world and serve your country but it's a hard life," Lutz said. "It is a highly selective process. You have to have a security clearance, be technically proficient, physically fit and sign a mobility agreement. Deploy anytime to anywhere and stay on the job until it's finished."

Rigorous background checks are performed on all applicants to the program. Criminal convictions are an automatic dismissal of application. The field is small and has decreased by 44 percent since 1991.

"LARs are Gen. (John) Coburn's eyes and ears out in the field," Vaughan said. "He



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

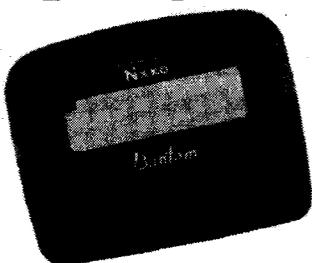
UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENT— Every year one outstanding Logistics Assistance Representative is named as the AMC Robertson J. Short LAR of the Year. Lutz, left, and Vaughan hold the plaque that will be presented to the winner in May.

very frequently asks his staff what the LARs say about the situation when making a decision. The information and intelligence they produce is of enormous value. It goes back into the systems through safety, engineering, development."

The organization is relatively small, but tight-knit. Families try to take care of each other during deployments. The program even offers support groups for the families of deployed LARS.

"It's stressful on the family," Vaughan said. "We are working with AMC and DA to improve some of the benefits. Some will take changes in the law. But we would like to see spouses get the same employment benefits as their counterparts in the military. We invest a lot into these people and they provide a tremendous service. We want to retain the great people we have. They are important to us. They are important to the soldier."

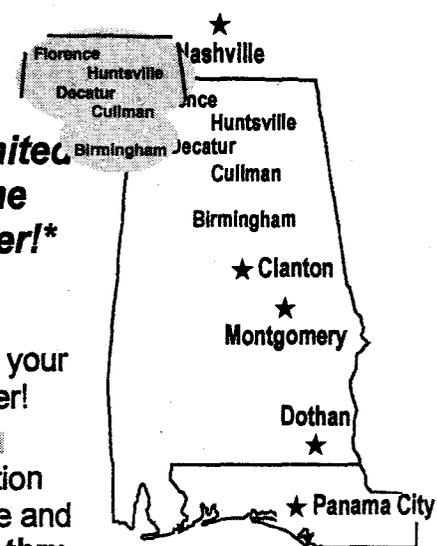
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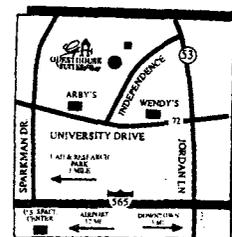
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Remembering a loved one

AER campaign gets unusual contribution as memorial

By Sandy Riebeling

Military service had been a way of life for the Callis family. Lt. Col. Joseph Callis was stationed at Redstone in 1955 and retired in Huntsville in 1968, after 26 years in the Army. Upon his death, Jan. 10, Callis' wife, Andree, looked for a way to give back to the Army.

"I wanted to make a donation in memory of my husband," Callis said. "My friends and I had discussed several organizations, but when I saw the Army Emergency Relief, I thought that this would be a nice way to give something back."

Callis suggested that in lieu of sending flowers, friends and family could make financial contributions to AER.

"This was the first time someone has contributed through a memorial, that I know of," Ann Owens, emergency relief officer at Army Community Service, said. "We still have money coming into AER in his name. What a wonderful way to remember a loved one. Mrs. Callis has already made similar arrangements for herself— for people to give to AER in her name."

Since this was an unusual circumstance, Owens had to check with AER headquarters on whether or not contributions could be made this way and what procedures to follow. Contributions to AER can be made anytime of the year, and memorials are designated by including the name of the person to be remembered with the donation.

"I think it's great," Capt. Wendy Ward, AER campaign chairman, said. "It's a great way to be remembered, by helping other people— giving something back."

Soliciting contributions

While training key personnel for the AER campaign currently under way, several issues were addressed concerning who can be solicited and how contributions can be made. According to Ward, only active and retired military can be directly solicited for AER contributions and only those categories may have their donations withdrawn through allotment. Civilian donations are welcomed but cannot be made through payroll deduction.

"A lot of people ask why they can't make payroll deductions like they do for the CFC (Combined Federal Campaign)," Ward said. "It was explained to us that while they can

make contributions they can't be solicited or use payroll deductions because civilians are not eligible for AER assistance."

Besides contributing cash donations, everyone can support AER by participating in and sponsoring fund-raising events during the campaign, which runs until May 15. More than \$150,000 went to Redstone Arsenal people last year in the form of interest-free loans and grants through AER. The goal for this year's campaign is \$45,000.

"We want to remind those organizations who are having AER fund-raisers to let us know," Owens said, "so that we can help publicize and support the event."

Upcoming fund-raisers

There are already three events scheduled, including a cookout April 18, sponsored by PMCCAWS; a book sale the last two weeks of April sponsored by Command Analysis Directorate; and the plant sale sponsored by IMMC.

"Donations of new and used books, videos, CDs, cassette tapes and video games are needed to support the book sale fund-raiser," Marla Cobbs said. "We've had great response in the past and do really well with repeat customers. Some come in every day to see if we have anything new."

The sale is scheduled April 17-21 and April 24-28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 5300, second floor lobby. Donations will be accepted through the first week of the sale. For more information, call Cobbs at 842-9925.

Trucks will be arriving April 13 and May 11 for the plant sale. Coordinator for the sale, Romona Rice, expects a large variety of annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and house plants. "If anyone has a special request, let me know and I'll see what I can do about getting some included in the delivery."

Rice said that the dates were tentative, due to the demands on the green house supplier but she has stayed in touch with them and expects everything to be right on schedule. The sale will take place outside of building 5309, beginning at 9 a.m. For plant sale inquiries, call 313-1641 or 313-1635.

"We're looking forward to these events," Ward said. "And we are grateful to all the organizations that put so much effort into having these fund-raisers."

Those with questions concerning memorial donations or sponsoring a fund-raiser can call Owens at 876-9579.

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Providing pipeline to RASA commander

Community action committee addresses quality of life issues from throughout Redstone each quarter

By Skip Vaughn

The Redstone community for years has held town hall meetings and family action symposiums. But something was missing.

There was no committee established to address quality of life issues on a regular basis. Army regulation required a PX advisory council, a commissary advisory council and a MWR review council. But this apparently fell through the cracks at Redstone.

That's no longer the case. Meet the Community Action Committee, consisting of representatives from throughout Redstone. Formed in February, the 21-member group addresses the full gamut of quality of life issues from the community.

"Basically it was a means to kill three birds with one stone," Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, said. And it also considers other issues besides the Post Exchange, commissary, and Morale Welfare & Recreation.

Sgt. Maj. J.C. Winston, the sergeant major for Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, is the committee's chairman; and Ahern serves as chairman in his absence.

The group serves as a hotline to Col. Steven Hamilton, the RASA commander and deputy post commander.

"The benefit to me is that we get timely



Joe Ramirez/Photo Lab

COMMITTEE MEETING— From left in front row are Travaglione, Patrick, Paddock, Barton, Bergantz and Ryan. In middle row are Downs, Tinsley, Campanaro, Lake, Welcome, Schneider, Edmiston and Rivas. In back row are Ahern, Davis; CSM Lewis Lockett, former RASA sergeant major who has since left for Korea; Walden, Winston and Garriott.

customer input on how we're doing, ways we can improve and immediate access to the commander," Ahern said.

The committee was formed Feb. 2 and held its first quarterly meeting Feb. 9. Attendees heard a briefing on the housing construction plan, PX renovation, the Arsenal landscaping project, and future construction.

Sgt. Shana Tinsley, RASA administrative NCO, serves as a member of the com-

mittee and records the minutes on the meetings.

"If anybody on the Arsenal has any issues about anything— commissary, PX, MWR, hospital, anything like that — we are the ones to contact," she said. "We meet quarterly. Our next meeting will be on the 10th of May. There's one representative from everybody on Redstone basically. If they have any issues, their representative will bring it up in the meeting."

People on post with any issues affecting quality of life at Redstone are invited to contact their committee representative. They can also call Winston, the RASA sergeant major, at 876-5331 or Tinsley at 876-8850.

"Basically if anybody has any problems, they'll know exactly who to contact," Tinsley said. "So they can have a straight-up answer rather than just a word-of-mouth thing."

Committee members include Winston, the chairman; Ahern; Tinsley; Lawrence Welcome, retirees; MSgt. Veronica Edmiston, HHC AMCOM and the Provost Marshal Office; SSgt. Roger Walden, Veterinary Services; Karen Lake, Officer and Civilian Women's Club; Myra Garriott, RASA CYS; Lt. Col. Joan Campanaro, MEDDAC; Dorothy Patrick, Active and Retired NCO Spouses Club; Ivy Downs, RASA DBM; Joe Davis and Ronnie Brooks, Environment and Public Works Directorate; James Burchfield, Commissary; Lt. Col. Mike Travaglione, chaplain; Cathy Ryan, DCFA quality of life; Sue Paddock, Army Community Service; Kenny Barton, Post Exchange; Capt. Deb Schneider, 832nd Ordnance Battalion; Helen Bergantz, senior spouses; and Spec. Jennifer Rivas, single soldiers.

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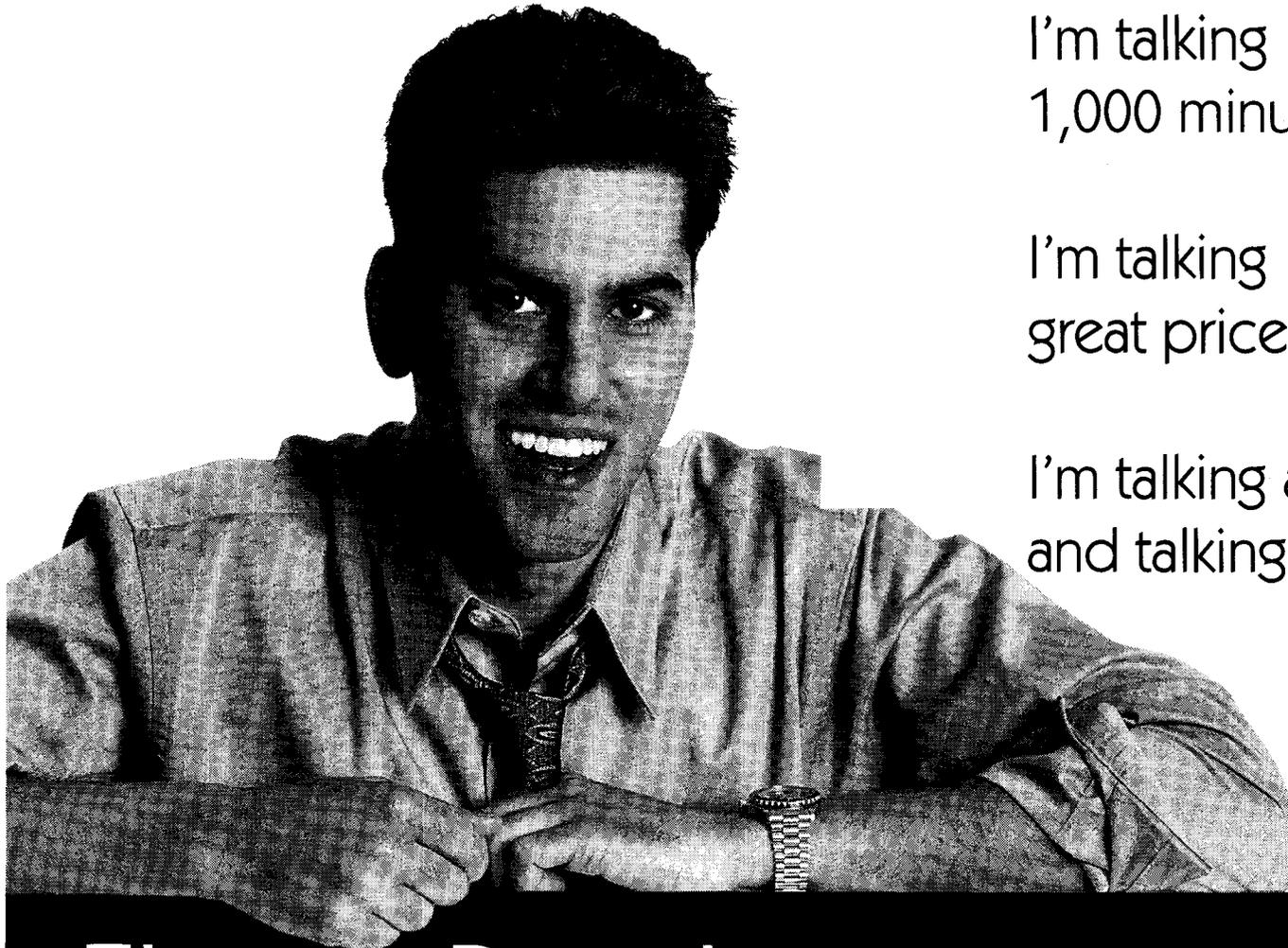
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Army replaces hundreds of Patriot missiles

By Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON— The Army has finished replacing hundreds of Patriot missiles in Southwest Asia and Korea, officials announced March 23.

Lt. Gen. Paul Kern, military deputy to assistant secretary of the Army for research, development and acquisition, said the Army's testing program revealed problems with "hot" PAC-2 missiles -- those missiles powered up and ready to go at a moment's notice. He said the problems discovered probably would not have affected the missiles had crews had to fire them. At no time, he said, were Patriot technicians in danger. Kern said regional commanders decide how long and how many missiles would be in a hot status. The missiles were warrantied for six months in the hot status but they could be kept that way for years.

He said the Army is working with Patriot builder Raytheon Inc. to find out why these problems are happening. One problem, he said, dealt with a radio frequency

downlink black box. He said the Army can replace the black box and the missile will work well. But all involved really want to find the root cause of the problems.

Kern would not say how many missiles were replaced or estimate the cost of the entire process. He said parts for fixing the PAC-2 missiles would probably cost \$80,000 to \$100,000. This does not include labor. If a redesign is needed then this will cost more, he said.

The Army brings back 50 to 70 Patriot missiles per year for extended testing at Red River Army Depot, Texas, Kern said. It was there defects started appearing.

"Keep in mind that the newest [PAC-2] missile is three years old and the rest up to 10," he said at a Pentagon news conference.

The Army secretly started replacing the missiles about March 13. On March 21, DoD notified allied countries that also field the missile system of the problems the Army uncovered. The countries are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Germany, the Netherlands,

Japan and Israel.

Kern said all involved are in "a full-court press, just like we were during Operation Desert Storm" to find out what is wrong.

The PAC-2 will be replaced with the Patriot Configuration 3. The PAC-3 has entered limited production.

The Patriot anti-aircraft missile system

gained fame during Operation Desert Storm in 1991 after the Army and Raytheon redesigned it to counter ballistic missiles. Patriot units protected allied troops and Saudi Arabian and Israeli population centers from Iraqi Scud missiles. (American Forces Press Service)

Days numbered for filing returns

Tax Assistance Center gearing up for final two weeks

By Jim Bowne

Time is running out for filing 1999 tax returns. The Tax Assistance Center will be open for only 14 more working days.

"Starting in April, walk-ins will be served all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays," Capt. Chin-Zen Plotner, the post tax officer for 1999-2000, said. "The wait may be long, but we are trying to give all our clients the opportunity to receive tax assistance."

The move to reserving all day Tuesdays and Thursdays for walk-ins represents a change from the previous schedule. Additionally, hours are extended on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4 to 7 p.m. for walk-ins only.

Since opening Feb. 1, the Tax Center has seen nearly 1,000 clients.

"So far, we've saved our military community over \$130,000 in filing fees," Plotner said. "Also, because of new tax credits, we've been able to help our clients get back over \$1 million in refunds this year."

She suggests that for those clients who received an unusually large refund this year they consider changing the number of their exemptions.

The Tax Center offers both computer-assisted tax preparation and direct electronic filing of federal returns.

"It generally takes 2 to 3 weeks to receive an electronic refund at the bank," said Plotner, "and 3 to 4 weeks to receive a refund check in the mail."

This free tax assistance program is avail-

able for active and retired military personnel and their dependents. Located in building 3447, the Tax Center is open from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, extended hours are offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4-7 p.m., with service reserved for walk-ins. IRS-trained volunteers serve as income tax assistants and customers are seen by appointment only, except on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which are reserved for walk-ins only.

Potential clients are reminded that in order for the Tax Center to file a state return, the center must also file a federal return.

To make an appointment or receive further information, call the Tax Assistance Center at 313-3909.

If serving on active duty, see your appointed Unit Tax Assister: Sgt Tashia Chaderton, Headquarters & Alpha Company, 955-7021; SSgt. William Bailey, Headquarters & Alpha Company, 842-0598; SSgt. Jonathan Lee, Headquarters & Alpha Company, 842-0585; SSgt. Clifton Hall, Bravo Company, 842-0607; Sgt. Chelsie Stokes, Charlie Company, 876-6594; Sgt. Heather Cobb, Delta Company, 876-5343; SSgt. Scott Rosenberger, Delta Company, 842-2123; SSgt. Craig Poshva, Delta Company, 842-7775; Lance Cpl. Jerome Whiting, Marine Detachment, 876-7690; Sgt. Bradley Hollifield, Marine Detachment, 842-2340; SFC Kenneth Bernhardt, MEDDAC, 955-6630; SFC Donald Wilkerson, MEDDAC, 955-8612; Spec. Jennifer Perlin, MEDDAC, 876-5856; and Sgt. Everett Leshar, MEDDAC, 876-7407.

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■ Redstone among final four sites for Space Based Laser

Laser

continued from page 1

The facility would begin prototype development in the 2006 through 2008 time frame.

"The complex would consist of hot-fire prototype development and production facilities along with environmental testing and engineering manufacturing development facilities that would be valued at over \$300 million," Burroughs said.

Redstone's proposed site for the hot-fire facilities is the south end of Redstone Arsenal, west of Test Area 5 just off McAlpine Road. The environmental testing and engineering manufacturing development operations would be located at building 8027 and on land just west of that building.

"Optionally, existing facilities at Marshall Space Flight Center could be modified for environmental testing and development," Burroughs said. "The options presented by Team Redstone would also allow the hot-

fire facilities to be located at a site other than Redstone Arsenal."

The facility would encompass 40-45 acres. If Redstone is selected, construction could begin as early as fiscal 2002 with completion in fiscal 2004.

Construction would proceed through a design-build contract that would be competitively awarded to one of a short list of prime contractors. This selection would be made after an evaluation process conducted by the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, the Air Force, and the joint contractor team of Boeing, TRW, and Lockheed Martin.

"If Team Redstone were selected to support the SBL program, it would further solidify the enduring nature of our weapons and aerospace technology base," Burroughs said. "It would provide significant spinoff technology for the Tennessee Valley.

"Support for this effort has seen tremendous teamwork from the many concerns in the Tennessee Valley and will foster other joint efforts in the future."

■ Family activities on menu for children's month

Children

continued from page 1

have all kinds of fun. We have the running of the torch and then the kids split up into age groups and do age appropriate activities. They have tunnel crawls and ball throws. It's open to all the children in the Redstone community."

The Block Party the following Saturday is open to the public and will be at the Youth Center located behind the CDC. There will be family activities, games for the kids, food and information booths set up around the block.

Youth Services will sponsor an egg hunt April 22 at 9 a.m. Children will be divided into age groups for the hunt.

"The culminating event for the month is Western Day," Caudle said. "CDC and FCC parents are invited to come and have lunch with their children. It's just another chance to get the parents and children together for a meal and to have a little fun."

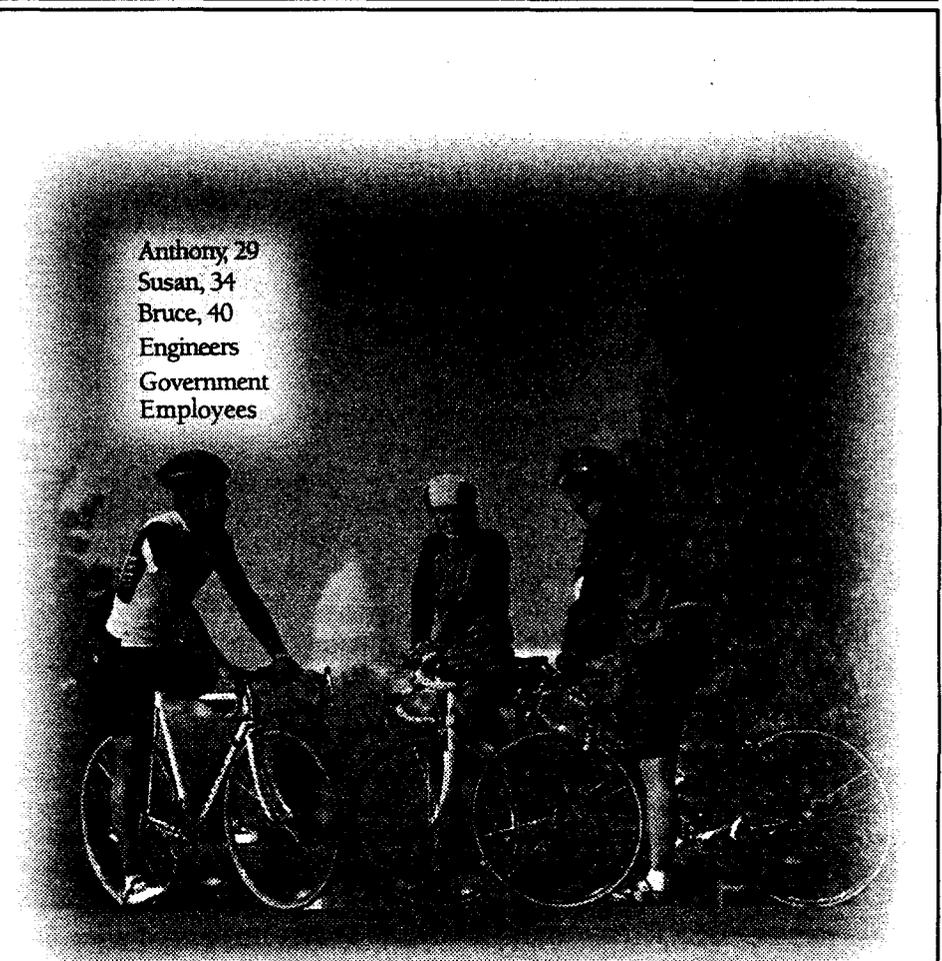
The goal of the month, according to Caudle is to bring families closer with activities they can do together. In the larger scheme, the celebration activities also serve

to let the military community see the type of support that is available for families.

"The military has recognized the importance of family to the soldiers," Caudle said. "Our services play a significant part in the retention of soldiers. If they know their family is being taken care of, they don't have to worry when they go to work. They can focus on accomplishing the mission."

What is now a month-long celebration began in the early 1980s as a designated week in April from the National Academy for the Education of Young Children. The Army Family Advocacy Program quickly picked up on the idea and expanded it to a "Blue Ribbon" month which concentrated on educating the public about child abuse prevention. As the Army became more sensitive to the needs of soldiers' families, the month was renamed in the early '90s as one to celebrate military children. Child abuse prevention training is still taught to the staff during the month.

"We hope the events will show our military families how important they are to us," Caudle said. "Come and join the fun. Even if you don't have a child, it's still a great time. We hope to see you there."



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AMC's go to war plan evolving

Conference determines logistical needs of fighting two fronts simultaneously: the who, what and how

By Sandy Riebeling

It's sort of like playing the "What If?" game. What if the United States had to fight two wars at the same time? Who are the most likely threats? What types of equipment and munitions will be needed? How many troops will be deployed? How will Army Materiel Command provide the force protection logistics needed to support the soldiers and win the war?

The Army has a standing plan to answer these questions, but as times change, alliances and technology change and so the plan must be revised as well. That was the mission of AMC's Logistics Support Element Planning Conference held at Redstone Arsenal last week.

"The LSE is a multi-faceted organization which supports military operations," Phillip Preston, deputy, Field Support Center, Logistics Support Activity, said. "It is large-

ly a civilian organization which deploys at the request of the supported operational commander to perform missions on the battlefield or area of operations."

The concept for the Logistics Support Element evolved out of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The Army and AMC saw a need for a single logistics command and control element to centrally manage strategic logistics personnel, call forward elements as required, and integrate these elements into the theater.

When a situation arises that requires military intervention, be it a peacekeeping mission, a war contingency, or humanitarian efforts, some type of support is required to see that the necessary personnel and equipment arrive in the theater of operations. All equipment, from Apache helicopters and Patriot missile systems to water purifiers and protective clothing need to be maintained and, on occasion, repaired, to sustain

the mission. The LSE performs logistics functions not normally performed by units in the force structure. It is an organization that may be staffed with any combination of civilian and military personnel required to perform specialized tasks.

"Much of the equipment used today is highly sophisticated," Lee Bodary, team leader, LSE Planning, Field Support Center, said. "We have to have specialized personnel on hand to identify and fix problems, to get answers to questions."

Defining the battle plan ahead of time means knowing which systems will need to be brought into the theater of operations and what type of support is needed for each system.

"If you don't have tanks in the field, you won't need a turret team for support," Preston said. "We have to know the type and amount of equipment, how often it needs maintenance, when to expect to repair or replace parts. We have to know that so we can be prepared to provide ade-

quate support to the soldiers at the critical time."

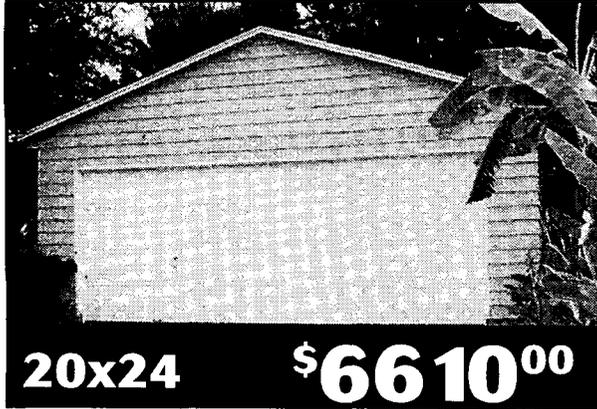
More than 60 people attended the conference representing the many LSE facets, including all the major subordinate commands, National Guard, reserve component, AMC headquarters, Army Pacific, War Reserve Support Command and others.

The first day was packed with presentations, briefings and updates on current conditions and expectations. The remaining days were spent in a workshop atmosphere.

"When we come out of this, we will have the plan," Preston said. "Afterwards we have a couple of months to work on some refinements, but this week is when most of the work is done."

On Wednesday attendees were given a tour of the new modular general purpose tent system, called the Bare Base C2 Module, set up outside the Sparkman Center. The display was a first look at the new living quarters available for the field environment.

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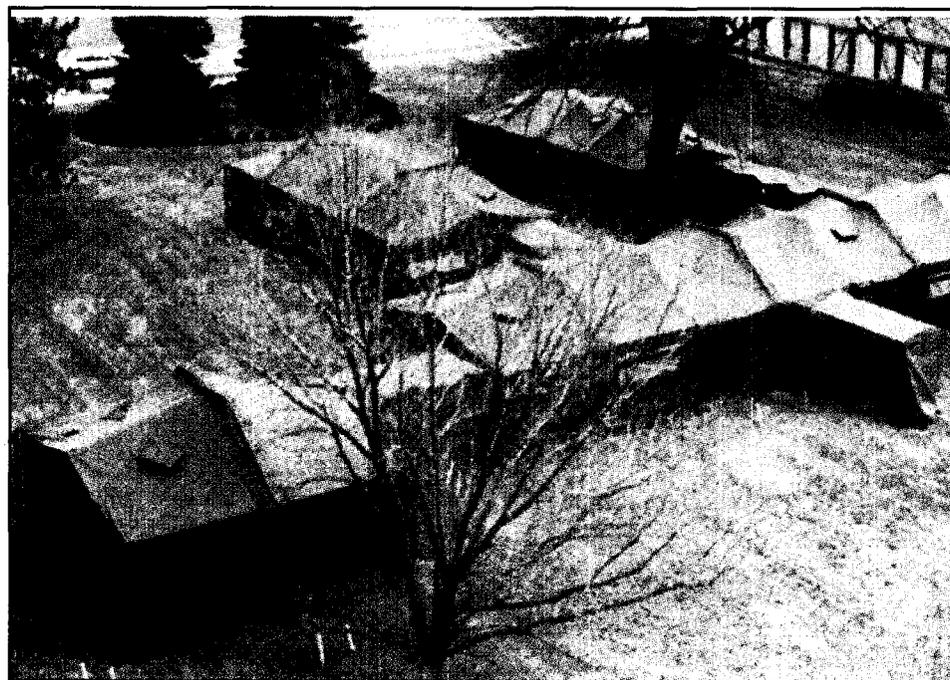
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IN COUNTRY— The Bare Base C2 Module tent system offers 3,300 square feet of work and living space designed to accommodate 30 people. This prototype was erected outside the Sparkman Center as part of the LSE conference.

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■ Conference targets wartime logistics support



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HOME AWAY FROM HOME— Kostka, left, and Carey Ford, check the electrical connection in the billeting area before the conference tour last Wednesday.

AMC

continued from page 10

"I came up with the command center tent idea last September, to meet the needs of the LSE command," Frank Kostka, team leader from the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Center, said. "Typically they arrive on the scene with nothing and have to mooch off whoever is there until the theater matures to wooden huts."

The tents themselves are a new item, just being fielded this year. The vinyl coated polyester modules replace the original cotton-based tents which had to be treated with heavy metals for weatherproofing.

What makes Kostka's idea unique is the configuration of the tent modules. Instead of arranging several equal size tents in close proximity to form a living and working area for the LSE command, Kostka suggested interconnecting them. The tents are comprised of end modules and interior modules. To make a small room for a commander's office or chaplain's room, connect two end modules. For larger billeting areas, use two end modules and one interior module. For

even larger conference or dining areas, use two end modules and several interior modules.

"The system gives the commander the ability to configure the modules for whatever he needs," Kostka said. "The Bare Base C2 Module is a 30 person modular system that can be interconnected by vestibules which is important in inclement weather. It allows all the personnel to stay together yet provides separate areas for working and living."

The Bare Base C2 Module includes five medium size tents, which is five interior modules and 10 end modules, 30 cots, 30 tables, 30 chairs, 40 light fixtures, floor liners, 16 mapboards, seven vestibules, and an electrical distribution system. The cost is \$110,000. Set up time is four hours using eight soldiers.

Other modules called "plug and play modules"—shower module, ration module, winter package, summer package, and desert package—are also in development.

Natick Soldier Center is the lead developer, partnering with the 1st Special Forces Group and AMC LSE Europe.

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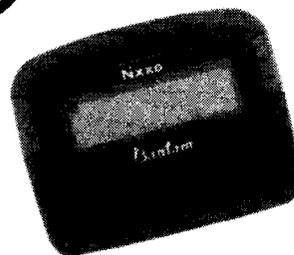
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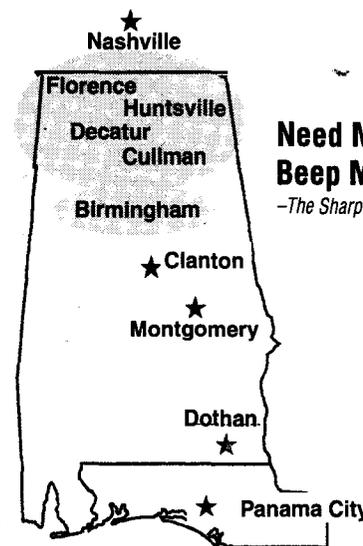
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Depot repair shops for helicopters in field save money

By Margaret Banish-Donaldson

During the last three fiscal years, the Integrated Materiel Management Center Aviation Systems Directorate has helped the field reach a cost avoidance of \$41 million through reduced operating costs. This was accomplished by providing limited depot level repair support to field units for the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Mast Mounted Sight.

According to Sandra Denton and John Schocke, \$13 million in costs were avoided in 1997, \$11 million in 1998 and \$17 million in 1999.

The MMS is a multisensor, fully integrated electro-optical sighting system with visible and infrared capability. Designed to be mounted above a helicopter's rotor or on a ground combat vehicle, MMS increases survivability through its capacity to identify and target potential threats in day, night, and adverse weather conditions.

To reach these savings, one of these three methods had to occur:

- If an item is repaired and returned to the unit, the unit is billed full repair charge, plus an administrative surcharge. The cost avoidance is generated by the field in not having to requisition a serviceable component.

- If there is no evidence of failure and returned to the unit in serviceable condition, the field is only billed for a surcharge.

- If the item is determined not repairable,

it is returned to the unit in 'F' condition for subsequent turn-in. The field then incurs no repair charge.

"With the emphasis on affordability, we have been able to increase readiness and store less parts at the depots with this program," Schocke said. "In essence, we have reduced the logistical pipeline."

The operating funds provided to the contractor are through a master repair contract with Boeing. The current contract is funded for five years from fiscal 1999 through fiscal 2003.

The Forward Repair Activities operate as an extension of the main contractor facility, Boeing Aerospace. These locations are at Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Campbell, Ky., Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Hood, Texas, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Camp Stanley, Korea and Coleman Barracks, Germany.

If a unit has a failed item, the field takes the component to the nearest forward repair activity site. If the forward repair activity can fix it, the item does not have to be shipped to Boeing's main plant in Anaheim, Calif.

"The lesson is that AMCOM and Boeing can work together," Denton said. "The units experience large cost avoidance through repair rather than the purchase of new items. Reimbursement to AMCOM is provided from each using unit for the actual numbers of repairs or those without any evidence of failure. In addition, the money recouped from the FRAs goes back into the general account."



Harold Garner/Photo Lab

TEAMMATES— Mast Mounted Sight team members include: seated Tonnesha Lewis, left, and Charlotte Rutherford; and standing, from left, Sandra Denton, Tom Fitzgerald, John Schocke and Ralph Smith.

If the people in the field have any questions, they call either Schocke or Denton who can spell out the procedures to use.

Denton is the team leader and a logistics

management specialist, and Schocke is an inventory management specialist. Both work in the Integrated Material Management Center.

Rock Island comes through with parts for Apache fleet

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill.— Rock Island Arsenal has responded rapidly to an urgent request for some small parts that make a big difference to the readiness of the Army's Apache helicopter fleet.

The fast response will help put some Apaches that had been grounded back in the air. This should enhance the Arsenal's reputation as a "job shop" that can quickly produce urgently needed military items when private industry can't.

The project began in late January when the Apache War Room at the Aviation and Missile Command inquired about the Arsenal's ability to produce stainless steel shims and pins for the helicopter. Shims and pins are small but vital parts used to fasten, level and space larger components on the helicopter's

rotor assembly and other mechanisms.

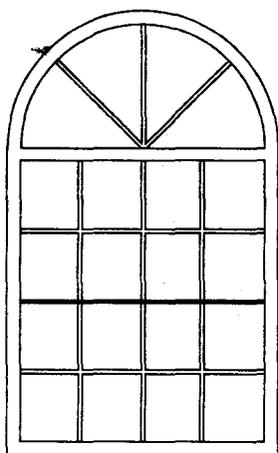
The Apache War Room needed to find a source that could produce the shims and pins while meeting exact specifications and high quality standards. At the same time, they needed the parts as soon as possible, in order to return the Apaches to service with combat units.

The most urgent need existed for 600 shims total, divided into 100 each of six different sizes ranging in thickness from .002 to .015 inches. In contrast, the average human hair is .003 inches thick.

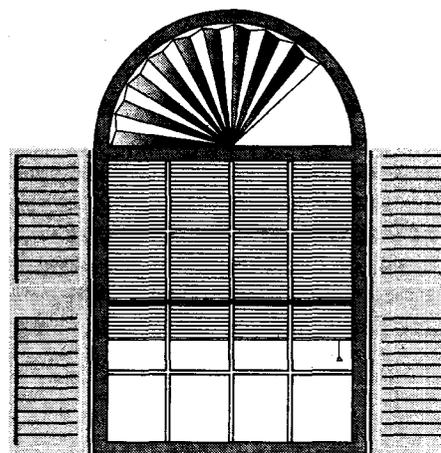
Contractors queried about producing the shims promised a delivery time of no faster than three weeks. In contrast, RIA delivered the parts just 11 days after receiving

See Apache on page 13

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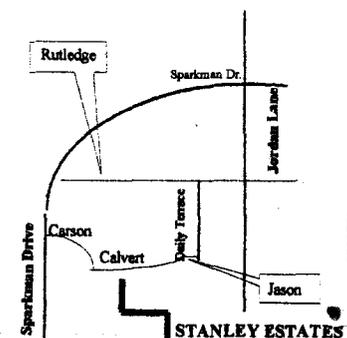


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STANLEY ESTATES

Fly, fly, fly into the future

New sensory systems designed to make flight more intuitive for aviators in cockpit

By Skip Vaughn

Man is still trying to fly as efficiently as birds.

The latest effort is called the Virtual Cockpit Optimization Program (VCOP). This is a combination of sensory systems—for sight, sound and touch—designed to make flying more natural for the pilot. He or she won't have to think, just react. In other words, just like the birds do it.

"We're going to make the cockpit more intuitive," Scott Dennis, lead engineer at Air Crew Integrated Systems Program Office, said during a presentation Thursday. The technology integration demonstration for decision-makers and future users was held at the Research Development and Engineer-

ing Center.

Parts of the program include virtual retina display, three-dimensional audio, tactile vest, and rotorcraft pilot's associate. Another component, the Primary Selectable Mission Support System, enables these new digital systems to be used in older aircraft.

"VCOP is tying all these technologies together that have been developed independently and demonstrating them as a single system," Dennis said.

It's all being put together here at the Advanced Prototyping Engineering and Experimentation or APEX laboratory.

"We're combining all the sensory capabilities to make the pilot's job more intuitive," Dennis said.

Three-dimensional audio, for example,

localizes the sound: The pilot receives a message in his left earphone that the engine on the left has a problem. The tactile vest, as another example, tells the pilot through touch sensation the aircraft's direction of flight. He would feel a tactor on his right side if the aircraft has strayed to the right.

Nature gave birds these capabilities. Within the next few years, digital equipment will narrow the gap for aviators.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

AT THE CONTROLS— Dennis demonstrates the primary selectable mission support system which enables the new digital systems to be used in older aircraft.

Cohen: Wake up America, the force needs you

By Linda D. Kozaryn

WASHINGTON — Over the past three years, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen and his wife, Janet Langhart Cohen, have come to truly admire and appreciate the nation's military. They now want the nation to do the same.

"Our men and women in uniform need more than support from Washington, they need the support of their countrymen," the secretary said. The couple has launched a personal campaign to "reconnect" America with the military men and women, active and reserve, who are the core of our nation's safety and security.

The all-volunteer total force deserves recognition and must have the public's understanding and support if America is to meet its security objectives, according to the Cohens. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen need to know the public, as well as their military leaders, cares about them and their families.

"We have to constantly make sure that the

American people are mindful of the role the military is playing in our lives," Cohen said in a recent interview with the American Forces Press Service. "I can't tell you how important it is to remind them how grateful we are."

While her husband has focused on servicemembers a lot, Janet, who asks to be called by her first name, has tuned in to the nation's military families. She's met those living in foreign lands, often while their spouses are forward-deployed on peacekeeping missions. She's visited schools, family centers and medical facilities. She's talked with spouses and children from Germany to Japan.

Military people "aren't in it for the money," but servicemembers and their families do deserve a decent quality of life, the Cohens said. This means having enough people to do the job and providing them the right training and equipment. It also means ensuring servicemembers have decent pay, quality housing and health care, and a good education for their children.

See Cohen on page 20

■ Apache fleet gets rapid response from Rock Island



Tony Lopez/Rock Island Arsenal
SHIM SHAPE—Terry Caldwell inspects a shim for the Apache helicopter and compares it to the drawing.

fall. The machine can instantly cut through a variety of metal alloys, including armor material, to tolerances within one-thousandth of an inch.

The urgent order for 100 each of the six different shims was followed up by an order for 300 more of each shim. All 2,400 shims were inspected using an advanced optical device before delivery, and all have been accepted to date by the customer.

Delivery of 400 pins has also been completed, and all have been accepted. The pins, which came in one size, are basically thin metal rods that are threaded on one end.

While RIA produced the pins in less than a month, the normal source for the item had a production lead time of over 300 days.

The specifications provided for the pin consisted of basic drawings, and several revisions were required before the final design was firm. The processes involved in producing the pins included machining, heat treating and final testing.

Though it's known more for howitzers than helicopters, the Arsenal's success on the Apache project could attract similar types of workload in the future. (Rock Island Arsenal release)

Apache

continued from page 12

the urgent order. The Arsenal also proved to be competitive on price when compared to contractor estimates.

The shims were cut from flat metal sheets on the laser cutting machine that was installed in RIA's manufacturing area last

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ARMY MERIT PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND THE HUNTSVILLE AREA

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

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
GU-00-059	Construction Rep	29-Mar-00	CofE RSA Res. Offic.	GS-0809	12	12
00D0763DB	Public Affairs Specialist	29-Mar-00	AMCOM PAO	GS-1035	12	12
00C0766JH	Log. Management Spec.	29-Mar-00	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0346	13	13
00D0761BM	Secretary (OA)	30-Mar-00	AMCOM Legal Office	GS-0318	7	7
00D0744BJ	Contract Specialist	30-Mar-00	AMCOM ACQ Ctr	GS-1102	7	11
00D0711BJ	Contract Specialist	30-Mar-00	AMCOM ACQ Ctr	GS-1102	5	11
00B0664SH	Supv. General Engineer	30-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	IV	IV
00B0663SH	General Engineer	30-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	IV	IV
00B0662SH	Supv. General Engineer	30-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	IV	IV
00B0661SH	General Engineer	30-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	IV	IV
00B0660SH	General Engineer	30-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	IV	IV
00B0659SH	General Engineer	30-Mar-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	IV	IV
00B0773AC	Lead Program Analyst	31-Mar-00	PEO Air Missile	GS-0343	14	14
HA00A3239	Civil, Mech, Electrical Eng	2-Apr-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0810		
				0830 0850	12	12
HA00A3228	Arch,Chem,Civ,Ele,Env,Mec Eng	3-Apr-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0808 0893		
				0810 0850		
				0819 0830	13	13
00C0780FM	Personnel Assisnant (OA)	3-Apr-00	AMCOM CPAC	GS-0203	6	7
00C0769LW	Environmental Engineer	3-Apr-00	RASA	GS-0819	12	12
00B0781ST	Secretary (OA)	3-Apr-00	PEO Air Missile	GS-0318	7	7
00D0783BL	General Engineer	4-Apr-00	AMCOM DSA	GS-0801	13	13
00D0792BL	Elec Mea Equip Mech Supv	5-Apr-00	AMCOM TMDE	WS-2602	11	11
00B0794FM	Aerospace Engineer	5-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
GU-00-065	Civil Engineer	7-Apr-00	CofE Mobile Ctr	GS-0810	12	12
00B0803DT	Industrial Specialist	7-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DE-1150	II	II
00B0790DT	Management Assistant	7-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DK-0344	III	III
00B0679AC	Supv. General Engineer	10-Apr-00	RTTC EMTD	GS-801	15	
NC08699	Criminal Investigator	13-Apr-00	CID	GS- 1811	9-12	12
00D0765DB	Intelligence Spec.	13-Apr-00	AMCOM ISD	GS-0132	11	11
00B0779AC	Supv Aerospace Engr	17-Apr-00	USAAESA PEO Avn.	GS-0861	15	15
00D0738BL	General Engineer	20-Apr-00	AMCOM DSA	GS-0801	14	14
00B0772AC	Supervisory General Eng	21-Apr-00	PEO Air Missile	GS-0801	15	15
00B0704SS	Human Factors Engineer	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0180	IV	IV
00B0703SS	Engineering Psychologist	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	IV	IV
00B0701SS	Aerospace Engineer	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	IV	IV
00B0699SS	Materials Engineer	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0806	IV	IV
00D0581DB	Training Instructor	9-Aug-00	USAOMMCS	GS-1712	11	11
00D0582DB	Training Instructor (HD)	14-Aug-00	USAOMMCS	GS-1712	11	11
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

Closer to lights, cafeteria, action

Acquisition workers settle in after move to Sparkman Center

By Sandy Riebeling

The move of the Acquisition work force from building 4488 to the Sparkman Center had been talked about for years. When the two commands merged to form AMCOM, employees from St. Louis moving into the building were told not to unpack, the move was coming. Three years later, it is a reality— one the employees seem to like.

"I heard a lot of complaining before the move," Nancy Gilbert, contract specialist, Acquisition Center, said. "But now that we've actually moved, I haven't heard one complaint. In fact, the transition went very smoothly."

One of the reasons the move went so easily, according to Gilbert, was the dedication, determination and professionalism of move coordinator Darnell Childress.

"He did an excellent job," she said. "I came in early one morning, before 6:30, and there he was, taking a table apart. It was that way through the whole thing. He was there early and stayed late and he was so patient with us."

After the smooth move, Gilbert found that the building had some great advantages, most important to her, proper temperature control.

"I had to wear my coat in the office all winter long," she said. "Here the temperature isn't super warm but I can be comfortable in a long-sleeved shirt. There are a lot of things I like about this building— it's clean and new and close to a really nice cafeteria. Everything is so modern."

Gilbert's co-worker, contract specialist Ron Young, agreed.

"It's been great for me," he said. "I'm so much closer to the people I need to talk to during the day. Before I used to have to get in my car and drive down here to have a face-to-face with someone or to attend a meeting. Now I just walk down the hall. I really like being close to the action."

Modern comforts are an added bonus for Young.

"It's so much lighter here and there are windows," he said. "Everything is so close. There's the ATM machines and cafeteria



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

WORKING TOGETHER— The office layout in the Sparkman Center provides more opportunities for employee interaction, creating a teaming atmosphere, according to Acquisition Center employee Ron Young, left, discussing aspects of the move with co-worker Gilbert.

right down the hall along with the barber-shop and workout center. It's convenient and modern. And for some reason, our copier doesn't break down here like it did at the old building."

Moving into a building 50 years younger does have its advantages, but the one new thing about building 4488 was the abundance of space.

"I do miss the privacy," Gilbert said. "We weren't back to back and side to side like we are now. It can get kind of noisy. I like having a quiet place, without so many distractions."

"There is a little less room," Young said, "but in a way it's better. We're not so divided, missile people here, aviation people there. It creates an atmosphere for teaming."

The cubical and office square footage is almost equal to that of the former building but the configuration is different. The real loss comes in space for filing and conference areas. That is an issue that isn't totally worked out yet. Once the interior construction in the basement of 5308 is complete, the remainder of the Acquisition work force will be moved and storage space determined. That move is scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

"My only problem is finding the supply room," Young said. "I've been here a while and I'm still not sure where it is."



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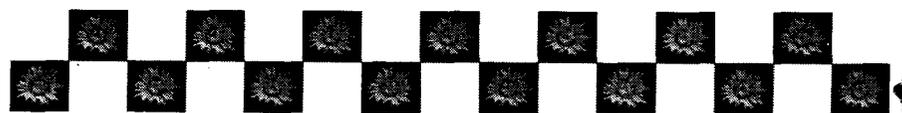
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Announcements

Sports & Recreation

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 76-6634.

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 a month for two weekly classes, or \$55 a month for three weekly classes. Call 876-437 for more information.

Golf tournament

The annual ASMC Golf Tournament will be held April 14 at Redstone Golf Course. There will be prizes for first and second place, plus closest to the pin and longest drive. This event is open to members and guests, and non-members. Entry fee is \$5 for non-members. Green fees are \$16; and cart fees are \$8 per person. To sign up call Pepper Takayama 876-8442, April Brooks 842-6944 or Sandra Garris 876-4885.

Ice skating show

Civilian Welfare Fund Council is selling 16 tickets for \$13 for Wizards of Oz on ice, 3 p.m. April 15 at the Von Braun Center. Checks should be made payable to VBC. For more information, call Jerry Campbell 876-3420.

Band boosters golf tourney

The Sparkman High School Band Boosters will hold a golf tournament, four-person scramble, May 13 at Fox Run Golf Course, 370 McCollum Road, Meridianville. Registration fee is \$50 per player. Refreshments are included in the fee. Entry deadline is May 6. For more information, call Linda Crutcher 859-0809.

Duathlon run/bike/run

The 3D Duathlon—a 5K run followed by a 15K bicycle ride followed by another 5K

run—will be held 8 a.m. April 29 at Hampton Cove. Cost is \$20 postmarked by April 15 or \$30 thereafter. This is a charity event run by the Spring City Triathletes, with 3D Research Corporation as the primary sponsor, benefiting the Huntsville Hospital Heart Relief Fund. For more information, call David Drenning 533-9620.

Miscellaneous

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.: MXMLS-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.

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.

Charitable agencies

Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit charitable human health and welfare

See Announcements on page 16



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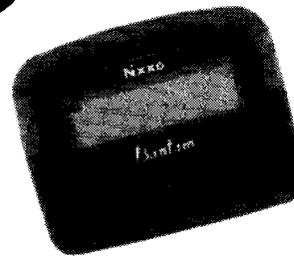
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Announcements

organizations wanting to receive contributions. Under federal law, the organizations must be 501 (c) (3) agencies. The open period for accepting applications is March 1-30. The CFC campaign raises money from federal employees in Cullman, Lawrence, Madison, Marshall and Morgan counties as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. For more information or to obtain an application, call Melinda Seigler of United Way of Madison County 536-0745, ext. 108.

Marshall open house

Preparations are under way for a May 20 open house at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. People nationwide are invited to join in the excitement of America's future in space when the center opens its doors to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free to the event, featuring appearances by NASA astronauts, space exhibits, souvenirs, entertainment, live propulsion test firings and an up-close look at real space flight hardware. Admission is free. For more information, call (888) 901-NASA or visit <http://openhouse.msfc.nasa.gov>.

Moonbuggy race

More than 40 teams, representing colleges and high schools from across the country and Puerto Rico, will roll into Huntsville April 7-8 for the seventh annual Great Moonbuggy Race at the Space and Rocket Center. The race is inspired by development

of the first lunar roving vehicle, which was designed and tested at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. The event challenges students to design and build a human-powered vehicle to address engineering problems similar to those faced by the original Marshall Center lunar rover team. For instance, prior to the race the unassembled vehicle must occupy a space no more than 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 4 feet long. During the race, each vehicle is powered by two team members, one male and one female, over a half-mile obstacle course of simulated moonscape terrain.

Winners in each category – high school and college – are determined by the fastest vehicle assembly time plus time through the course. An additional prize is awarded to the team with the best technical approach to solving the engineering problem of navigating the "lunar" surface. The event is sponsored by the Marshall Center, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Event details, including the rules, information on the course and photos, can be found at the Great Moonbuggy Race website at: <http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov>. For more information, call Frank Brannon, the Marshall Center's university relations coordinator, 544-5920.

Book sale fund-raiser

The Command Analysis Directorate is sponsoring its annual AER Book Sale.

CAD is accepting donations consisting of paperback and hardback books, textbooks, encyclopedias, CDs, cassette tapes, videos, and video games. Please, no magazines. The sale will be during the last two weeks of April, building 5300, second floor, CAD lobby, from 11a.m.-1 p.m. each day. "Please help us in supporting the AER (Army Emergency Relief)," a prepared release said. The following people may be contacted for pickup and dropoff of donated items: Marla Cobbs 842-9925 or Joan Baites 955-0147.

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 Armita Lee 876-8082 or Susan Douglas 876-6757.

Newcomers orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to noon April 4 at building 3447. Newly arrived, military personnel who are permanently assigned to Redstone should attend. And spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is offered during the orientation at the Child Development Center, building 3145. The child's shot records are required. The orientation features speakers, information booths, and a bus tour of Redstone Arsenal. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

Force protection briefing

Beginning on April 4, the Antiterrorism/Force Protection briefing for travel outside the United States will no longer be held in room 310, building 112 (Redstone Arsenal Support Activity headquarters). The new location is classroom 3 in building 3447 which is directly behind Toftoy Hall, a half block north of the intersection of Aerobee Road and Zeus Drive. The briefing will continue to be Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Child care providers

A special introduction and orientation night for Family Child Care Providers will be held at 6 p.m. April 11 at building 113. Sign up for Family Child Care certification classes that night. For more information call Evelyn Carnes 876-7801.

Youth talent search

The Month of the Military Child is just around the corner. Enjoy entertainment for the entire family at Youth Services on April 7 from 6:30-9 p.m., building 3148. Youth ages 4-18 are encouraged to show off their talents, whether it's singing, dancing or playing a musical instrument. Prizes will be awarded in different ages categories. If you know a child or teen that would be interested in performing in Talent Search 2006 please call 876-5437 to sign up. Deadline for sign up is April 3.

Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association's March meeting will be held today at 11 at Redstone Officers' and Civilians' Club. Steve Schneider is to talk about "The Sahara Desert." For more information, call retired Capt. Al Castelli 859-1340.

Communicators group

Universal Communicators, International Training in Communication, will meet April 13 from 5-6 p.m. at building 568 (PEO Aviation), conference room 12. Learn to speak before two or 2,000. If you are interested in improving your communication skills, attend the meeting to see if ITC is what you're looking for. For more information, call Janice Isbell 313-4216.

Food drive

The children of the School Age Program are having a food drive April 15 for the Downtown Rescue Mission. Items you would like to donate may be dropped off from 12:30-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at building 3400 on Gray Road. For more information, call the program office in building 3400 at 876-6595.

See Announcements on page 1

9

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Announcements

Huntsville High reunion

The Huntsville High School Class of 1960 will hold its class reunion June 16-17 at the Huntsville Hilton. Any help in locating former class members would be appreciated. For more information, call Ken Coulter 882-3284 or Gertrude Strong Watson 539-8536.

TMDE users conference

The Program Manager for Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment is sponsoring, with the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, the annual TMDE Users Conference, April 4-6 at the Von Braun Center. Static displays of military equipment, as well as vendor displays are included. Booth space is still available for organizations wishing to participate. The display coordinator is Jodi Weiner 533-5923. Admission is free. For more information, call Frank Califf 313-2582.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, will be open the first Saturday of each month beginning April 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Florida Tech

Florida Institute of Technology Graduate Center, Redstone will hold an information session on its master's degree in computer information systems April 6 from 12-1 p.m. and again 5-6 p.m. Seating is limited. Those interested should call FIT's administrative office 881-7878.

Logistics data symposium

The Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command plans to have a TACOM/Industry Logistics Data Symposium, April 4-6 at the Northfield Hilton in Troy, Mich. This symposium brings together government and industry personnel to discuss issues and concerns relevant to the constant changes in the logistics environment. For more information call Cherice Carter, TACOM-Warren chairperson, (810) 574-4175 or Jerry Lane, NDIA vice president and co-chairperson, (810) 574-6683.

Bible study

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

Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley, Catholic community at Bicentennial Chapel announces the following: Rosary is recited at 11:30 a.m. daily. Mass or a communion service is noon Monday through Friday. Spanish mass will be held at 6 p.m. April 2. Stations of the cross is held every Tuesday during Lent at 6 p.m.

Living Last Supper

The entire community of Redstone and Huntsville is invited to "The Living Last Supper" dramatization at 6:30 p.m. April 20 at Bicentennial Chapel. This free event will last about an hour. Free tickets are available at Bicentennial Chapel and Army Community Service; or call Dorothy May 842-8391 or 883-2389 to reserve your tickets at the door.

Rummage sale

The Junior League of Huntsville will hold its annual Rummage Sale from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 15 at the Roundhouse Depot in Huntsville. All proceeds will benefit the Teen Shelter which is being developed in Huntsville. For more information, call the Junior League Office 533-3554.

Zydeco concert

The Cajun/Zydeco Connection of Huntsville is sponsoring an April Fool's concert and dance from 8-11 p.m. Saturday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3053 Lee-man Ferry Road. Music will be performed by Thomas "Big Hat" Fields and his Foot Stompin' Zydeco Band. Free beginner dance instruction starts at 7:15 p.m. For more information, call 880-2653.

Covenant players

The Covenant Players, a non-profit ministry of drama and evangelism, will present a program tonight at 7 at the Post Theater,

building 3712 at the corner of Patton Road and Aerobee. The Covenant Players have over 125 touring units and have performed throughout 82 countries on six continents in more than 20 languages. Much of their ministry is directed toward military communities. The Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School unit ministry teams invite you to come and enjoy this program. For more information, call 842-0799.

Veterans vignettes

Veterans have the opportunity to participate in one of the most popular publishing ventures in recent years. A publisher is seeking vignettes for the forthcoming "Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul." Submissions of up to 1,200 words are accepted, and compensation will be offered for selected stories. Editors say topics may include heroism, camaraderie, laughter, reunions and patriotism, among others. For submission guidelines or to view sample stories, you can visit the website at www.vetstories.com or call (888) 387-6373 for more information.

Armor award nominations

The sixth annual Frederick M. Franks Award will be awarded during the 2000 Armor Conference to an active duty or reserve officer, noncommissioned officer, or a Department of the Army civilian who has demonstrated a longtime contribution

to the groundfighting and warfighting capabilities of the Army. Nominations must be submitted to the U.S. Army Armor School, Attn: ATSB-DAS (Franks Award), Fort Knox, Ky., 40121, not later than April 25. Recommendation of an awardee will be made by the Franks Award Selection Panel and forwarded to the Chief of Armor for final approval. The winner will be presented the award at the annual armor conference May 24. The U.S. Army Armor School will pay cost of TDY. For more information, call Capt. John Kennedy (502) 624-7364.

Communication class

Army Family Team Building will present a class titled "Did you hear what I think you said?" from 8:30 a.m. to noon April 12 at the Army Community Service conference room, building 3491. AFTB is an educational, self-development program for military family members that provides the knowledge and skills necessary for personal and family readiness. Topics covered will include Communication, Effective Communication, and Listening Skills. Child care is provided. Call 842-8375 to register.

Six Flags tickets

The Recreation Center Ticket Office now has tickets for Six Flags Over Georgia. Six Flags is currently open weekends only and See Announcements on page 18

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Announcements

is offering a deal this year. In the past Early Bird tickets have expired on June 1, but this year you can purchase an Early Bird for \$19.50 and use it any day this season. This is a savings of \$19.35 off the gate price. Early Birds will only be on sale through May 31. After that date, adult ticket prices will be \$24. Tickets may be purchased by the entire Redstone community. The ticket office is located in the Recreation Center, building 3711. Hours of Operation are: Wednesday through Friday from 1:30-8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call 876-4531 during operating hours.

Redstone residents advisory

During the week of April 3-7, Huntsville Utilities will conduct a leak survey of the natural gas system in the housing area. This is only a survey. Surveying the housing area is part of their study to determine their proposal to take over our total gas system under the privatization process. They will survey the gas mains by slowly driving specially equipped vehicles along all housing streets. They will also survey the gas service lines from the gas main at the street to the individual housing units by having an employee with handheld equipment walk the length of each line. Gas service will not be interrupted except in the unlikely event an unsafe condition is discovered. In the event of inclement

weather, the survey may be postponed to the week of April 10-14.

Federal technology service

The General Services Administration, Federal Technology Service (FTS) uses a variety of methods to meet the information technology and telecommunications challenges of the federal government. GSA FTS acts as a wholesale buyer and reseller of information technology and telecommunications services to the federal IT community. Using existing FTS contracts and other contractual vehicles, FTS offers a full range of IT and network products and services. FTS also provides value-added contracting services and support, and is constantly adding new procurement options and contracting vehicles, as technology and customer requirements change. FTS is a self-sustaining business that derives almost 100 percent of its revenues from customers. FTS customers benefit from faster and easier technology deployment from existing contracts. Experienced FTS employees and vendor partners enable FTS to deliver a full range of high quality telecommunications, information technology systems, hardware and software, consulting services, information security services and products, and integrated technology solutions. FTS offers direct acquisition support through its IT Solutions program, formerly known as the FAST Program. For more information regarding the IT Solutions (FAST) Program, call John Mayes 895-5093.

Spring charity sale

The United Way Youth Council and McRae's (Madison Square and Parkway City Malls) will hold the annual Spring Charity Sale, May 6 from 6-10 a.m. This fund-raising event is an opportunity for area non-profit agencies, clubs, churches, schools or other organizations to raise money they need for special projects and activities. Tickets are \$5 each and the money-raised will benefit participating organizations and other local charities. The kickoff meetings will be held at United Way of Madison County, 701 Andrew Jackson Way on April 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 5-6:30 p.m. (meal provided). For reservations and more information about how organizations can participate in this Spring Charity Sale or to purchase tickets, call Linda or Amanda at United Way 536-0745, ext. 118.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting from 6:30-7:30 a.m. April 20 at the Radisson Suite Hotel on South Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Marvin Whitted 842-2879.

Parts management workshop

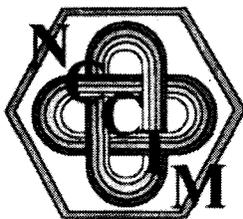
The Aviation and Missile Command and the MSFC Safety and Mission Assurance are co-hosting "Mission Success on the Information Highway" in buildings 4200 and 4203 on April 4-5. The objective of this workshop is to provide a forum for assessing parts information tools, processes and techniques for the safety, readiness, sustainability and availability of space and weapons systems. Specific companies, along with MSFC, AMCOM, and GIDEP, will demonstrate their processes and tools that proactively assist in management of these key success areas. Anyone involved in parts specification, evaluation, procurement, analysis, or maintenance is encouraged to participate. Topics will include MSFC's new ALERT processing system; piece-parts reliability, maintainability, and availability information sources; cost reduction techniques and tools; lifecycle sustainability; microelectronics design techniques to mitigate risk; diminishing manufacturing sources and material shortages; and preferred suppliers and vendor qualifications. For more information, call Kim Bell 313-6497.

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 a.m. 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 at Bicentennial Chapel.

Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold its regular monthly meeting at 4:30 p.m. April 10 at building 3202 (Union Office). All employees are invited. For more information, call 876-4880 or 881-7430.



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■ Defense Secretary argues military support



Helene C. Stikkel/AFPS

MEETING WITH TROOPS— Cohen mingles among the crowd of U.S. soldiers training at Udairi Range, Kuwait, Oct. 14, 1998. Cohen was in the Persian Gulf region to visit with U.S. troops and Gulf state leaders.

Cohen

continued from page 13

Health care, Cohen noted, is certainly the

most emotional issue for servicemembers. "If they're deployed and they call their family back home, they want to know they're getting good care." (American Forces Press Service)

Navy begins honorary members program with Fitzwater, McCurry

By Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON— Former White House Press Secretaries Marlin Fitzwater and Mike McCurry became honorary members of the destroyers USS Arleigh Burke and USS Marc Mitscher respectively during a Pentagon ceremony.

Fitzwater, who worked for Presidents Reagan and Bush, and McCurry, for President Clinton, were both clearly delighted with the honor.

"I'm really honored to receive this opportunity," Fitzwater said. "I've had many positive experiences with the Navy. In all the White House years the number of times we turned to the Navy and Marines, they always responded in marvelous fashion."

McCurry thanked Navy Secretary Richard Danzig for his leadership to "connect the American people to our sailors and Marines. It is a way to remember all our men and women in uniform and the fine job that they do," he said. "I'm looking to have some fun, too. The commander and I have talked about the ship's trip schedule and where I might be able to join them."

McCurry turned to Cmdr. Frank Pandolfe, captain of the Mitscher and said, "If you will teach me how to navigate straight

and true, I'll teach you how to spin."

Danzig said the Navy and Marine Corps are about relationships. At its heart, he said, military service is about the personal relationships crewmates develop and their trust in each other.

"Another set of relationships that concerns us is between us as members of the military and civilian society as a whole," Danzig said. "As a relatively declining number of Americans have experience in military service, one problem we have is how do we relay a sense of military experience to the public."

This was the beginning of the Navy's Honorary Members Program. Distinguished civilians become honorary members of the crew or the unit. "They can carry the message of the ship or unit back to America," Danzig said.

It works two ways. The honorary members visit the ship or unit and speak with the crew.

Other notables to be initiated soon are author Maya Angelou, San Diego Padres owner Larry Luchino, soccer star Mia Hamm, futurist Peter Schwartz, financier Dennis Bovin, football star Chad Hennings and retired Marine Corps colonel and television star Ed McMahon. (American Forces Press Service)

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Photo by Jim Garamone

WELCOME ABOARD— Cmdr. Frank Pandolfe and Master Chief Petty Officer Ronald L. Downs welcome Mike McCurry to the crew of the destroyer USS Mitscher. McCurry, former press secretary to President Clinton, became an honorary crew member during a March 23 ceremony in the Pentagon.

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