

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 49 No. 16

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April 19, 2000

PAC-3 packs bigger punch than its predecessor

Next generation of Patriot missile on track during series of successful intercept attempts at White Sands Missile Range

By Skip Vaughn

The small twisted piece of metal on Col. Jed Sheehan's desk makes an impressive ornament.

Sheehan, the Patriot project manager, uses it to underscore the lethality of the Patriot Configuration 3 missile. It's all that remains of the target missile after impact from a PAC-3 interceptor in the latest intercept test earlier this year.

"It's unbelievable," Sheehan said proudly.

PAC-3 is the next generation of the Patriot missile which defended against Iraqi Scud missiles during the Persian Gulf War. This replacement for the PAC-2 is in limited production and undergoing testing prior to equipping the first unit in the fall of 2001.

Unlike its predecessor, the new missile uses kinetic energy to kill incoming theater ballistic missiles such as Scuds and other threats. PAC-3 slams right into the warhead section with enough velocity to erase its target.

"It's been described as hitting a bullet

with a bullet, not easy to do," Sheehan said.

But it's definitely a step up from the current version. PAC-2 was never really designed to kill missiles but was upgraded to have that capability. PAC-2 uses a warhead designed to blow up near the incoming missile; and the force of its explosion sends fragments out to destroy the target. That sometimes leaves portions of the incoming missile intact to hit the ground.

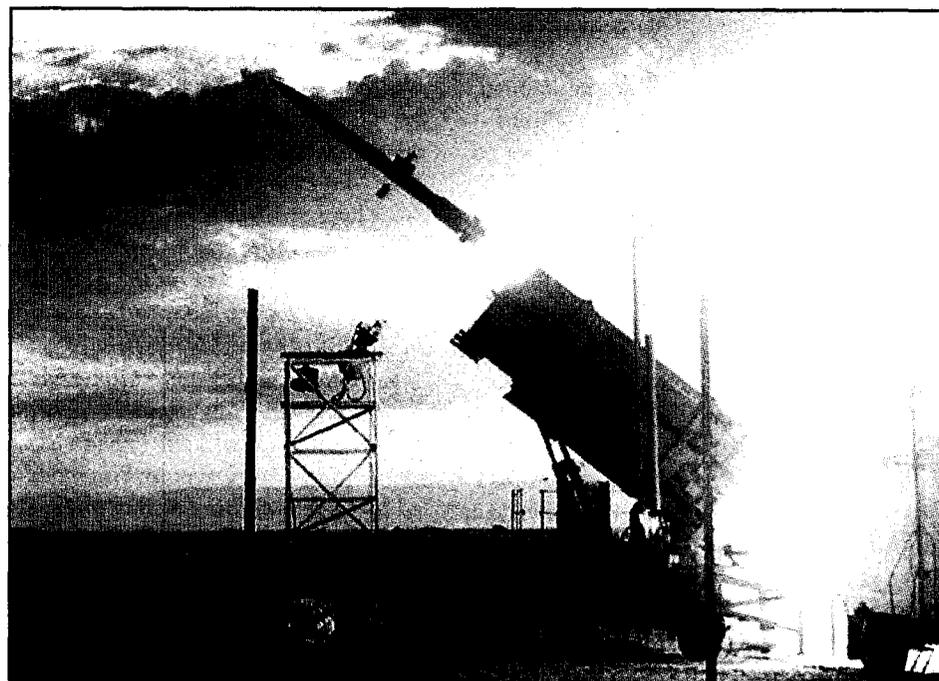
PAC-3, with its hit-to-kill capability, destroys the entire target and all of the threat to the soldiers on the ground.

"Recent testing is very, very positive on PAC-3," Sheehan said. "We've had three total successful intercepts in the program so far."

PAC-3 is an upgrade on the ground equipment as well as the missile. Testing on the ground equipment is under way at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"We increase our firepower" with PAC-3, Sheehan said. "We can put 16 PAC-3 missiles on a launcher. We can only put four of the old PAC-2s on a launcher. And

See Patriot on page 14



Courtesy photo

INTERCEPT TEST— PAC-3 leaves its launcher during an intercept test at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

'The street looked like a nuclear explosion'

Project manager recalls harrowing experience when tornado struck downtown Fort Worth during convention trip

By Skip Vaughn

The tornado sirens wailed as Col. Bob Birmingham walked through the deserted downtown streets of Fort Worth, Texas on the evening of March 28.

"Surely a tornado is not going to hit the downtown area," he thought.

Birmingham, project manager for aviation systems, had arrived in Fort Worth that afternoon for the Army Aviation Association of America annual convention. He was staying at the Worthington Hotel, just north of the civic center.

He got a call from another colonel to meet at the Radisson. Birmingham figured it was only about five blocks away so he would walk.

See Tornado on page 14

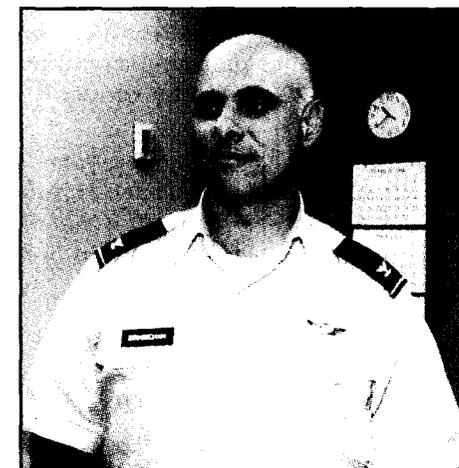


Photo by Skip Vaughn

SURVIVOR— Birmingham dove under a car to escape debris from passing tornado in Fort Worth.



Shawn Harris/Photo Lab

Auditorium dedication...

Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan and Bob Jones III admire a portrait of the late Rep. Bob Jones Jr. at a ceremony April 7 dedicating the 650-seat auditorium in the Sparkman Center as the Bob Jones Auditorium.

MWR workers begin training

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Education officer leaves for Korea

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Clinic staff braces for future cuts

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Letters to the editor

A matter of security on post

I am writing this letter in hopes of getting some answers to some questions that I have, and I am sure that I am not the only one in the community that wonders about these issue.

Why is it that we have an open post? Why is it that anyone has access to Redstone Arsenal? This is the first installation that I have been to (active duty, and dependent side) that is open post. NASA and the Marshall Flight Center have better security than we do.

We had an incident where a female, with three federal warrants for her arrest, had come onto post, first pushing her way into one family's house and then lying to another to use their phone and "possibly" try to steal things from their house. Why was this allowed to happen? Thank God that the MPs showed up when they did.

And let's talk about the numerous phone calls that I personally have made to the MP station asking that they send a patrol car over to my street to get the "speeders" to slow down. I would first get asked, "At what times do they speed"... All the time! So they would send a car over, drive by, wave a few times at the neighbors and then leave...do you think that this stops the young children from speeding and playing their music loud? And I can't tell you how many times I have been outside in my front yard and not only dependents but soldiers drive over 30 miles an hour, and in a residential area the speed limit is 20! And now we are running into the problem that these young children who are driving, go up and down the road blaring their music. That is the job of the military police!...

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Col. Steve Hamilton, the deputy post commander, provided the following response. "I would like to thank the concerned citizen for bringing these issues to my attention. As the garrison commander for Team

Redstone, I can assure you that the security for all who work and live on this installation is high on my list of concerns and duties. Concerned citizens like you assist us in our efforts to be proactive in stopping criminal activity.

"Currently we are placing a large emphasis on force protection for the business corridor section of this post, because of the high concentration of employees as well as the technological base that is located there.

"Our Law Enforcement force works hard to also protect the north end of post. The crime level on the Arsenal is minimal as compared to other installations. Many stateside posts have removed all guards and police from their gates. Our low crime level is due directly to the continuous random checks and constant patrolling conducted by the installation Police force. To better enhance our vigilance, a Police Bike Patrol will be instituted this summer to allow officers to better patrol each neighborhood.

"We continuously monitor multiple sources of information to adjust levels of security as necessary. As an example, you may remember that all entranceways were manned continuously during the past holiday season. We will maintain the ability to close the north end of the installation based on criminal indicators and Force Protection guidelines.

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

"I host Town Hall meetings semi-annually and community action committee meetings quarterly to allow the Redstone community to voice their concerns and I encourage you to continue to provide input to this process."

AER fund-raiser jail set for April 27 at Sparkman Center

Send your boss or co-worker to jail for a worthy cause April 27.

The AER fund-raiser jail, sponsored by the Provost Marshal Office, will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 27 in building 5300, first floor. Just complete a blank warrant form and send it to the provost marshal office to the attention of SSgt. Watkins (phone 842-2442) or fax to 842-2439 or 876-4135.

The fee is \$5 for the first five minutes in jail and \$1 for each additional. The war-

rant fee must be received from the issuing person prior to pickup of the "criminal."

Proceeds of course go to the Army Emergency Relief fund.

The person "arrested" will have the opportunity to have his or her picture taken for \$5 in the jail or with the arresting officer.

"Remember that it's all in fun and for a good cause," the provost marshal office said in a prepared release. "No one will be forced to participate."



AER ARREST WARRANT

27 APR 2000

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ROOM: _____

OFFENSE: _____

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Excellence operation opens in MWR

Morale, welfare and recreation workers receive training in providing the best possible customer service

By Skip Vaughn

Remember the movie "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure"? Well, the MWR workers of Redstone are taking an excellence adventure.

In groups over the next three months, the more than 400 workers in Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities are taking a one-day class in customer service. It's called "Operation Excellence."

"It is for everyone that works in MWR— managers and staff members — all levels," said Yvonne Coleman McGuire, sales and marketing director in the Directorate of Community and Family Activities.

"Exceptional customer service has never been in greater demand," she said. "Whether you're playing a round of golf, planning a wedding at the Redstone Officers' and Civilians' Club, dining at the Soldatenstube, or a guest of any of our Redstone Arsenal lodging facilities, we want our customers to know how truly important they are to us."

The classes began April 11 and continue through June. There will be a class every Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Challenger Activity Center's training room. The first 20 workers received the training April 11.

Front-line employees attend one bloc



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MAKING A LIST— Julie Yuenger, one of the Operation Excellence instructors, watches as Cynthia Payne, who works at Challenger Activity Center, lists the people she serves.

of instruction. Managers attend both the front-line training and a class designed for managers. Each graduate receives a "Commitment to Excellence" pin designating him or her as offering superior customer service.

The instructors include Gail Glass of Outdoor Recreation, Julie Yuenger of the club system and post restaurants, and Suneerat Blair of lodging.

McGuire and the three instructors attended the Operation Excellence trainer program Feb. 28 through March 3 at the MWR Academy in Alexandria, Va.

"After returning to Redstone, the sales and marketing office spearheaded the initiative to coordinate the program to train the MWR work force," McGuire said.

Glass, Yuenger and Blair will provide the training through June 28. The Child Development Services workers will take their classes on the first two Saturdays in May to accommodate the Child Development Center schedule.

"The approach to Operation Excellence is unlike any other learning systems that we've seen," McGuire said. "It's presented through a series of interactive chapters that allow MWR managers and staff to experience the concepts and principles necessary to lead an empowered work force."

According to Customer Service Quality Index surveys, the MWR facilities already have a high rating from their customers. The rating for March was 95 percent satisfaction with customer service. The surveys are available in the various facilities and returned by customers in the mail.

"While our Customer Service Quality Index rates our level of customer service highly, our director, Dan Ahern and the MWR management and staff wanted to bump our customer service up a notch for our customers," McGuire said. "And Operation Excellence was the method we chose."

"In our strategic plan, we have different goals and customer service is our No. 1 goal. That's the reason there's so much attention given to excellent service."

It's all in the family

Army Family Team Building prepares military spouses for future

By Beth Skarupa

If Bridget Simpkins had had Army Family Team Building when she first became a military spouse, life would have been a lot easier for her.

Simpkins, the enthusiastic new AFTB program manager, said the information and skills taught in this educational, self-development program would have helped her tremendously when she was a young bride in Germany who found out she was pregnant just three days after her husband was deployed to Desert Storm.

"If I had had this I would have learned what resources were available to me, I would have understood the infrastructure of the Army, I would have known how to manage my own stress, I would have had better communication skills and I would have been able to talk about what was happening and ask for help instead of holding it all in," Simpkins said.

AFTB originally came out of the Desert Shield/Desert Storm family assistance centers, according to Simpkins. She explained that when people were being deployed, their families had many questions — but at that time there was no formalized "this is Army life" course.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

A NEW LOOK— Simpkins is the newly appointed program manager for Army Family Team Building.

"AFTB grew out of the Army's realization that there was a need to form an informed group of community leaders. People were trained and it grew quickly to ease the transition into military life," Simpkins said.

See Family on page 4

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Depot deputy: Show me the antiques

Collection hobby, schools among interests for Corpus Christi colonel from Missouri

CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT, Texas— Col. Mike Hackenwerth, from the “show me” state of Missouri, is back for 30 days as the deputy commander of CCAD. This is his third year in that job, but he has been at CCAD frequently since the early 1980s when he was with the Missouri AVCRAD.

He has been married for 30 years to Becky and they have two children: Ben, 25, who works at the big sports center, Bass Pro, while studying for his master’s in education, and daughter, Andrea, 21, who attends Missouri Southern studying business. Hackenwerth graduated from Southwest Missouri University with a master’s in education in 1978.

The colonel, employed by the Ozark School District in Missouri, manages the

School-to-Careers program for kindergarten through 12th grade students in the 3,500 pupil district.

“Businesses partner with different grades and the kids learn about them while the businesses learn about the kids. For instance, in business economics third graders would learn about inventory, profits, loss, and acceptable work ethic,” he said.

Recently, “We participated in the national ‘Groundhog Job Shadow Day 2000’ where 333 kids and 230 businesses spent the day together. This is a very important program because it provides students with knowledge about working in different jobs,” he said.

Hackenwerth collects antiques as a hobby and has a liking for folding rulers and Pyrex bowls. Asked why, he said, “I

just am fascinated with them. And I collect lots of other stuff including old tools and bicycles that we keep in a big building on the property.”

The trim colonel is a master aviator (Hueys) but doesn’t fly any more. “Whenever I flew and did a preflight check and saw the CCAD sticker (decal), I was assured that the parts were good and the aircraft was OK,” he said.

This July marks 30 years of duty with the Army and this may be his final visit to the depot. He and his wife will be retiring from their jobs in the next few years and will relax and enjoy life. (Corpus Christi Army Depot release)



CCAD photo

WELCOME BACK— Hackenwerth has returned to Corpus Christi Army Depot as deputy commander.

■ Army Family Team Building offers monthly seminars

Family

continued from page 3

The courses, taught by trained family member volunteers, promote independence and provide professional development for military spouses. There are three levels of sequential and progressive training:

- Level I, “Introduction to Army Life,” is designed for family members new to the military. Courses in this level provide basic knowledge and skills to assist with adapting to the military environment.

- Level II, “Middle Management,” helps family members gain or enhance leadership skills.

- Level III, “Upper Management,” helps spouses who have been part of the Army family for 10 years or more to develop and enhance advanced leadership skills.

Simpkiss urged people not to let the fact that the training is for “family readiness” deter them from taking the courses. She said military spouses should think about using AFTB to prepare themselves in the event that their husbands or wives are deployed in the future.

“Take it from me, I never thought I’d have to worry about it. I never thought we would have another war and when it happened it rocked my world,” Simpikiss said. “If you prepared yourself now, life in the future would be that much easier.”

Although AFTB offers family member training for personal and family readiness, it is not just for those military spouses whose husbands or wives are being deployed to other countries. It can help Army families now and in the future.

“Family team is the key phrase in Army Family Team Building,” Simpikiss said. “The course is designed for Army families to be a better team for themselves and that also helps the Army and the community by extension.”

AFTB started with the three levels of instruction and it worked very well, according to Simpikiss, but now people have taken the courses and are done or have decided not to take the courses at all. One way AFTB leaders are trying to keep up interest for new Army family members and pull in those who had chosen not to take the courses in the first place is to make the courses shorter. Now concept blocks, or short seminars on one specific subject, are being offered.

“For instance, we have one designed for people working with volunteers called ‘One Great Recipe.’ It covers attracting and keeping volunteers, volunteer management and marketing volunteer experience,” Simpikiss said. “Another is a communication block, teaching effective communication and listening skills. This one’s a real marriage enhancer titled ‘Did You Hear What I Think I Said?’”

Simpikiss said they are planning on offering one or two seminars a month. Since all the instructors are volunteers, classes will not be taught in November or December or in the summer when people are on vacation.

Two seminars are planned for April and May. “Change Can Be Good – Time to De-Stress” will cover stress management, adapting to change and problem solving on April 24 from 6-9 p.m. “Stop!!! In the Name of Love,” will cover relationship building, stress management, communication, conflict management and listening skills on May 11 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Both seminars will be held in building 3491, Army Community Service.

AFTB offers free training, child-care, and refreshments during its classes and seminars. All logistics and supplies are provided for the program. For more information about the program or to register for upcoming seminars, call 842-8375.

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Annual Arbor Day celebration takes root at Redstone

By Jesse Horton

Redstone Arsenal plans to begin the millennium by joining hands with Huntsville to celebrate Arbor Day at Challenger Middle School at 9 a.m. April 25.

Officials and a representative for the commanding general and the Huntsville mayor will speak and sign a joint proclamation declaring Arbor Day to signify their rededication to helping the environment by protecting and planting trees, shrubs and other plants.

This Arbor Day celebration will serve as a reminder of our installation's goal to protect and care for our trees, shrubs and other vegetation in the community. Redstone Arsenal continues to fulfill its commitment to be good stewards of its natural resources and protect it from harm. An example of efforts to protect many of the large mature trees and plant additional trees and shrubs has been ongoing at a demolition/construction project in Family Housing Area 4. In fact, Redstone's efforts to go the extra mile to protect over 230 of these trees ranging in size from 12 to 42 inches in diameter resulted in Redstone receiving recognition from the National Arbor Day Foundation in Cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters. This recognition of a "Tree City USA" growth award will be presented by an offi-

cial of the Alabama Forestry Commission during the Arbor Day celebration.

Military and civilian volunteers in the family and troop housing areas and at other buildings across the Arsenal continue to demonstrate their desire to provide a healthful, beautiful, and enjoyable environment to live and work in as they plant and care for their plantings through the Self-Help Program. This year our installation forester contracted the services of a contractor to plant 72,000 loblolly pine trees on areas no longer required as open land. Many of these small pine trees will develop into forested areas and provide the buffer for our laser testing, buffer for our explosive and noise impacts, cover for our troops training in a forest environment, habitat for our wildlife, and even future revenue for continued program operations.

The installation forester and wildlife biologist have worked closely in determining the extent and control measures necessary in reducing the tree losses due to flooding that results from beaver activities. Redstone Arsenal is committed to ensure trees are an important part of the positive environmental setting.

Ten years after the first Arbor Day was established by J. Sterling Morton in 1882, the tradition gained popularity in the schools across the nation. For the past eight years, children from the surrounding communities have been a major part of the celebration to

educate and foster proper stewardship.

Children residing on Redstone Arsenal and in Huntsville attending Challenger Middle School will host and participate in the celebration at their school by singing songs and reciting poems.

This year the Arsenal will recognize the importance of Arbor Day on the installation with a tree planting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. April 25 in front of building 111 located on the northern portion of Redstone Arsenal. AMCOM command staff, Smokey the Bear, children from the Child Development Center and other

Arsenal officials will be present.

So, take time out from your busy schedule Tuesday and join us in celebrating Arbor Day at Challenger Middle School and follow up with the tree planting ceremony on Redstone Arsenal in front of building 111. If your work schedule won't permit your departure, then make plans to plant and maintain a tree this planting season. Trees, wherever planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal for you and future generations.

(Editor's note: Horton is the post forester.)

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Get close to nature during Earth Day celebration

By Susan Weber

In celebration of Environmental Awareness Month, Redstone Arsenal will celebrate Earth Day, Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Path to Nature-Wetland Education Center.

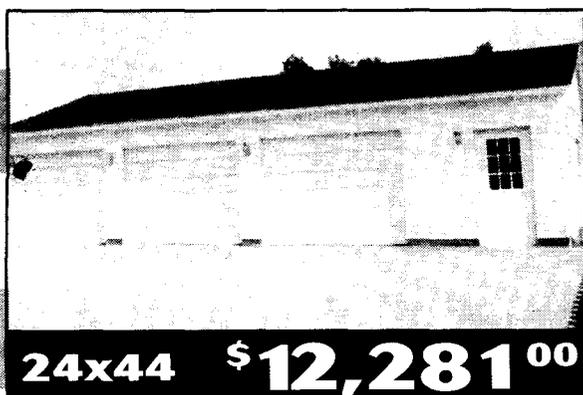
The Path to Nature is located at the south end of the Arsenal, adjacent to the Col. Hudson Recreation Area. This event commemorates the 30th anniversary of Earth Day. The event is open to the general public as well as to the Redstone Arsenal community, and it is a

way to introduce people to a very special area of the Arsenal. Special guests for Earth Day will include Huntsville's Mayor Loretta Spencer, and State Board of Education member Mary Jane Caylor.

This year, the Army Earth Day theme is "Preserving the Past, Protecting the Future." Throughout the world, Earth Day is recognized as the symbol of environmental responsibility and stewardship. Redstone Arsenal is among thousands of communities around the world that have built on the momentum of the

See Celebration on page 6

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Celebration

continued from page 5

original celebration of Earth Day in 1970. The Directorate of Environment and Public Works, host for the Earth Day event on the installation, holds this yearly celebration at the award-winning Wetland Education Center. The trails have self-guiding interpretive signs so that the members of the Redstone Arsenal community can walk the trails and learn about wetlands and our native wildlife. Our goal is to make learning about the world around us and developing a general environmental awareness fun.

Our activities for Earth Day at the Path to Nature will focus on the protection of our natural and cultural resources. The Earth Day activities serve to heighten public awareness of the importance of biodiversity to life on earth, and how it molds our cultural heritage. Two popular activities with the children are playing with the 6-foot diameter earth ball, and learning about native wildlife from the experts. Dr. Scott Mettee, co-author of "Fishes of Alabama" will entertain the attendees with "Vampire fish" and the rare Southern Cave Fish. Daphne Moland, a biologist from Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, will teach the children about our native wildlife.

The planned agenda for Earth Day includes:

- All day— Demonstrations and exhibits under the tent including Jeff Thompson,

flint knapping; Joy McKee of Operation Green Team, and forester Jesse Horton.

- 9 a.m.— Scavenger hunt, cultural resource demonstration, forestry demonstration, Operation Green Team booth.

- 10 a.m.— Recognition of representatives from environmental agencies, school systems, and city and county governments. Introduction of Col. Steve Hamilton, deputy post commander. A bluebird house will be erected by the Hamilton and Mayor Loretta Spencer.

- 10:30 a.m.— Fish specialist Dr. Scott Mettee will present "Wet and Wild," an introduction to our native aquatic species. Concurrently, there will be a wetland tour.

- Noon— Brown bag lunch on the grounds.

- 12:30 p.m.— Daphne Moland with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will give a hands-on presentation on rare and endangered species, and native wildlife. Concurrently there will be a wetland tour.

- 1:30 p.m.— Master gardener Danny Hessler will demonstrate composting with worms.

- 2 p.m.— Event ends.

For more information, call 842-0019. Maps to the area can be faxed if you call or fax a message to 876-0887. On the day of the event, dress casually (with a hat and walking shoes), bring a brown bag lunch, camera and sunscreen.

(Editor's note: Weber is an environmental protection specialist in the Directorate of Environment and Public Works.)

Seoul ties

Campbell puts off retirement once again, accepts assignment at Army installation in Korea

By Sandy Riebeling

It's James Campbell's last day of work at Redstone as the education services officer; but you wouldn't know it by the look of his office. Bookshelves are still brimming with resource manuals, the desk is still covered with personal mementos; on the walls hang his certificates, diplomas and educational posters.

"Mentally, I'm ready but physically, I still have a ways to go."

Ready or not, Campbell left for his new duty station in Seoul, Korea, April 8. His wife, Chun, and their two children, Christopher, 8, and Maurice, 6, have decided to stay in Huntsville until the school year ends.

"Chun is looking very forward to the move back," Campbell said. "When I told her we had an opportunity to go back to Korea, the decision was made right then. She is from Taegu, Korea. We met while I was there in 1989. Her family lives about three hours from Seoul."

Campbell retired from the Army in 1975 after 25 years of service in the Ordnance branch. His civil service career began a year later in Korea as an education counselor.

"I love to travel," he said. "I get the chance to meet new people and experience a new environment. I also love what I do."

He's been to Korea several times, Virginia, Japan and arrived at Redstone in June 1995. He saw his retirement date in 1997 come and go with no regrets and no retirement.

"I've tried to retire a couple of times but every time the date gets close, I get cold feet. As I see it, when you're retired, the only thing you have to look forward to is your funeral. I want to stay active as long as possible. But if I ever do I retire, I'm planning on Huntsville as my retirement community. And I still want to be active in education. As for right now, the Korea tour is for at least two years."

Looking back at the nearly five years spent at Redstone, Campbell said was able to accomplish some of his goals.

"My objective, when I came here, was to educational awareness within the entire community. We have some dedicated people in the education and business community around Huntsville. We've established and sponsored education activities during American Education Week each year that included



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SEOUL TIES— Campbell, left, said he will miss his co-workers but looks forward to returning to Korea, his wife's homeland. Winston will fill in as the education services officer until a replacement can be found.

people from the county and city. Even though Redstone was not known as an educational community, we've been well-represented in those activities."

Campbell's mission was to spread the word about "how important education is in almost any endeavor, whether you're mother, rocket scientist, or cashier. Education can improve your opportunities for advancement."

He was especially interested in convincing young soldiers of the effect education has on their career because any time records are reviewed for key assignments or promotions, education always comes into play.

"Percentage-wise, we have more soldiers taking classes here than any place I've ever been assigned. About 40 percent are taking voluntary education classes."

Campbell will serve as an education services officer at his new post, serving soldiers in Headquarters, 8th Army Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces, Korea.

"It's significantly larger than Redstone but I'm looking forward to it," he said. "Even so, I will miss the people around here. Col. (Michael) Coleman is one of the most sensitive, unique, perceptive people I've met at Redstone. It doesn't take long for him to get the big picture. It's because of the people here that I want to come back, if I ever do retire."

Campbell's supervisor, Joe Winston, division chief for Military Personnel Services and Emergency Operation Division in the Personnel and Training Directorate, will assume the role of education services officer until a replacement can be hired.

"I hate his leaving," Winston said. "He's been one of the most dynamic and energetic education people we've had. He's dependable, loyal and dedicated to his profession."

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Photo by Sandy Riebeling

AER in bloom...

A rainy day couldn't keep the plant shoppers away. The Army Emergency Relief plant sale fund-raiser was a huge success Thursday despite the fact that it had to be moved indoors due to the weather. The hallway outside the Bob Jones Auditorium was brimming with blooming flowers and lush greenery. Kris Atchley, right, employee of the plant supplier for the sale, Joys Jungle, assists shopper Jennifer Todd with advice on caring for her new plants. Todd is a contractor in the SHORAD Project Office.

It could happen to you

Army Emergency Relief aids soldiers' unexpected challenges

By Sandy Riebeling

Just think about it for a moment. What if your job took you across the country, or even the world and there was an emergency back home? Or, what if, when you got to your destination, your paycheck didn't arrive with you? How would you pay for the day-to-day necessities? Do you have the money on hand to buy plane tickets for emergency travel?

If you're a soldier in an emergency situation, Army Emergency Relief is the place to start.

"Although I've never personally needed assistance from Army Emergency Relief, I have witnessed its positive influence on the Army at large," Capt. Wendy Ward, AER campaign chairman, said. "During my tenure as a commander on Redstone Arsenal, I saw AER help several soldiers through difficult periods of financial hardship. And I never saw a soldier who was truly in need leave empty-handed."

Ward described several scenarios she's witnessed in which a soldier, through no fault of his own, ended up in serious financial need. As the company commander for Headquarters and Alpha

Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, Ward said that many of the soldiers in her company were either re-entry soldiers or those changing their Military Occupational Specialty. These soldiers are typically older, usually with spouses and children.

"If a soldier is coming back into the military, they have to quit their civilian job, at least a few weeks before entering the Army, then they work for a month with no paycheck coming in," Ward said. "It's tough for families to go a month or two without getting paid. During that time he is still responsible for paying his bills and supporting his family. AER can be an immense help to soldiers in this situation."

Younger soldiers or those without family on post can live in the barracks which means their basic necessities, food and shelter, are provided but Ward spoke of one such soldier that upon re-entry, didn't even have enough money to buy soap and shampoo. AER was able to help him until the paycheck came through.

"There aren't as many permanent party soldiers that request assistance but there are times when deaths in the family occur and the soldier has to return home," Ward



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SETTING THE DATES— Organizations across the post are scheduling fund-raisers to help put money in the coffers of the Army Emergency Relief fund. Redstone's goal for the campaign is \$45,000. Committee chairman, Ward, left, coordinates the event schedule with co-chairman Sgt. Hosea Johnson and Owens, AER officer.

said. "As a commander, I've also encountered soldiers who received Red Cross messages urging them to attend the sickbed of a relative but they lacked the means to purchase a plane ticket. AER came to their rescue with either loans or grants so that they were able to go home."

Ward urges soldiers in need to come to AER, without worry or shame.

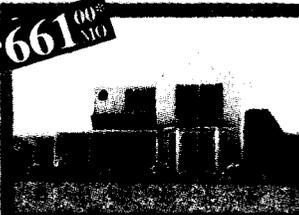
"There's nothing wrong with asking for help when you're in trouble," she said. "I think some soldiers wait until things get completely out of control because they're

See Relief on page 8

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Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PLANNING SESSION— Col. Steve Hamilton, RASA commander, participates in a meeting for Fundraiser Day.

'We're on a mission...Yours!'

Army Emergency Relief campaign in full swing with upcoming Fundraiser Day sponsored by Redstone Arsenal Support Activity

By Sandy Riebeling

Supporting the soldier and having a great time is the idea behind Redstone Arsenal Support Activity's Fundraiser Day scheduled for May 3 in the courtyard of building 112.

Reflecting this year's AER campaign theme, "We're On a Mission...Yours!" RASA is going all out to give the community a day of fun activities such as the celebrity dunk-tank, a cakewalk, 2-liter drink ring toss, bingo, tic-tac-toe and a silent auction.

Amidst the festivities, cooks will be preparing a picnic lunch which includes a hot dog, hamburger, chips and drink, all for only \$3. Tickets are sold in advance and can be purchased from members of the planning committee located at the Redstone Airfield, building 112 near the swimming pool off Goss Road, and at

Army Community Service on Honest John Road.

"We're expecting a great crowd," Donna Johnson, RASA, said. "Last year was a sellout with more than 250 tickets for lunch. I'm going to start with a supply of 80 tickets and expect that most of those will go fast."

"Deadline for ticket sales is May 1," CWO 2 John Cage, fund-raising committee chairman, said. "People need to get them quick if they want to eat."

The event is slated for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is open to the Redstone community. Rain date will be May 4.

Members of the committee include, Cage, Elise McWilliams, Regina Lakes, Johnson, Jim White, Ann Owens, Sheila Baker, Faye Yates, Sue Wilkerson, Sgt. Hosea Johnson and MSgt. Veronica Edmiston.

■ AER represents soldiers helping soldiers

Relief

continued from page 7

ashamed but they really didn't need to be. Many times this happens through no fault of their own. And even if it is a result of a bad choice, everyone makes mistakes. I know I have. We're here to help soldiers. There's no shame in that."

Ann Owens, AER officer, deals not just with active duty but with the retirement community, including widows.

"The retiree's pay stops at death," she said. "It may take three months before the insurance pays. That's a long time for these women who are trying to live without any income, or very little.

"On the other hand," Owens said. "I was working with a military spouse who lived in Huntsville, while her husband was overseas. Somehow the family was not receiving the income and the family got evicted from their home. They were living in a rescue mission when she called for help."

Owens explained that they were a young family and didn't know about many of the services available to military families. During training, the soldier

heard about AER and told his wife to phone for help.

"Army Emergency Relief is a worthy cause," Ward said. "Especially since it involves soldiers helping fellow soldiers. That is what makes this campaign so important. If people don't contribute to the fund, there will be no money to help those in need. The government does not allocate funds to AER in the budget so your money really counts. After all, you never know when you might need it."

Some of the upcoming fund-raisers include car washes, book sales, plant sales, pizza sales, cookouts, RASA's Fund Day, and a few events that have yet to be organized. As the events are scheduled, AER coordinators will announce the events through Redstone Rocket announcements and e-mail.

The campaign has already started receiving money from events and donations but Ward said they are coming in a little slower than last year at this point in the campaign. Active duty and retirees can donate to AER through allotment forms. Civilians may give donations directly to AER or through their support of the various activities.

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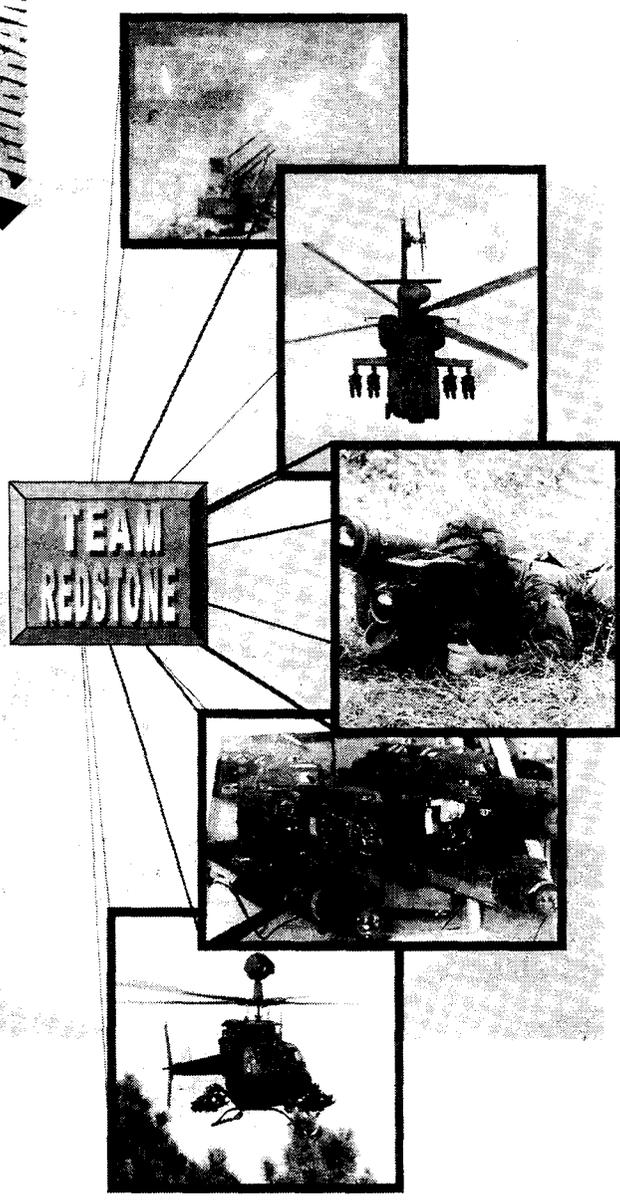
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Clinic has mouthful of service despite shrinking resources

By Beth Skarupa

How would you like to go to the dentist and not be sure you could get one?

This is the fear created by the Army's reductions in staff, yet patients here continue to be satisfied with the quality of care offered at the dental clinic.

"We face a definite challenge in the future ahead due to shrinking resources," Lt. Col. Craig Williams, commander of the Dental Command here, said. "But, whatever we have, we're a customer-service oriented clinic dedicated to taking care of soldiers and we'll continue to endeavor to meet the needs of our patients and soldiers. I think we do well here — most of the comments we get are that people are satisfied with our service."

The dental clinic primarily serves full-time active duty troops stationed at Redstone Arsenal, but it also serves active guard reserve members in North Alabama and Tennessee, military personnel at Arnold Air Force Base and recruiters.

Williams became DENTAC commander in June 1999. Of the clinic's three dentists, he is the only one in the military — the other two are contractors.

"When I got here in 1995 there were five dentists... currently we're at three and like everybody else, we're facing a

future of diminishing resources and budgets. We probably will get distinctly smaller in the future," Williams said.

The dental clinic has two hygienists who are kept busy due to the senior nature of the troop population here, according to Williams. The clinic also has lab capacity, although the bulk of the clinic's lab work is sent out to Fort Gordon, Ga.

"We have a person who's very talented who can do a limited amount of lab work here. If something needs a short turnaround, we can do that. Without him we couldn't do a lot of the prosthetic treatment that we do," Williams said.

The dental clinic offers most dental services such as prosthetics (including crowns, bridges and partials), periodontal and general services. According to Williams, 90-95 percent of these services are provided in-house. The others are referred to DENTAC's parent clinic at Fort Campbell, Ky.

One of the changes Williams expects in the future is that as the dental clinic gets smaller its administrative and budget functions will be taken over by Fort Campbell.

"The plans are not concrete yet, but it does have the potential to impact the services we can offer. Right now we can treat pretty much all we need to," Williams said.

"I will say that we definitely will get smaller in the future and obviously that would

lead to a shrinkage in personnel and assets. We won't know until the die is cast."

The dental clinic also is involved with Wallace State in a training program for dental hygienists and with Calhoun

Community College in one for dental assistants. Students in the programs are able to see how the dental clinic works and provide their services in return.

See Clinic on page 11



Photo by Beth Skarupa

BRIGHTENING SMILES— Williams, right, confers with dental hygienist Jake Jacobson as he works on a patient at the dental clinic.

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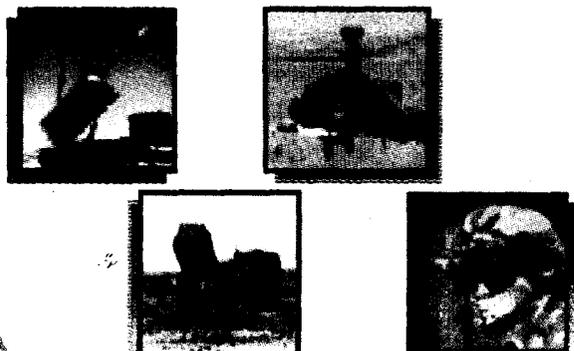
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Tips focus on eye health care in workplace

Office work is visually demanding and has always required good lighting for maximum comfort and productivity. "Good" lighting means providing enough illumination so that people can see printed, handwritten or displayed documents clearly but are not blinded by excessively high light levels (a cause of glare).

What are signs of poor lighting?

The most common complaints are: eyestrain, eye irritation, blurred vision, dry burning eyes, and headaches.

Poor lighting affects not only the ocular system but can also contribute to stiff necks and aches in shoulder area. These problems can occur when people adopt poor or awkward postures when trying to read something under poor lighting conditions.

The monitor itself is a source of light. It does not require additional illumination from other sources. In fact, the screen can cause glare if the brightness and contrast

controls are not properly adjusted.

An additional challenge occurs because most office work involves using the monitor and paper documents at the same time. Paper documents require a higher light level than the monitor. A desk lamp (any type of soft task light) can be used to illuminate documents while avoiding excessive light near the monitor. Glare can also result from an improper match or excessive contrast in light levels between the monitor screen and the paper.

The monitor also acts as a mirror.

Reflections of objects, shiny walls and any light source (specifically windows and overhead lighting) all cause glare. Eye discomfort can result, but glare also forces the user into an awkward position as they try to avoid having the glare in their eyes. These positions lead to aches and pains in the upper body that can also aggravate eyestrain.

The quality of the images on the monitor is another important factor. Reading

and interpreting blurred, fuzzy, tiny, or otherwise illegible characters for hours a day can strain the operators' eyes.

What else in the computerized office contributes to eye discomfort?

- Maintaining a fixed and close visual distance for a long time;
- Glare from the unshaded or un-diffused lighting fixtures;
- Poor lighting, involving unchanged (and unchangeable) levels of illumination;
- Unsuitable workstations (dimensions and arrangement);
- Low ambient humidity;
- Uncorrected vision problems;
- Lack of color variety in one's surroundings.

Reducing discomfort

- Use filters to diffuse overhead lighting.
- Dim overhead lights.
- Keep in mind that the recommended level of light in offices— 300-500 lux — is not a must. It applies in the situation where there is no task lamp in use.
- Cover windows with adjustable blinds.
- Use matte finishes on walls, floors and furniture.
- Adjust the computer monitor's brightness and contrast according to your preference.

• Use a light color for the screen background.

• Place the monitor parallel (not directly below) with overhead lights.

• Angle the monitor away from lights and windows.

• Make sure that the task lamp illuminates the document and not the monitor.

• Uncorrected vision may be an additional source of eye discomfort. It may have further consequences resulting in aches and pains because of awkward postures or positions adopted to "see better."

• Check your vision every one or two years, as recommended by your eye specialist.

• Provide your eye examiner with information about your job.

• Consider using task-specific computer glasses.

• Every few minutes look away from the screen for a few seconds.

• Look around.

• Focus your vision on distant objects.

• Blink several times. Frequently "stretching" your eyes like this will prevent feelings of fatigue from accumulating.

(Editor's note: This article appeared in the April issue of Industrial Safety & Hygiene News and is reprinted with permission of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.)

CCAWS project workers capture individual honors

The following CCAWS (Close Combat Anti-Armor Weapon Systems) Project Office workers received an award recently:

• Superior Civilian Service Award— Carl Buchanan

• Special Act— Barry Blake, Mansel Brown, Jan Churchey, Warren Coontz, Sharon Downs, Myra Dupree, Rick Eaton, Linda Edwards, Jeff Hansen, Arlene Harris, Gloria Hemphill, John Henningsen, Phil Hooper, Bryan Hursman, Richard Johnson, Felicia Jones, Genia Koonce, Craig Lanphere, Jennifer Lewis, Judy Littrell, Vergil Lord, Wayne Merrell, Lloyd Olson, Jessie Petty, Mark Rusak, Mario Sandoval, Michael Schrenk, Dirk Siron, Sandra Byars-Smith, Rick Szcpanowski, Deborah Tate, Tanya Thomas and Bertie Thompson.

• Performance Award— Russ Asson, Barry Blake, Reagor Branch, Jan Churchey, Sharon Downs, Myra Dupree, Sandra Garris, John Harris, Barbara Heath, Gloria Hemphill, Fran Hidalgo, Erma Ivy, Richard Johnson, Mike Parmenter, Jimmie Parvin, Jessie Petty, Marie Plyler, Gene Sanders, Tina Shields, Mark Sweeney and Tanya Thomas.

• Service Certificates— Barbara Heath (15 years), Gloria Hemphill (15 years), Fran Hidalgo (15 years), Lloyd Olson (15 years), Jimmie Parvin (20 years), Jon Lowe (30 years) and Hoyte Johnson (35 years).

• On-the-Spot— Donna Clark, Shirley Davis and Vernessa Gay.

• Sick Leave Conservation— Russ Asson, Jan Churchey, Warren Coontz, Gloria Hemphill and Karen Lambert.

DENTAC commander expects less resources in future

Clinic

continued from page 10

"One of our strong points is our staff — the people we have here. Several of them are retired dental NCOs and others are wives of retired servicemembers. All of them have been around the military community a long time," Williams said. "This helps a lot when it comes to scheduling and coordinating treatments because they

know how the military works with travel and TDY. They know how things can change and they're able to cope with it."

Williams, having completed 18 years of military service including tours in Italy and Saudi Arabia, said he and his wife Jan have enjoyed being at Redstone Arsenal.

"This has been one of the highlights of our time in the Army," Williams said. "It's a great place to be and a great community to be in."

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Keeping tabs on government property

Proper paper trail procedures save government time and money in search of missing items

By Sandy Riebeling

The property book value for Redstone Arsenal includes more than 170,000 items with a value of \$715 million. Keeping track of it all is a major undertaking.

"The problem isn't that it's a difficult process," Ray Watkins, chief, property accounting office, said. "The problems arise when the process is not followed properly."

The process is basically keeping track of items through a paper trail. Individuals within activities or organizations that are assigned to this task are called hand receipt holders. Hand receipt holders manage, control an account for equipment as well as ensure that property is not moved, transferred, exchanged for new equipment under maintenance or warranty program, turned in, cannibalized or removed from the work area without completing the proper forms, no matter what the action is. There are approximately 1,500 hand receipt holders throughout the installation.

"Once a year, the designated hand receipt holder is required to do a physical, hands-on inventory to make sure all government property assigned to him is

accounted for," Watkins said. "It is crucial that this is done. This is one of the first places that the process breaks down. If the inventories are not done and everything physically checked, it can cause problems later on when equipment can't be located. If he's been signing off on things he hasn't had for years, it's tough to try to go back and find when the equipment left his possession and where it is now. Hand receipt holders can be held responsible and be made to pay for the missing items."

Equipment listed on the property books is considered non-expendable items such as automation, vehicles, weapons, things that are not generally "used up" during their life. When such equipment is received on the installation and assigned to an organization or activity, it is placed on the property book and from then on, the responsibility of the hand receipt holder that represents the organization.

"Sometimes companies will come in and replace defective equipment and there is never any paperwork filled out for the exchange," Watkins said. "When the inventory is done, the serial number of the new item doesn't match the hand receipt. There was no notification that one piece

of equipment left our hands and another was put in its place."

In such cases, employees, thinking that they are helping, will remember to take the bar code off the old equipment and place it on the new. This should not be done. The old bar code and item information should be turned into the Property Book Office with the proper signatures and forms and a new bar code created, so that when the inventory is performed, everything matches.

Other problems in the process include lateral transfers or turn-ins of equipment without proper documentation.

"Suddenly your office doesn't have this item but your inventory paperwork says you should," Watkins said. "It's up to the hand receipt holder to find the item."

If during an inventory a discrepancy is found, and you don't have the proper documentation to support relinquished responsibility, the Property Book Office should be contacted. If property cannot be found or accounted for, a Report of Survey must be initiated within 15 days of known loss.

"These surveys are costly to the government," Watkins said. "It takes time and money to do them."

In the event that a hand receipt holder will be absent from his duties for more than 30 days, the commander, director or supervisor must appoint someone to take his place. A joint inventory must be conducted by both the old and new hand receipt holder, 30 days prior to the absence.

"Sometimes these guys retire and are gone without us even knowing," Watkins said. "Then when it comes time to do the inventory and questions arise, it's hard to come up with the answers."

Watkins offered some tips on keeping track of inventory:

- Always be sure to perform a 100 percent physical annual inventory when scheduled.

- Verify all new equipment serial numbers, model numbers and manufacturer's information.

- Complete all data entries to include the type of funds, document number and contract number as applicable for the purchase on the proper forms.

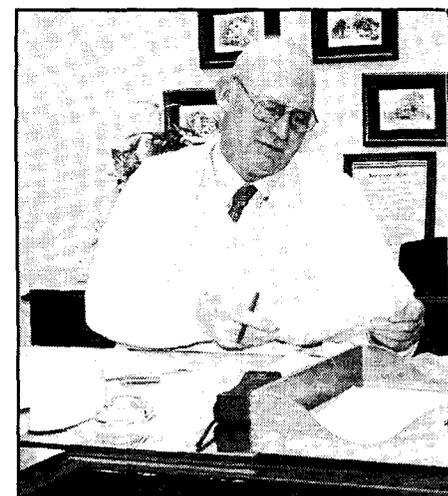


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TWO-WAY STREET— The ability to manage, control and account for government property depends on everyone doing their part, from the users of the equipment to the hand receipt holders who are held responsible. Watkins has some concerns about the rise in unaccounted property.

- For all types of equipment transactions have supporting documentation signed by the hand receipt holder and if a lateral transfer, the receiving hand receipt holder's signature.

- For all maintenance/warranty exchanges have a copy of the documentation signed by the vendor with the serial numbers and model numbers involved and submit the change with proper forms to the PBO.

- Provide the PBO documentation on major end items that are being installed as components into a locally built system.

- Submit a new information data sheet whenever your activity changes buildings, phone numbers, office symbols, JONO numbers and any other type of changes that take place for you as the hand receipt holder.

It's also important that property does not leave the area of responsibility without documentation being signed. Do not ship or carry equipment to another off-post location for their use without proper documentation signed and approved. Do not sign for equipment without verifying all of the data for that equipment and do not turn in locally built systems with components without identifying all of the components built in on the proper forms.

"My advice is to keep a copy of all the paperwork until the next annual inventory is completed," Watkins said. "Really, it's a matter of following a process."

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■ Colonel dives under car to survive Fort Worth tornado

Tornado

continued from page 1

But then he decided he'd stop by the civic center to see if any helicopters had been unloaded. So he was walking on a street he wouldn't normally travel to get to the Radisson, which turned out to be fortuitous. Birmingham would avoid a potentially harder hit area.

"I noticed over to the east it was real dark and it was starting to rain," he recalled. "When I got past the first block, the tornado sirens started going off."

The sirens stopped. But then the wind started to pick up. Birmingham pulled on his windbreaker. Suddenly, rocks started pelting his back.

"When I turned around and looked up, I saw a wall of trash and debris like a wave coming right at me," Birmingham said.

He ducked into a little area near steps and a wall. The civic center was across the street. It was getting hard to see because of the darkness and rain. Birmingham saw a man running the final few feet to the center so he figured he could get there, too. Birmingham started toward the civic center.

"As soon as I stepped out in the wind, I realized how strong the wind was. I knew right then I wasn't going to make it

across the street. So I just stopped right there and got down," he said.

The street was lined with parked cars. Birmingham dove underneath a Suburban and pulled his jacket over his head.

"As soon as I crawled under there, the windows of that car blew out," he said. "As soon as that happened, the wind stopped."

"I looked behind me. And the whole street looked like a nuclear explosion."

Trash and furniture was everywhere. Every car parked along the street had the windows blown out—including the one that probably saved Birmingham's life.

Covered with glass and dirt, he walked into the Radisson. Miraculously, he had survived the tornado without a scratch.

Two tornadoes struck Fort Worth that evening. The back-to-back twisters smashed through the downtown area and the city's suburbs, killing four people, injuring 100 others and causing an estimated \$300 million in damage.

"It was so dark and it was raining so hard, you didn't really get an idea of the damage until the next morning," Birmingham said.

"I think what probably saved my butt: The tornado wasn't on ground level (when it passed). And it was only an F2. I think if I was one street over, I would've been hit with all the glass from Bank

One."

Birmingham, 44, a native of Lynn, Mass., and his wife, Janet, have two children. Janet flew into Fort Worth the next day as planned for the convention which went ahead with a smaller than usual attendance.

He praised Fort Worth for the quick cleanup and the AAAA convention organizers for rearranging the schedule after the tornado.

"What surprised me was how much dirt was moving with this thing as it was coming through downtown," he said. "I felt it was like somebody was shoveling dirt on me as this thing was blowing over."

His personal experience with the tornado was "no big deal," Birmingham said. "It didn't strike me as being anything truly significant. I guess more than anything it was interesting."

But he does have advice for others when severe weather threatens.

"I would say when you hear the tornado sirens, that's probably a good time to seek cover," he said. "I would say if I had it to do again and heard sirens, I would have ended up going back to the Worthington and seeking shelter downstairs."

"And never underestimate how fast those things can move. I mean that thing went through the downtown area in seconds."

Birmingham does feel fortunate. And his usual sense of humor only goes so far in situations like this.

"At first he was all excited," Jeanette Williams, his administrative support assistant, said. "Afterwards he wasn't laughing about it, because I mean it was some kind of experience."

■ Latest version of Patriot erases incoming target missiles

Patriot

continued from page 1

"We increase the area we can cover. We've upgraded our remote launcher capability. And that's where we have our launcher remotely located away from the radar. And we can send all the launch data over a data link."

The test battalion is 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense, part of the 35th Brigade at Fort Bliss which received PAC-3 in 1998. It will become the first unit equipped when testing is completed, probably in September 2001. Plans are to field seven battalions, a total of 36 fire units, through fiscal 2005.

There are foreign customers as well.

"Both the Germans and the Dutch have agreed to buy PAC-3 and that includes both the upgrades to the ground equipment and the missile itself," Sheehan said.

Patriot started as a system called SAM-D in the 1960s and went through various phases of testing and evaluation before being fielded in 1984.

"It's been upgraded through the years to keep pace with the threat," said Sheehan, who became project manager last September. "And we all know how well it did in Desert Storm and we've continued to improve it since Desert Storm."

"And our plans are for Patriot to be around for the next 20 years at least. It'll be slowly phased out as MEADS comes into service."



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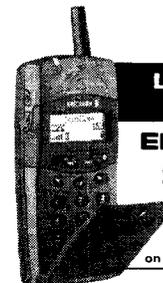


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Air Force study suggests Agent Orange, diabetes link

By Kathleen T. Rhem

WASHINGTON— Adult-onset diabetes in Vietnam vets may be associated with exposure to the herbicide Agent Orange, an Air Force report released March 29 states.

The report is part of the long-running Ranch Hand Study—the Air Force investigation into the health risks associated with exposure to Agent Orange. It also included evidence that herbicide exposure is related to cardiovascular disease later in life. The study is called Ranch Hand because the original mission of spraying Agent Orange in Vietnam was called Operation Ranch Hand.

“This report includes the strongest evidence to date that exposure to Agent Orange is associated with adult-onset diabetes,” said Joel Michalek, a statistician with the Air Force Research Lab at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. Michalek is the principal investigator of the Ranch Hand Study.

The latest results suggest that as dioxin levels increase, the presence and severity of adult-onset diabetes increase, he said. He also said that as dioxin levels increase, the time to onset of the disease decreases. A 47 percent increase in diabetes was seen in those veterans with the highest levels of dioxin.

“This is particularly strong evidence since dioxin is that component of Agent Orange that has been linked to many health effects in laboratory animals,” Michalek said.

Michalek said the Ranch Hand veterans experienced a 26 percent increase in heart disease, but the risk was not increased in those with the highest levels of dioxin. However, the risk of cardiovas-

cular abnormalities, such as high blood pressure and the prevalence of prior heart attack indicated by electrocardiogram, did tend to increase with dioxin levels.

“The mixed results mean that some indicators of disease increased with exposure and others did not,” he said.

He was careful to point out that while these findings suggested a link between these diseases and Agent Orange exposure, they’re not conclusive.

“Biological processes relating herbicide exposure with these diseases have not yet been described,” Michalek said. “I’m not prepared to say that dioxin causes diabetes. People who have high dioxin levels are at a greater risk of diabetes.”

The Air Force is, however, taking steps to prove cause and effect. The service is funding research at the University of California at Davis and at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Little Rock, Ark., to explain any biological relationship between dioxin and diabetes.

The Ranch Hand Study has been going on since 1978 and includes periodic examinations of about 2,300 Vietnam veterans -- 1,000 who worked on Operation Ranch Hand and another 1,300 who flew missions in Vietnam but weren’t associated with the operation. This latest release of information is associated with physical exams conducted in 1997.

Previous examinations and reports have suggested links between Agent Orange exposure and nine distinct diseases: chlo-racne, Hodgkin’s disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, porphyria cutanea tarda, respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx and trachea), soft-tissue

sarcoma, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, and prostate cancer.

In addition, monetary benefits, health care and vocational rehabilitation services are provided to Vietnam veterans’ offspring with spina bifida, a congenital birth defect of the spine. VA presumes that all military personnel who

served in Vietnam and who have one of the listed diseases were exposed to Agent Orange, and it compensates veterans with any of these diseases. Michalek said any future decisions to compensate veterans with diabetes would be made by the VA. (American Forces Press Service)



Photos by Skip Vaughn

RSIC open house...

Dr. Ron Moore, of the space science department at Marshall Space Flight Center, joins Col. Herb Carr, AMCOM chief of staff, in cutting the ribbon during the open house last Thursday for Redstone Scientific Information Center. In photo at right, technical information specialist Diane Moore assists Dr. John Ballenger of Raytheon. The massive technical library held an open house to showcase its new features, including a new security system, on National Special Libraries Day. Library Week was April 10-14.

Grissom JROTC cadets win area competitions

The Grissom Junior ROTC cadets need more room in their trophy case after military skills competitions last month.

Grissom’s military skills team competed in the Crimson Tide Rifle, Drill and Physical Training Meet on March 18 at the University of Alabama. The Tigers took first, third, fourth and fifth places in physical training. Cadet Jeffrey Hendrix won for PT. The Tigers also won first and fourth in academics, and first place in rifle.

The Grissom rifle team served as host March 10-11 for the NRA and Junior Olympics 3-Position Air Rifle Championship. Sixteen teams from as far away as Mobile attended. The top three teams in the precision air rifle division included first Chilton County,

second Grissom and third Athens. The top three marksmen in the precision division included Kari Baldwin of Chilton County, William Vaughn of Grissom and Justin Carboniss of Hazel Green. The top three teams in the sporter air rifle division included first Lawrence County, second Buckhorn and third Grissom. The top three marksmen in that division included Paul Monzon of Grissom, Marice Square of Buckhorn and John Lou Allen of Lawrence.

Grissom took second place in the Middle Tennessee State University Orienteering Competition on March 4 near Murfreesboro. Team members included Tommy Koh, Tommy Knothe, Kenneth Stutts and Chris Nuttall.



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Military all-stars successfully defend court against NASA team

By Skip Vaughn

The end of the all-star basketball game between the military and NASA was just the beginning.

The players were already planning a rematch when the final buzzer sounded on the inaugural game.

But game one belonged to the Army side of the house.

Germaine Burts scored all 12 of his points in the second half as the military all-stars beat NASA 62-54 Thursday night at Pagano Gym. The two teams were to play again this week at the NASA gym in what is to become an annual event.

"It's good for the community," William Kelly, the military team captain, said. "It's good to know we as a community can get together and have a good basketball game so we can meet our co-workers on the other side of town."

The military led 24-21 at halftime but pulled away in the second half when Burts connected with outside jumpers. He put the military up 32-31 with 16:40 left then hit a 3-pointer and another jumper for a 37-31 lead at 15:45.

Burts made a steal and fed Kenneth

McQueen, a fellow member of HHC AMCOM, for a layup that made the score 43-34 with 13:51 left. The military forged to a 51-36 lead at 11:39.

"In the crucial minutes, players like McQueen and Burts came through," Kelly said. "Good overall effort for Team Redstone."

McQueen also finished with 12 points. Anthony Pringle, another member of HHC AMCOM, had 11.

Mitchell Liggins, of HHC 59th, grabbed 10 rebounds. Kelly, also of HHC 59th, added seven rebounds and four steals.

"Nobody, no off-post team, no downtown team anywhere is going to beat Redstone in Pagano Gym," Liggins said.

NASA was led by Rod Hill with 18 points and seven rebounds. Hansel Gill added 10 points for the Marshall Space Flight Center team.

Brian Garstang, who played collegiately for the University of Alabama-Huntsville, was looking forward to the rematch in the NASA gym across post. Garstang, 24, played at UAH from 1994-98 before going to work at Marshall in June 1998. He finished with six points against the military team.

"Usually you don't see fundamentals

in a game like this but I think they were running plays out there," Garstang said. "We're going to play them (this) week in our gym so, to be continued."

"It was a good game, competitive," Kelly said. "The guys came out and played ball with no practice. They came out and jelled together. Players like Burts, Liggins, Pringle and McQueen stepped up. They rose to the occasion in the second half."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ALL-STAR TROPHY— Mitchell Liggins, left, celebrates with teammate William Kelly. Looking on is Liggins' son, Christopher Embry, 12.

New volleyball league serving up action

Civilian welfare teams play Wednesdays at Fitness Center

By Margaret Banish-Donaldson

How can an older athlete find competitors of similar age and skills? In volleyball, it's easy. Join the Civilian Welfare Fund Council Volleyball mixed league. Teams play every Wednesday at 5 and 6 p.m., at the Redstone Arsenal Fitness Center off of Patton Road.

"All teams have worked hard since March 15," Mary Ann Meyer-Schuck, league coordinator, said. "The entire Team Redstone community is invited to participate in the games as long as they are 18 years old. Our last game is scheduled for May 17, and then we'll take a rest for a couple weeks and start again."

Standings from April 12 for the Rec-East Court teams show the Zamora's (12-3) seized control of first place, followed by Lee (7-8), Hellcats (5-10) and LOGSA (5-10).

Shari Kleinberg from the Five-Alive Intermediate team is pleased with her team's performance. This is the first time she has played volleyball in three years.

"We could have easily let down after the first week's match," she said. "I thought we came out and got into rhythm pretty early."

The Intermediate teams include A-Attackers (10-5), Five-Alive (10-2), Fireballs (7-5) and Mark/Gail (0-15).

Five-Alive and Fireballs will have a make-up match due to a scheduling conflict.

On April 26, the first place, second place, third place and fourth place teams will play cross leagues, but these games will not count toward league standings.

"I hope these players will return when the new league starts June 7, because they have made huge improvements," Meyer-Schuck said. "Nothing is more fun than hitting a volleyball with a smoke trail behind it. Hitting hard is like dunking a basketball, or throwing a blazing fastball to strike out a hitter."

For more information on signing up to play volleyball, call Meyer-Schuck at 313-3395.

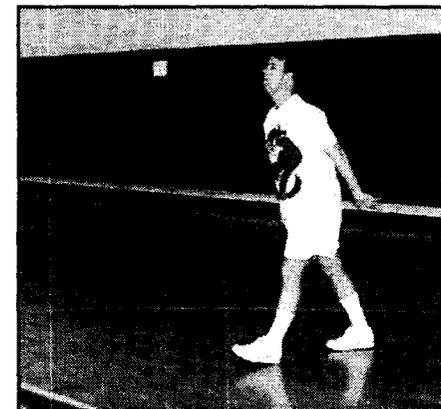


Photo by Margaret Banish-Donaldson

READY TO STRIKE— Jake Hale prepares to return the volleyball for his team.



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Claims clerk delivers advice for reporting property damage

By Pat Cross

How often have you heard "I submitted a claim for damage to my property and they didn't pay for my almost-new Dell computer that will not power up, destroyed solid oak desk, or my slashed print of "The Buffalo Soldier"? One cannot deny that horror stories exist about household goods moves and unpaid claims.

Realistically, most claims that are reduced or denied are done so because the claimant failed to document his/her claim. A proper estimate or lack thereof, could change the outcome of a claim. A proper estimate, when required, is as important as submitting your Notice of Loss or Damage to the Claims Office within 70 days of delivery.

Please visit the Redstone Arsenal Office of the Staff Judge Advocate website (<http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/staff-jag.html>) for more complete information and forms for the claims process. The government requires an estimate for your claim if: (1) you claim \$100.00 or more per item; (2) you claim internal damage to electrical or electronic equipment; or (3) if you claim an item is beyond repair.

It is mandatory to have an estimate from a proper repairman for electrical or electronic items that are not working properly. The fact that an electronic item was working prior to shipment and is not working after delivery does not prove moving damages. Before an item of this type can be paid, you must have proof of physical moving damage. The claims packet (provided by the Redstone Arsenal Claims Office and on its website) has a form titled "Electrical/Electronic Repair Report." This form must be completed by a "qualified" repairman. The government can require you to obtain a second estimate from a proper repairman if your first estimate is unreliable. Ensure that the repairman notes any external damage as well as any internal electronic damage.

What about estimates for crystal, china, small expensive items? I often

explain to a claimant, I have "crystal" drinking glasses; however, I buy my crystal glasses at the Dollar Store (four for a \$1). If you are claiming crystal glasses more expensive than mine, be sure to follow the instructions on the claims form (DD Form 1844). Write the name brand, pattern number and any other information on this form to best describe the item. If claiming more than \$100, then get an estimate.

The following should help explain other requirements:

- **PROBLEM:** Washer will not agitate
- **ANSWER:** Get an estimate from a repairman and have the repairman complete the Electrical/Electronic statement in the claims packet.
- **PROBLEM:** Lenox Crystal wine goblet broken, 4" tall
- **ANSWER:** You may obtain an estimate from the PX, the newspaper or any other store that sells crystal. Submit a copy of the newspaper clipping, purchase receipt, or written estimate from a proper source to substantiate the value of the item or replacement cost.
- **PROBLEM:** Webber BBQ Grill - screws missing
- **ANSWER:** Contact the company. Many times you can order parts for these grills. Get an estimate of costs or a statement of non-availability if part is no longer sold.
- **PROBLEM:** Magnavox 27" television - top scratched, dented, will not power up.
- **ANSWER:** Get an estimate from a repairman and have the repairman complete the Electrical/Electronic statement in the claims packet.

The values of some items like collectibles, antiques, and movies are difficult to estimate in the event that they should get lost in shipment. I advise that if you have baseball cards, CDs, video movies, or other collections please list them by title on your claim. It may be wise to take pictures of the items prior to

shipment. Note that antiques are recognized as antiques under regulations only if you have a certified appraisal done (at your expense) prior to shipment, or if the furniture is proven to be over 100 years old.

The government continues to strive to simplify the claims process. For example, if you have a scratch on your coffee table and you like to repair furniture and you are not claiming the table is beyond repair, then you could provide your own estimate of the repair cost. However, your estimated repair cost must be reasonable. The amount claimed should be close to what a local repairman would charge to repair the damage.

To simply claim \$99 for an item in order to avoid getting an estimate is not reasonable. Remember, you are bound by law and regulation when submitting a claim. Filing a fraudulent claim may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The government and the carrier have a right to inspect any damaged property. Thus, to avoid problems, do not get rid of or repair any damaged item without prior permission from the Claims Office.

Documenting your claim may seem to be a chore if you have the wrong attitude.

However, if you think about it, would you settle with an insurance company without first getting at least one estimate on your damaged car? Would you claim deductions on your income tax without having documents to prove your deductions? Submitting a claim with proper documentation and supporting estimates is just as important.

As the claims clerk, I am here to assist you in filing your claim. I cannot force someone to follow the instructions in the claims packet, but I can inform someone that it is likely that their claim may be reduced to a total denial if they fail to follow instructions. In your future claim, be honest, document your claim, provide all shipping documents, obtain the required estimates and do everything in a timely manner. We will work hard to make you one of our many satisfied customers.

For more information on claims, visit the Legal website or the Legal Office in building 111. I, Pat Cross, am the claims clerk and have worked at Redstone Arsenal Legal Office since 1987 and have 18 total years of claims experience. I worked six years in the Personal Property office in Jacksonville, Fla., and served as a claims examiner for one year.

(Editor's note: Cross is the claims clerk in the Legal Office.)



Ellen Hudson/The Huntsville Times

Living Last Supper...

The entire community is invited to "The Living Last Supper" dramatization at 6:30 p.m. Thursday 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. From left are Dave Mills (Judas), Jim Allred (Nathaniel), Steve Hamilton (Jesus), Clair Goodridge (James) and Oscar Polk (Phillip).

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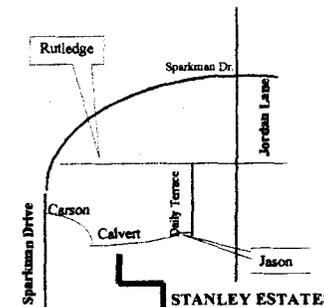
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Back to basics in the Balkans

Army Materiel Command soldier visits region where people lack luxuries that 'we take for granted'

By Michelle Drumheller

KOSOVO-- There are not many stoplights in Kosovo, says a soldier who recently completed an assignment in the Balkans region.

"I hear my parents and my sisters sometimes complaining about having to pay taxes, or having to wait at a stoplight," says Capt. Thomas Carey, a 1995 West Point graduate, stationed out of Fort Hood, Texas, 4th Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

"Waiting for a stoplight in Kosovo is optional, you don't have to wait," he adds with a little smile.

"They (my family) don't know how nice it is to have water, municipalities, electricity— things we take for granted — public schools, and transportation," says Carey. "I will tell my mother and my sister the same thing (that I told them) after I came back from Korea: The United States is the greatest country in the world."

Carey, who volunteered for a staff assignment with Army Materiel Command (AMC), Logistics Support Element-Kosovo, says that he volunteered for this particular assignment because he wanted to "get some exposure to an actual real world mission" and this gave him the opportunity he was looking for. AMC also gave him experience as an assistant operations officer. Sent to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Carey spent a great deal of time during his off-hours capturing his environment and experiences through photography. But his best memory of Kosovo will be his visit to local Kosovar schools, he says.

"I got the opportunity to visit some schools (in Kosovo)," says Carey. One school in particular stands out for him, the school that he delivered crayons, coloring books, baby clothes, diapers, book bags— items his sister had sent him, to distribute.

"I went back (to the school) a couple of days later and a teacher told me she had given the clothes to a needy family. That

meant a lot to me and it meant a lot to my sister," Carey says.

The school that Carey visited had very little, he added, mainly a chalkboard and a desk. "The school seemed to be more of a social gathering instead of an actual learning environment," he adds. The school is something out of the 1800s.

"There is a tiny stove in the front of the room, and it barely gives out enough heat to heat the corner of the room," he says. "The children all have a stool and a table

to sit at and there is one chalkboard. They do a lot of singing and activities."

Carey says that he visited the school on National Woman's Day "kind of like Mothers Day (in the U.S.)." Students also gave him flowers. "I have them in my bag in my room," adds Carey, who may just be saving them for his mom when he returns home.

(Editor's note: Drumheller is a staff writer for Army Materiel Command-Europe.)



Courtesy photo

SCHOOL DAY— Carey meets with school children in Kosovo.

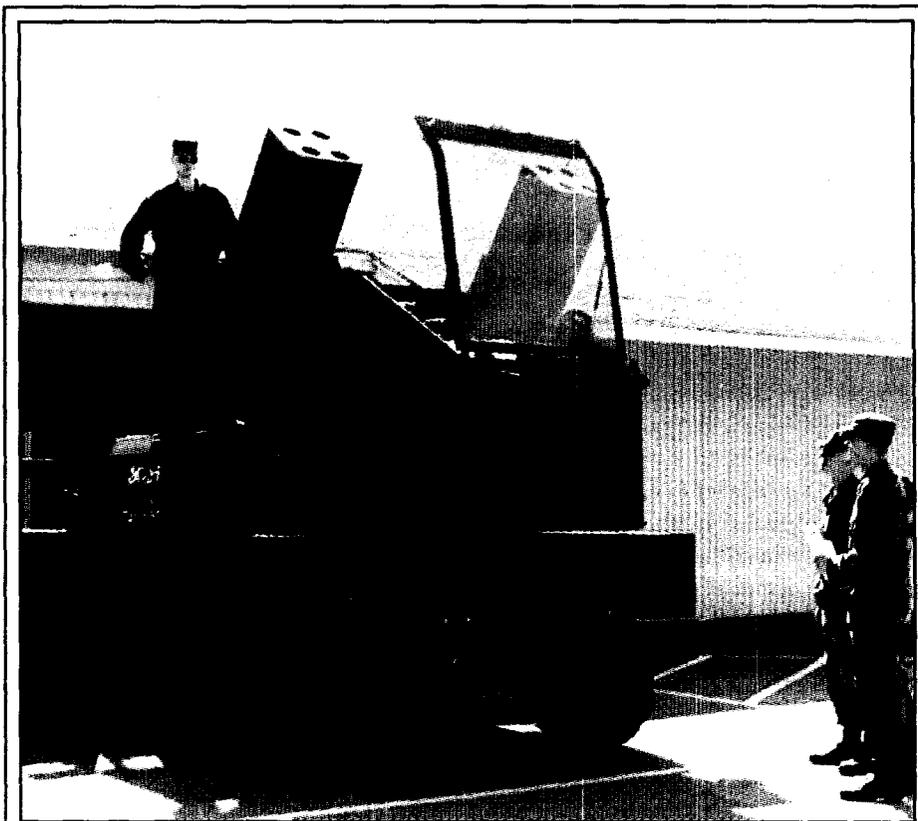


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

Target locked...

Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., were at Redstone last week for a logistics demonstration of the Avenger's slew-to-cue capability to track incoming targets. PFC Benjamin Thomas, on ground, left, and Sgt. Taylor Wieniewitz followed the manual's operating procedures while Pvt. Seong Park performed operations in the turret with SSgt. Vincent Renaldo observing from the top.

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Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Bowling weekend special

Rocket Lanes is offering a weekend special 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. 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.

Duathlon run/bike/run

The 3D Duathlon—a 5K run followed by a 25K bicycle ride followed by another 5K run—will be held 8 a.m. April 29 at Hampton Cove. Cost is \$30. 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.

AER run/walk

The AMCOM Command/Staff Offices AER Fun Run/Walk will be held from 1-3 p.m. May 10 at Burose Road and entrance into Sparkman Center. The event is open to everyone. Proceeds will benefit the Army Emergency Relief fund. There will be door prizes for those who register for this event or make a donation of \$3. For tickets call Margaret Banish-Donaldson 842-0558; April Brooks 842-6944; Edna Dye 876-6464; Jean Evans 842-0107; Dorothy Hosea 876-7138; Janice Powell 876-1770; Zakiyyah Shakoor 876-8136, Jackie White 876-3591 or Randy Showers 876-3000.

Dependents golf tournament

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association has been selected to play host

to the 39th annual Military Dependents Tournament, Sept. 10-14. Legal female, adult dependents (18 years or older and an amateur golfer) of active duty, retired, Reserve component or deceased service personnel of the five U.S. armed forces are eligible to apply. The field is limited to the first 160 applicants with the lowest handicaps who return their entries by June 1. Contestants are required to show a valid military ID card when registering. All contestants compete in an Open Division that has been pre-flighted according to handicaps. There is a separate Queens Flight for women 70 and older. Play will be 54 holes of stroke play and the champion will be the contestant with the lowest gross score for the tournament, regardless of the flight in which she plays. Also, a low net winner over the field will be recognized. For tournament applications and more information call Fran Sullivan, tournament director, 883-8804 or Marie Maksimowski, tournament chairman, 881-2924.

Golf course

The Redstone Golf Course is now offering full-service breakfast seven days a week from 7-10:30 a.m. Meals are available for dine in or take out. Located on the corner of Goss and Rideout Roads, the Redstone Golf Course is open to the entire Redstone community. For more information, call 883-7977.

Johnson basketball benefit

Join the Johnson High School Jaguars from 5-8 p.m. April 25 at Barnhills Restaurant for food, fun and fellowship. Keep your receipt and turn it into the Johnson basketball department. The proceeds will go toward the basketball program. For more information, call Al Mitchell 851-6593.

Special Olympics

More than 300 special athletes from the Madison County area will participate in the 33rd annual Special Olympics Track and Field events April 25 at Milton Frank

Stadium. United Space Alliance and the Boeing Company are co-sponsors of the event, and are supported by the Huntsville City Schools, Madison County Schools, Madison City Schools and the Opportunity Center. Approximately 500 volunteers comprised of soldiers from Redstone Arsenal and several local businesses will be on hand. The Tennessee Valley Vipers, the area's new indoor football team, will join the host of local volunteers this year. The opening ceremonies begin at 9:30 a.m. and the games conclude at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited. For more information call area director Doris McHugh 837-7916, Ron Cook 971-3123 or Jim Keller 461-2803. Rain date is April 27.

Home Run for Park 5K

The inaugural "Home Run for the Park" 5K road race and 1 mile fun run will be held May 6 at McGucken Park in southeast Huntsville. The 5K starts at 7:30 a.m., and the fun run at 8:15. Registration is \$12 for the 5K and \$6 for the fun run. For more information, call Phil Daniel 881-9373, zaphound@aol.com, or visit the Huntsville National League website at www.HNL.org.

Scuba diving class

The Recreation Center is offering Beginning Scuba Diving classes starting May 5 from 6-9 p.m. and May 6 from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center, building 3711. Pool work days will take place at Madison Aquatic Park or the Space & Rocket Center. Classes will be taught by "Rock Divers." Instructors will provide students with the use of all major equipment. Students need only provide mask, fins, snorkel and booties. Cost for the class is \$190. For more information or to register, call the Recreation Center 876-4531 from 1:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday or from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Bass tournament

The Army Aviation Association of America Tennessee Valley Chapter's semi-annual bass tournament will be held May 6 at the Redstone Arsenal recreational area 1 for all AAAA members and guests. Starting time is 6:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$25 per boat, which includes chili and refreshments. There will be a limit of five fish to a boat and weigh in begins at 2 p.m. Cash prizes will be given to first, second and third place winners. To register, call either Tom Geoffroy at 313-0747 or Bob Vlasics at 837-0005. A special get acquainted affair is planned the night before.



Miscellaneous

Lost earring

A gold hoop earring, with cat ornament, was lost April 12 at building 5302. If found call 876-9012.

Scholarship applications

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

Living Last Supper

The entire community of Redstone and Huntsville is invited to "The Living Last Supper" dramatization at 6:30 p.m. Thursday 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.

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

See Announcements on page 20

Service Technician wanted to service gasoline dispensers and point-of-sale systems. Applicant should have good customer skills, and prior repair experience in either the petroleum industry or related electronic/electrical fields. Formal electronic and/or PC repair training is a plus. We are an E.E.O. A/A Employer that offers competitive pay, 401K retirement, major medical plan, paid vacations, and profit sharing. If you're a hard working person that wishes to join the winning team fax or send resume to:

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Announcements

Arsenal Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 at Bicentennial Chapel.

Sergeants major

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

Accountants seminar

The Association of Government Accountants, Southeastern Region Professional Development Conference will be held May 21-23 at the Park Vista Resort in Gatlinburg, Tenn. Everyone is invited. Cost for this seminar (including all meals and entertainment) is \$275 for AGA members and \$315 for non-members. For more information or to make reservations, call (865) 544-9564.

Parenting class

The New Parent Support Program will offer a free parenting class for parents of toddlers April 26 and again May 6. The class will be held 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1220-B Lacrosse. Free child care can be provided for those who pre-register. The door prize is a free infant car seat. For information and registration, call 876-2798.

Six Flags tickets

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

ACS education committee

The Army Community Service (ACS) Education Committee will meet today at noon in the ACS conference room, building 3491. Any parent interested in the educational needs of their child is invited to attend. 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 Donna Scofield 876-5397.

Easter buffet

Redstone Officers' and Civilians' Club will present an Easter buffet Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$12.95 for members, \$13.95 for non-members, \$7.95 for children ages 7-12; and free for children 6 and under. For more information, call 830-CLUB.

Census takers

There will be testing for persons interested in serving their country by working in the Census 2000. Persons who pass the test will be eligible to work in the Census 2000 as enumerators. Enumerators will be paid at the hourly rate of \$11.75 and will be reimbursed for travel at the rate of 32.5 cents per mile of travel if employed by the Census. Qualifications for employment include: 18 years of age, driver's license, and passing the test. Attendees to testing must bring either a passport, or a driver's license and Social Security Card or certified birth certificate. For persons who are veterans, bring a DD form 214 for 5-point preference and a SF 15 for 10-point preference. Testing will be conducted in building 5304, third floor, room 4324 each Tuesday during April at 9 a.m. For more information, call 830-0419 and ask the clerk.

Selective service registration

Registration with Selective Service is required by law of all males ages 18 through 25. Registration provides our country with a means to identify young

men who might be called upon if a return to the draft were necessary during a national emergency. During the current economic boom and peaceful conditions throughout the world, we forget a national emergency could require our nation to return to the draft. The Selective Service System maintains a state of readiness to ensure when required these men will be available to support our nation. There are several ways the Selective Service ensures the registration of 18-25 year old men. Selective Service registration is a prerequisite for federal job opportunities, job training and student assistance programs. Additionally, there are laws in place at the state and local level that deny young men who have not registered job opportunities and student assistance programs. Registration eliminates disqualification many young men could experience. If you're an 18-25 year old male you can registrar with Selective Service by going to the nearest Post Office and requesting a registration form or you can register electronically at WWW.SSS.GOV.

FBI training program

Each year the Army is allocated 12 training quotas at the FBI National Academy. These quotas are divided evenly among military police, military intelligence, and the Criminal Investigation Command personnel. The course is designed to provide instructions in law enforcement and related subjects to include forensic science, criminal law, behavioral science, and management applications. This curriculum provides graduates a valuable base of knowledge that will benefit the Army. The PERSCOM will convene a board in June to select nominees for the training program for 2001. For general eligibility criteria, application procedures and application content individuals should consult the following website: <http://www.perscom.army.mil/opmp/fbinamsg.htm>. The PERSCOM point of contact is Capt. Wynder, DSN 221-5671, e-mail: wyn-derc@hoffman.army.mil.

Panthers class of 1960

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 contact Ken Coulter (kencoulter@bellsouth.net), 882-3284 or Gertrude Strong Watson (gertie@HiWAAY.net), 539-8536.

Master's degree program

An information meeting on the Master of Business Administration program for Nova Southeastern University will be held 6 p.m. Thursday at Calhoun Community College, conference room/front entrance, 102 Wynn Drive. Classes are held in Huntsville beginning in October. For more information call (800) 672-7223, ext. 5039.

AMCOM town hall

The AMCOM Quarterly Town Hall Meeting, with Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander, will be held at 9 a.m. April 25 in the Bob Jones Auditorium, building 5304. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7. Topics include: Strategic Focus; Customer Focus; Personnel Management; and Command Path Ahead. The Town Hall Meeting will be broadcast on Team Redstone television Channel 42. The meeting will also be videotaped and rebroadcast in the auditorium and on Channel 42 beginning at 1 p.m. the same day.

MSIC job opening

The Missile and Space Intelligence Center is recruiting for an intelligence officer (military capabilities) GG-0132-13. Vacancy Announcement Number 00-MS-000751-CT opened April 4 and closes April 25. The incumbent serves as an intelligence officer in MSIC's Offensive Systems Office performing analysis of Short Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) Systems and Operations (S&O) of various countries. The complete announcement, to include specific job qualification requirements and application and submission

See Announcements on page 21

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instructions, can be found at the following web address: <http://www.dia.mil>. For more information, you may also call the DIA recorded vacancy announcement line: 1-800-526-4629. Check the DIA website for vacancy announcements for all MSIC positions which are open to all sources. Position vacancies with MSIC will reflect "MS" in the announcement number.

Admin professionals class

In conjunction with Administrative Professionals Week (formerly Professional Secretaries Week), the Redstone Arsenal Chapter for International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) will serve as host for a four-hour class titled Introduction to Creating Your Own Web Page. The class will be presented by New Horizons Computer Learning Centers. The class will be held Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon in building 5400, SELA Auditorium. There will be no organizational costs. Those interested should call Julie Manning 876-4123 or e-mail julie.manning@rdc.redstone.army.mil. Administrative Professionals Week is April 23-29.

Interactive display users

The Interactive Authoring and Display System Users Group will hold its first conference April 25-27 at the Tom Bevill Conference Center in Huntsville. This conference, which is to become an annual event, is open to all IADS users. There is no registration fee. For more information call Margaret Craig 955-0287, Kirk Peake 876-8111 or Rich Gramly 876-8112.

Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association will meet at 11 a.m. April 26 at the Redstone Officers' and Civilians' Club. Mary Lynn Wright, compliance officer for Huntsville Hospital, is to speak on "Legal Aspects of Living Wills and Procedures for Life Support Systems." For more information, call retired Capt. Al Castelli 859-1340.

Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley, Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel announces the following events: Holy Thursday Mass, 8:30 p.m. April 20; Good Friday Service, 6 p.m. April 21; Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. April 22; and Easter Sunday, 9:15 a.m. April 23.

Women's club

The Huntsville Christian Women's Club will have a luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 25 at the Redstone Officers' and Civilians' Club. Scheduled speaker is June Cannon Kennemer from Scottsboro, who "finds humor in the midst of life's crises," a prepared release said. For reservations call Judy 883-5468 or Des 650-2111.

Blood drive

Chapman Elementary School will hold a blood drive 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. April 28 in room 3 and 5, sponsored by the second-grade students.

Marshall open house

It's not every day the public can step into the world of rocket scientists, meet an astronaut, or take a sky-dive simulation ride. Yet these are just a few of the free, out-of-this-world experiences on tap May 20 when Marshall Space Flight Center opens its doors from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visitors will get a closeup look behind the scenes of the Marshall Center's high-tech research and development complex. Marshall's last open house in 1998 was attended by more than 26,000 people. More information and directions can be obtained 24 hours a day by calling (888) 901-NASA or by visiting the Open House website at the following address: <http://openhouse.msfc.nasa.gov>.

Federal customer forum

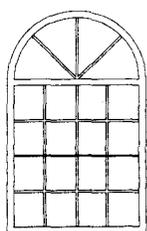
Federal Customer Forum will be held April 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sparkman Center. This is an event sponsored by GSA and a panel of commercial See Announcements on page 22

ARMY MERIT PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND THE HUNTSVILLE AREA

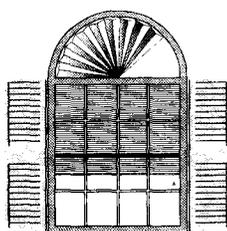
These announcements provided by the AMCOM CPAC can be found on the web at www.cpol.army.mil. This list includes announcements that opened prior to Thursday before Rocket publication date and close on/after the publication date, prior to Friday before Rocket publication date. Other announcements that are open to all U.S. citizens can be found at www.opm.gov

PVA NUMBER	POSITION TITLE	CLOSES	LOCATION	PP-SERIES	GRADE	POT
00C0854RC	Logistics Mgmt Spec	19-Apr-00	AMCOM IMMC	GS-0346	12	12
00C0867RC	General Engineer	19-Apr-00	RASA	GS-0801	12	12
00C0877IG	Cataloging	19-Apr-00	RASA	GS-2050	11	11
00D0738BL	General Engineer	20-Apr-00	AMCOM DSAO	GS-0801	14	14
00B0846FM	Computer Engr. (Demo)	20-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0854	III	III
00B0772AC	Supervisory General Eng	21-Apr-00	PEO Air Missile	GS-0801	15	15
00C00798LW	Trng. Instr. (Law Enfor.)	21-Apr-00	RASA	GS-1712	9	9
00C0882IG	General Supply Spec.	21-Apr-00	RASA	GS-2001	9	9
00B0699SS	Materials Engineer	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0806	IV	IV
00B0704SS	Human Factors Engineer	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0180	IV	IV
00B0701SS	Aerospace Engineer	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	IV	IV
00C0862BR	General Engineer	24-Apr-00	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13
00B0901MW	Aerospace Engr. (Demo)	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
00B0893DT	Mgmt. Assistant (Demo)	24-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DK-0344	III	III
00C0853RC	Packaging Spec.	25-Apr-00	AMCOM IMMC	GS-2032	12	12
00C0888BR	Traffic Mgmt Spec.	25-Apr-00	SMDC	GS-2130	11	11
00C0905RAH	Contract Specialist	26-Apr-00	SMDC	GS-1102	5	9
00C0880RC	Equipment Spec. (General)	26-Apr-00	RASA	GS-1670	9	9
00D0902BL	Admin. Support Assist.(OA)	26-Apr-00	AMCOM DSAO	GS-0303	6	6
00D0903BJ	Opns. Research Analyst	26-Apr-00	PEO Tact. Missiles	GS-1515	13	13
00C0905RAH	Contract Specialist	26-Apr-00	SMDC	GS-1102	5	9
HA00A3228	Arc,Che,Civ,Ele,Env,Mec Eng	27-Apr-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0808 0893 0810 0850 0819 0830	13 13 13	13 13 13
00D0918BJ	Product Manager	27-Apr-00	PEO Tact. Missiles	GS-0301	14	14
00C0907JH	Equipment Spec. (Aircraft)	27-Apr-00	AMCOM IMMC	GS-1670	12	12
00C0848BR	Supv Electron - Comp Engr	28-Apr-00	SMDC	GS-0855 - 0854	15	15
00B0842ST	Program Analyst	28-Apr-00	PEO Aviation	GS-0343	5	11
HA00A3320	Executive Assistant	28-Apr-00	CofE Huntsville Ctr	GS-0301	11	12
00B0845FM	Electronics Engr (Demo)	29-Apr-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0855	III	III
00B0833MW	Engr Psychologist (Demo)	1-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0180	IV	IV
00D0875DB	Security Specialist	2-May-00	AMCOM ISD	DB-0080	11	11
00C0864BR	General Engineer	2-May-00	SMDC	GS-0801	15	15
00B0834OD	Aerospace Engr. (Demo)	8-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
00B0837OD	Aerospace Engr. (Demo)	8-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
00B0839OD	Aerospace Engr. (Demo)	8-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
00B0844FM	Electronics Engr (Demo)	8-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0855	III	III
00B0836OD	Aerospace Engr. (Demo)	8-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
00D0912FM	General Engineer	8-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
00B0913FM	General Engineer	15-May-00	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0801	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	13 13
00B0479SS	Aerospace Engineer	18-Jan-01	AMCOM AVRDEC	DB-0861	III	III
00B0843FM	Materials Engineer	3-Apr-01	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0806	III	III
00B0838OD	Aerospace Engr. (Demo)	6-Apr-01	AMCOM RDEC	DB-0861	III	III
STEP-00-0002	Clerical & Engring Aide/Tech	28-Apr-00	RSA Summer Prgm	See www.usajobs.opm.gov	1-4	1-4

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Announcements

partner experts to learn about available supplies, services and solutions. This forum should be beneficial to those involved in decision making, contracting, procurement, acquisition, fiscal resources, and mission delivery. For information call Adrian Finney (404) 331-3026.

Safety week presentation

The IMMC extends an invitation to the Redstone Community to join it at a presentation by the American Red Cross May 11 from 9-10 a.m. in the Bob Jones Auditorium at Sparkman Center. The presentation will cover such topics as First Aid, Rescue Breathing Techniques, Choking Procedures and a CPR Overview; along with videos and demonstrations. This presentation has been arranged in conjunction with other command activities in observance of National Safety Week. For more information, call Deanna King 842-6736 or Jane Greer 876-2362.

Health promotion events

The Surgery Clinic, Fox Army Health Center, will sponsor "Health Promotion for Women" at the Redstone Golf Course on April 26 from 7:30-11:30 a.m. "Health Promotion for Men" will be the focus April 27 from 7:30-11:30 a.m. Surgeons Dr. Damon Brantley and Dr. Rony Najjar will be available to speak with you and answer any questions you may have on these subjects.

Space history talk

The third in a series of talks recalling Huntsville's role in space exploration will be held at 7 p.m. April 27 on the campus at University of Alabama-Huntsville in the University Center, Exhibit Hall (Student Union Building). The NASA-Marshall Retirees' Association is presenting the series "Reminiscence of Space Exploration History Fireside Chats" as part of the von Braun Celebration of the Arts and Sciences. This presentation is titled "The Lunar Program: 1960-1970." All participants served in positions at MSFC during this time frame. Woody

Bethay, associate director, will moderate the panel. The panelists include Bonnie Holmes, who served as secretary to Dr. von Braun; Bob Lindstrom, manager of the Shuttle program; Konrad Dannenberg, engineer for Saturn systems; Lee James, Saturn V program manager; Leland Belew, manager of Saturn engines and Skylab; and Dr. William Lucas, MSFC director. The last session scheduled for May 18 is titled "Space Shuttle & Beyond: 1970-2000."

Barbecue luncheon

The Corporate Information Center is sponsoring a barbecue plate luncheon April 27 for the Army Emergency Relief campaign. You will have your choice of either a barbecue pork or chicken plate for \$6. The plates will be sponsored by Whitt's and will include potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw and a roll. The plates will be available for pickup at building 5301, third floor in the break room starting at 11 a.m. The deadline for tickets is noon April 25. CIC is also sponsoring a cookout and car wash May 4 at building 3714 (old post chapel) on Patton Road. For tickets call Rebecca White 876-7056, Glenda Parker 876-6909, Opal Guthrie 876-8251, Martha Dees 876-4146, Donna Horzempa 876-1747 or Jeff Toney 876-4010.

Texas A&M club

Former students of Texas A&M University will assemble at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the Soldatenstube for the annual Texas Aggie Muster. If interested in attending, call Maj. Dave Johnson 842-6504 or 772-0835.

Thrift shop

The Redstone Thrift Shop will be open on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Numerous items that have become Thrift Shop property will be sold at 90 percent off of the original asking price. The Thrift Shop is now located in building 3209 on Hercules Road. The regular store hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Government accountants

The North Alabama Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants will meet Thursday at the Holiday Inn at Madison Square Mall. Social hour is 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:15 with the meeting following. Cost for dinner is \$15 per person. For reservations call Sandy Seymour 544-0099.

Sealed bid sale

A sealed bid sale of defense surplus property will be held April 27 at the

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, building 7408 on Warehouse Road. Property inspection and bid submission will be held 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24-26. Bids should be faxed (876-9634), hand-carried, mailed or sent via Internet at the following website: www.drms.dla.mil. Verbal bids will not be accepted. The bid receipt deadline is 8 a.m. April 27. To view material for the sale and to submit bids, report to building 7415 on Red Oak Road. For more information, call Donna Davis 842-2570 or Dock Boyd 876-2453.

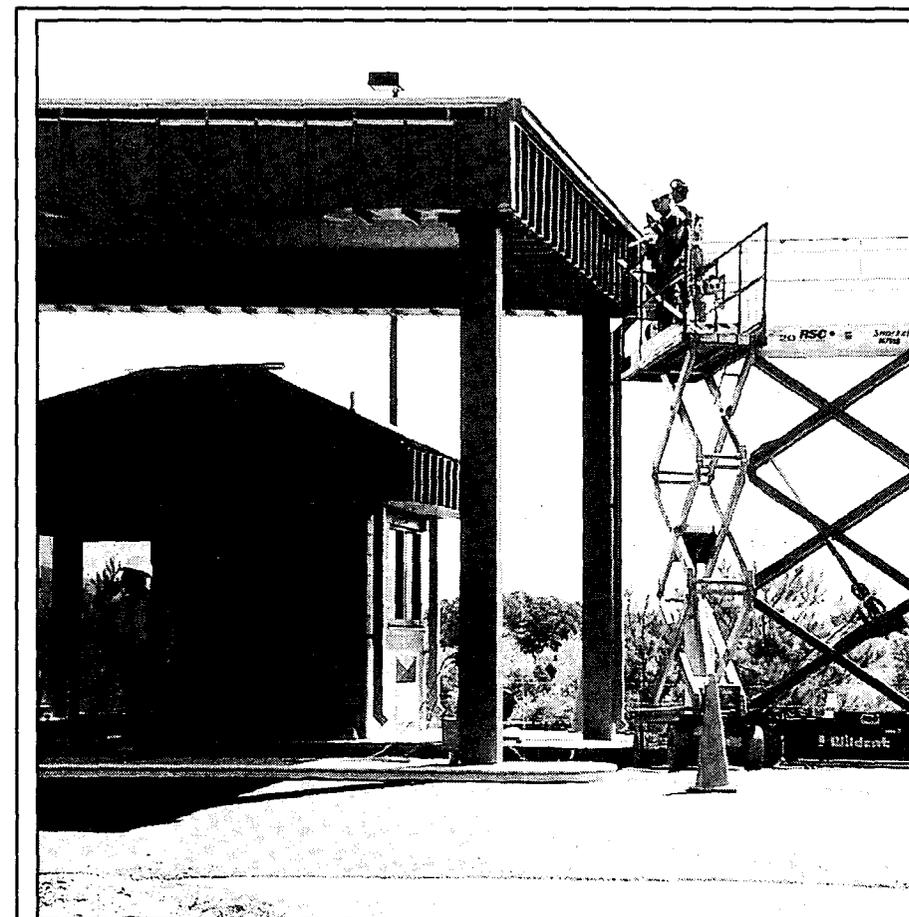
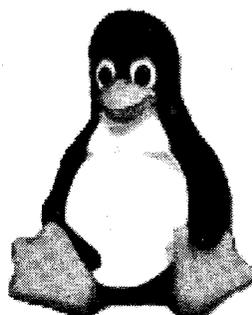
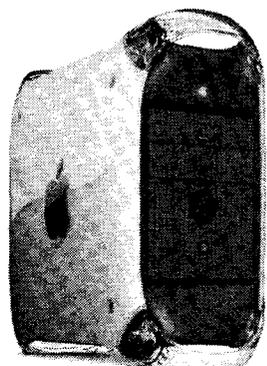


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Almost finished...

Construction workers put finishing touches on the new guardhouse at gate 4 in the middle of Patton Road. The guardhouse is expected to open April 28.

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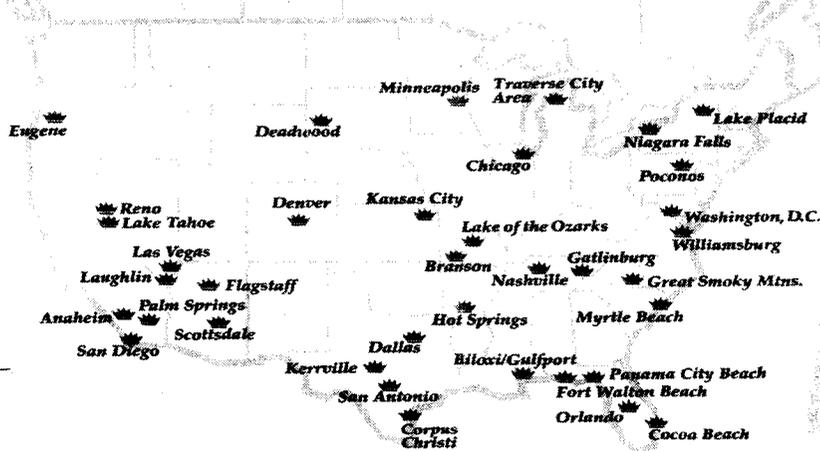


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