

# Redstone Rocket

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## AMCOM revising its merit promotion procedures

*Policy on filling vacancies tries to ensure competition, chance to express interest*

By BETH SKARUPA  
Staff writer

Personnel officials are trying to improve the system for how AMCOM employees get promoted.

The Commander's Policy on Merit Promotion and Related Placements distributed last week is part of an ongoing effort to ensure that managers provide Aviation and Missile Command employees with equal opportunities for promotion.

In response to concerns expressed at several Town Hall meetings, the new policy provides further guidance in the areas of selection matrices and temporary assignments.

Although the use of selection matrices was previously

required, the new policy now also requires that managers within major organizations ensure some standardization in crediting education, training and awards.

"For example, if you have a public affairs specialist position open and you credit someone having a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, then the next time that same kind of job is open you have to make sure to credit that again. You can't just decide that education doesn't matter," Don Dixon, chief of Customer Support B at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said.

Another change is that selection matrices have to be reviewed at least one level above the selecting official

prior to considering the candidates on the competitive referral list. This change was made to help with consistency. The policy also provides guidance applicable to details, temporary promotions and certain reassignments.

"Basically, the changes were that on short-term temporary assignments, the manager has the additional requirement to canvas interest for the position. They also have to canvas for interest for reassignments. For temporary promotions that last more than 120 days – as opposed to the former 179 days – full competition is required," Dixon said.

*"The requirement that managers canvas for interest or have full competition is giving people a chance to compete for that opportunity or to express interest. It's just a further step to ensure employers provide competitive opportunities."*

— Don Dixon  
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

See Promotion on page 5



Courtesy photo

### Kosovo aid

A soldier helps unpack a box of humanitarian aid items in Kosovo shipped by the American Society of Military Comptrollers. The ASMC shipped boxes of winter clothes, coats and shoes for all ages; medical/dental supplies, vitamins, toothbrushes, school supplies (paper, pencils, colors, arts), toiletries, some toys, flashlights with batteries, etc., to the 47th FSB Aid Station for aid in Kosovo. Sheila Clift, of Space and Missile Defense Command, coordinated this three-month project for ASMC. The boxes were shipped to the following address: 47th FSB Aid Station, Task Force Falcon, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340.

## Program provides 'instant friend' for incoming families Armywide

*Sponsors for soldiers, civilians make relocation less stressful*

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer

Arriving at a new duty station without a sponsor is like landing on Mars, according to SSgt. Edward Sasan. "You don't know where to go or who to talk to. You're not a visitor, you're an alien."

"The first thing I did when I got my orders to come here was to find the unit where I was going," Sasan, small group leader at the NCO Academy, said. "I called the NCO Academy, talked to the first sergeant and got a sponsor. You wouldn't believe what a difference it makes."

The Army created the Total Army Sponsorship Program to assist soldiers, civilian employees and family members during the relocation process. The program provides participants with accurate, timely information and other support needed to minimize problems associated with moving to a new duty station.

"Getting a sponsor is like having an immediate friend," Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager at Army Community Service, said. "It lets you

See Friends on page 7

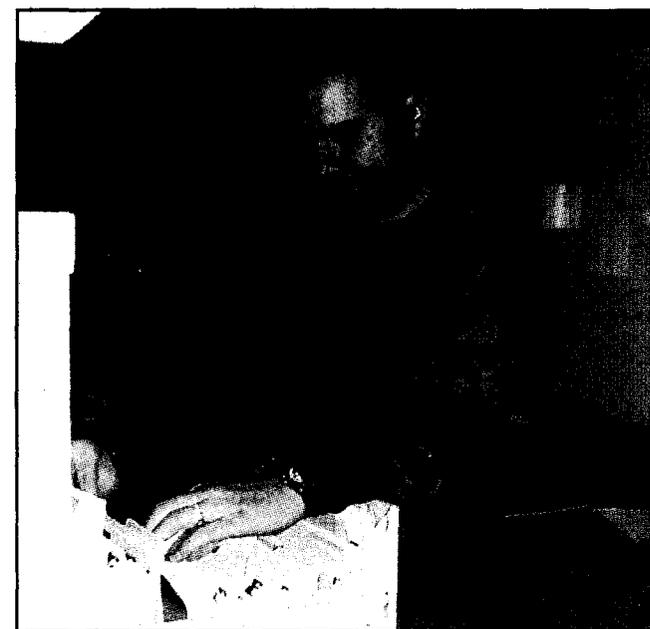


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

WELCOME WAGON OF ONE— SSgt. Edward Sasan, small group leader, NCO Academy, believes in the benefits of the Total Army Sponsorship Program. "The first thing I did when I found out I was coming here was call and get a sponsor," he said. Sasan collects resources at Army Community Service to assemble welcome packets for incoming soldiers.

World War II vet writes book

War stories

3

Personnel actions system changing

Modern move

6

Unit basketball teams in action

Troop hoops

8

# THAAD worker honored for value engineering efforts

By MIKE PRICE  
Value Engineering Office

Joel Ellis of THAAD Project Office has received the fifth annual Robert B. Tarquine Value Engineering Achievement Award.

The award was presented at the Value Engineering/Operating Support Cost Reduction awards ceremony Jan. 16. Named after the late Robert B. Tarquine, the award is presented by the Command VE Office to key individuals for outstanding achievements in value engineering.

"Mr. Tarquine stepped forward using basic VE principles and showed the rest of us that VE could not only be effective but very advantageous to perform as a way of saving money, improving our jobs, and improving our commitment to soldiers and taxpayers. It is in this spirit that we offer the Tarquine award to deserving individuals that show this type of dedication and innovation to value engineering," Tom Reynolds, AMCOM's VE manager,

said.

"Mr. Ellis works on a project that has all of the factors that outsiders claim VE cannot be done here. The project is early in the life cycle, at times the funding and congressional support has been uncertain, there are constant changes, and it is being developed under a performance specification. In spite of these challenges, VE has prospered under his leadership and the THAAD Project Office surpassed their FY '00 goal by 160 percent," Reynolds said.

Ellis is chief of the production engineering and manufacturing division of the Theater High Altitude Area Defense Project Office.

Past recipients include Carol Tarquine, widow of Robert Tarquine; Jean Grotophorst, Army TACMS-Bat Project Office; Robert Yanulavich, Army TACMS-Bat Project Office; and Sylvia Budd, AMCOM Depot Maintenance Engineering Team.



Mary Petty/ Photo Lab

**AWARDS CEREMONY—** Participating in the value engineering awards ceremony Jan. 16 are, from left, Tom Reynolds, command VE manager; Larry Easterwood, director of the manufacturing directorate of THAAD Project Office; Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal; Joel Ellis of THAAD Project Office; and Col. George O'Reilly, project manager for Theater High Altitude Area Defense.

## Letters to the editor

### Redstone Arsenal soldier pens poem for Black History Month in February

*Editor's note: SFC Gloria Dorsey, a member of HHC, 59th Ordnance Brigade, wrote the following poem for Martin Luther King's birthday in January, and Black History Month in February.*

Be strong my black man  
Be what you want to be  
Hold your head up  
And walk beside me  
Let us raise our children  
Together as we go,  
Knowing that the lord  
Will open every door.

Be strong my black man  
Believe in your strength  
Believe in the one  
That freely gives it  
Society has caused you,  
To look bad among the race  
But don't let them win  
By hiding your face.

Be strong my black man  
For life has been rough  
It has beaten you down  
But don't you give up  
Sometimes you might feel  
Your world closing in  
Just remember with every tear  
There's a smile at the end.

I love you, my black man  
For you are a part of me  
I admire you for your strength  
And all that you strive  
To be!

**SFC Gloria Dorsey**  
HHC, 59th Ordnance Brigade

### Military education benefits may increase this year

#### Changes considered in tuition assistance

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE  
Staff writer

Servicemembers might see new education benefits this year and an increase in current benefits.

Changes are in the works for the Veterans Educational Assistance Program and the Montgomery G.I. Bill, and the Tuition Assistance program.

"However Congress and Veterans Affairs are still working out the bugs," Sam Whitaker, Redstone education service specialist, said. Although the changes are not yet official, here are some of the proposals:

- A substantial increase in monthly payments for eligible veterans under the MGIB and for eligible family members under the Dependents' Educational Assis-

tance and for spouses and children of veterans with permanent and total service connected disability or veterans whose death was service connected.

- Some veterans who previously missed out on the GI Bill will get another chance to become eligible, including some VEAP beneficiaries.

- Active duty members will see an increase in their total MGIB benefit by making contributions (proposed to begin in May). Currently \$1,200 is taken over a period of time from a servicemember's paycheck if he or she elects to participate in the MGIB. Servicemembers may be able to increase the amount of \$1,200 up to a maximum of \$600. By doing so, their monthly full-time MGIB benefit will increase \$1 per month for each \$4 contributed.

- New payments under MGIB, VEAP, and DEA for a whole new program: tests

See Benefits on page 10

## Redstone Rocket

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# Marine veteran publishes personal account of battles

*Local man witnessed history in the making during World War II*

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer

Hiram Quillin Jr., like thousands of Americans in 1941, was aware of the war raging in Europe. Everyday the news brought more stories of death and destruction but it wasn't until the bombs landed in America's back yard, that everything changed.

"Everybody felt bad about the war," Quillin said, "but I didn't get really teed-off until they bombed Pearl Harbor. I was working at the service station when I heard the news. I had a friend, Thomas Stanford, stationed at Pearl Harbor aboard the battleship Arizona. Tom went down with that ship. He's still there."

From that moment on, Quillin, then a 23-year-old automobile service station owner in Huntsville, knew he had a job to do; and it wasn't pumping gas.

"I decided real quick," he said. "I was going to sell the station and join the Marines. We had been bombed. It was time to go."

He spent the next four years fighting—fighting for his country, fighting measles, malaria and lung infections, fighting the Japanese, fighting the loneliness and savagery of war — fighting so that those who had fallen around him did not die in vain. Many of those memories are good, friendships among the chaos, leaders that he will always admire, pride in a job well done; and some of the memories are raw, like war itself.

But none of it, Quillin said, should be forgotten. So Quillin wrote it all down. It took 10 years of research and writing and just last month, his book, "Guadalcanal to Tokyo" was published.

"Every word of it is true," he said. "This isn't fiction."



Courtesy photo

**HOME SWEET HOME**— Hiram Quillin Jr. served two tours in the Marines during World War II. This picture was taken the day he arrived home. Quillin has just published a book about his life during the war, "Guadalcanal to Tokyo."

From his first day at Parris Island, S.C., what Quillin called, "the roughest boot camp in the world," to "a wild ride down the east coast with train load of drunken Marines," Quillin balances grit with humor. He rounds out the adventures with daily living, describing "the head" or sanitation system on the deck of ship and how pranksters used a flaming newspaper to liven things up.

There are those moments, serious and solemn, when Quillin admits to being scared, as scared as he's ever been.

"I remember the night we were waiting on the beach at Guadalcanal," Quillin said. "Lt. Marchant called us all together and told us we'd probably all be dead by morning. A Jap invasion was coming and we would be outnumbered 2-1. The Japs

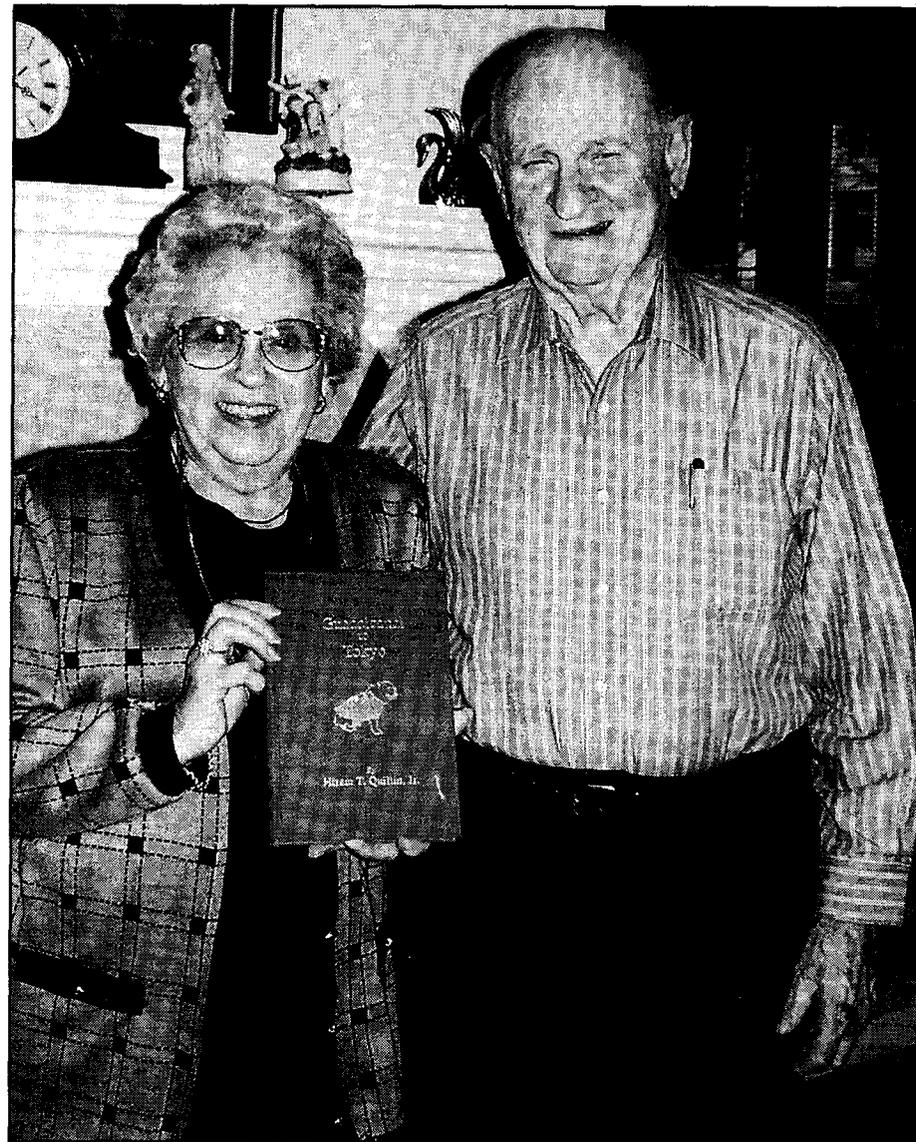


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**THE REAL DEAL**— Hiram Quillin Jr., with his wife, Lillian, gives a straightforward account of his life serving as a Marine during World War II.

controlled everything, air, sea and land."

The partial Marine battalion had a number of machine guns and anti-aircraft guns, but they were a nominal force compared to the expected Japanese landing.

"The Japs arrived as scheduled, just after dark. Our ships met the Jap ships directly in front of us, probably three or four miles off shore. We could see gun flashes and ships burning and exploding all night. We couldn't tell who was winning the battle but we had ringside seats to the greatest sea battle of all time."

Thanks to the naval forces, the Japanese were unable to land a single man on the beach.

Quillin later served on the battleship South Dakota, one of about 90 Marines in a detachment whose job it was to man the 20mm anti-aircraft guns. The South Dakota had the honor of firing the first salvo at the Japanese homeland from a surface vessel.

"It was a great honor to know that I'd taken part in the war from Guadalcanal to Tokyo."

Quillin, standing, on the shores of

Japan, watched from about 1,000 yards out as Japan accepted unconditional surrender terms on the deck of the USS Missouri.

It is the memories of such moments that bring a slight quiver to the voice of the proud Marine.

"I wrote the book for my children and my grandchildren," Quillin said. "People should know what it was like."

A few months after World War II ended, Quillin left the Marines, got married in 1946, and ran a produce business in Huntsville until he and his wife, Lillian, retired in 1981. Lillian knows the stories and has shared the memories for so long, Quillin joked, that she could have finished the book for him. The couple have three children, Hiram III, James and Judy; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

It was at the urging of family and friends that Quillin completed the book. Quillin's first book signing was at Books-A-Million in December, where his book is available for purchase. He is currently working on a deal with Barnes and Noble.

## Clinics on move at health center

FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER RELEASE

Fox Army Health Center is undergoing renovations which will result in improved services and the relocation of several clinics.

Effective Thursday, the Surgical Clinic will move to the second floor of the Health Center. No appointments were scheduled for the Surgical Clinic from Jan. 18- 24 to allow staff time to move.

Effective Jan. 17, the entrance to the Evening/Weekend Clinic was moved to the south side of the building, beside the Pharmacy's double-door entrance.

Effective Jan. 30, the Occupational Medicine Clinic and Public Health and Education Center will be located in the old Surgery Clinic area on the first floor. No appointments will be scheduled for Occupational Medicine and Public Health and Education from Jan. 24- 26 to allow staff members the time to move.

Signs were to be posted inside the building to inform patients of these changes and provide directions to the new locations. The center apologizes for any inconvenience its customers may encounter as it makes changes to improve services.

# Virtual Targets Center aims for collaboration

## Simulated testing intercepts cost

By BETH SKARUPA  
Staff writer

Transforming the Army into a leaner, meaner fighting force depends on the ability to quickly create weapons that will accurately shoot targets.

"Simulations will drive how quickly the Army is transformed," Jerry Kniphfer, manager of the Virtual Targets Center, said. "We want to help agencies work together."

The VTC is a joint initiative by the Aviation and Missile Command's Research Development and Engineering Center and STRICOM PM's Instrumental Targets and Threat System's office. The center has three functions: to exchange virtual models of targets, to create models and to network with other people who are working on models.

"We have an aggressive program of getting out to other organizations to get them to join the center concept. We put together people doing things with people who need things - just through our networking," Kniphfer said.

In most cases, it is cost efficient to per-

form a simulated test on a target before doing a range test. Engineers try to have some degree of success before going out to actually fire the equipment.

"It costs about \$100,000 just to shoot some of these things and one test can cost \$1 million. So you want to do as much of

this through simulation and virtual testing before you go out to the range with it," Mike Brown, project director of the virtual targets program, said.

"Obviously, going out and shooting is the highest cost, then simulators cost money to build, so the lower cost is the cost

to create a virtual target - of course, cost is relative to the program employing it."

The VTC is working to create a center of excellence for development, support and distribution of models to support simulation developers in both the research, development, test and evaluation community and the training community.

The project's goals are to reduce duplication of target model development and to leverage past and ongoing efforts by providing broad but controlled access to an archive of Department of Defense-owned virtual models.

The archive contains models of aircraft, ground vehicles, missile systems, individual equipment, limited terrain models, special effects models and general interest items. Models are added to the archive as they are developed or received from other sources.

Access to the archive is available at no cost to DoD employees and support contractors and registered users can download desired models through the World Wide Web.

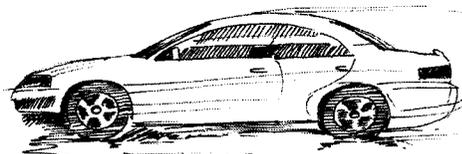
"We have approximately 142 agencies represented in our registered users of the archive. It's all across DoD - all the services and some agencies you wouldn't

See Target on page 5



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**MODEL BEHAVIOR**— Don Thurston, a modeling engineer in the Virtual Targets Center, creates a virtual target by modeling a Radar TOW Target for use in synthetic environments.



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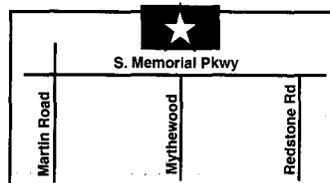
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Dr. Gene Corfman

## What is the Ultimate Gift?

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

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## ■ Simulation center virtually saves money

### Target

continued from page 4

expect – and the number (of users) is constantly going up,” Kniphfer said.

The archive provides an estimated cost avoidance of \$4.55 million. Rather than savings, this is money that an organization does not have to spend to create a model.

“It happens over and over again – organizations build a new model because they’re not aware that it’s available somewhere else,” Brown said. “We’ve tried to make it easy and fast because with the new transition force things have to move faster.

“That’s the need we’re trying to meet. With limited budgets, people have more work to do than money to do it. Now, they can use that money for something more productive for the soldiers.”

Kniphfer, Brown and other members of the VTC team network with other agencies and organizations at conferences and

by visiting other organizations to better understand the work they are doing with modeling and to brief them about the center.

“Another thing we’re doing is trying to encourage new uses of the virtual targets we have in the archive. We want to get more use out of it, perhaps get some training needs out of it,” Kniphfer said.

Jody Loyd is a simulation engineer leading the center’s effort to extend the use of virtual targets. He is using commercial printing technology and synthetic signature models to create accurate targets for soldiers doing night training.

“It would be hard to use an enemy’s actual weapons for training, but Jody is using the technology to create good representations of things soldiers are likely to encounter at a reasonable cost,” Kniphfer said.

Additional information on the VTC and registration information for the archive can be accessed on the Internet at <http://vtc.redstone.army.mil> or by calling 955-7303.

## ■ Promotion policy revamped

### Promotion

continued from page 1

In the past, a manager could choose whoever he thought was best suited for a short-term assignment without canvassing for interest. He might only consider a few people from his organization without realizing that others may have been interested in the assignment.

Canvassing for interest requires managers to advise employees about the opportunity and give the employees a minimum of seven calendar days to express interest and provide any information they want the manager to consider. The whole AMCOM primary organizational element is the minimum area for canvassing unless a smaller area could result in at least five candidates.

The new policy does allow managers to detail for no more than 30 calendar days while canvassing for interest.

“Managers need to have some ability to put somebody in the position while they go through the canvassing process,” Dixon said. “Most jobs cannot be left vacant while management is trying to choose someone for the position – the job still has to be done.”

Managers cannot use a series of personnel actions on an employee to avoid

adhering to the time limits on noncompetitive temporary assignments. All the time that an employee has spent in previous details and temporary promotions during the preceding year will count in determining the time limits.

“You can’t just take an employee and give him a 90-day temporary promotion over and over again. Details for longer than 120 days require full competition,” Dixon said.

Time spent in previous details and temporary assignments counts toward the 120 day limit to ensure employees are given equal opportunities.

“The requirement that managers canvass for interest or have full competition is giving people a chance to compete for that opportunity or to express interest,” Dixon said. “It’s just a further step to ensure employers provide competitive opportunities.”

The policy, which was coordinated in advance with the union, was distributed by e-mail electronically to all organizations and is available online on the AMCOM web site under “AMCOM Directives Online.” All managers and supervisors were to be trained on the policy Jan. 23.

Employees with questions should contact their manager or supervisor for more information.

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Installing, Configuring, & Administering Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional	Jan 29-Feb 8 • M-Th • 4:30-8:50pm • 21010324N
Intro to HTML: How to Create WWW Pages	Feb 5-9 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010312N
Fundamentals of Visual Basic	Feb 5-16 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010295N
Introduction to Flash	Feb 12-15 • M-Th • 4:30-9:30pm • 21010339N
Basic Oracle Database Administration	Feb 13-Mar 8 • T-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21010307N
Fundamentals of Oracle8	Feb 13-Mar 1 • T-Th • 5:30-9:05pm • 21010294N
Introduction to Linux	Feb 19-Mar 1 • M-Th • 4:30-9:30pm • 21010297N
Fundamentals of C++	Feb 20-Mar 2 • M-F&T-F • 8am-12:30pm • 21010293N
System Analysis & Design for Visual Basic	Feb 26-Mar 2 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010302N
Web Graphics	Feb 26-28 • M-W • 8am-Noon • 21010323N
Advanced Java Programming	Mar 5-8 • M-Th • 4:30-9:30pm • 21010306N
Installing, Configuring, & Administering Microsoft Windows 2000 Server	Mar 5-15 • M-Th • 4:30-8:50pm • 21010325N
Basic Assembly Design Using Pro/ENGINEER	Mar 6-29 • T-Th • 6-9:20pm • 21010342N
Introduction to XML	Mar 12-15 • M-Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 21010314N
Introduction to Design Patterns	Mar 19-22 • M-Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 21010334N
Managing a Linux Server	Mar 19-29 • M-Th • 4:30-9:30pm • 21010374N
Windows Programming with Microsoft Visual C++ and MFC	Mar 19-30 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010303N
Advanced Hypertext Markup Language	Mar 19-23 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010305N
Oracle Database Tuning & Monitoring	Mar 20-29 • T-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21010321N
Adobe Photoshop: Fundamentals & Beyond	Mar 26-30 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010304N
Enterprise Java	Mar 26-29 • M-Th • 4:30-9:30pm • 21010310N
Power Programming Using Visual Basic	Mar 26-Apr 6 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010301N
Dreamweaver Fundamentals	Apr 2-5 • M-Th • 4:30-9:30pm • 21010309N
Implementing & Administering a Microsoft Windows 2000 Network Infrastructure	Apr 2-12 • M-Th • 4:30-8:50pm • 21010326N
PL/SQL Programming Concepts & Techniques	Apr 3-12 • T-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21010300N
Object Oriented Analysis & Design with UML	Apr 9-13 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010296N
Hosting & Promoting Your Web Site	Apr 9-11 • M-W • 8am-Noon • 21010311N
XML and JAVA	Apr 9-12 • M-Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 21010332N
Advanced Programming with Microsoft Visual C++ and MFC	Apr 16-27 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 21010341N
Microsoft Office 2000 Update	Apr 16-17 • M&T • 9am-4pm • 21010317N
Oracle Networking	Apr 17-26 • T-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21010322N
Adobe Photoshop: Advanced Topics	Apr 23-26 • M-Th • 8am-Noon • 21010350N
Oracle Forms 5.0	Apr 24-May 17 • T-Th • 5:30-8:50pm • 21010299N
Implementing & Administering a Microsoft Windows 2000 Directory Service Infrastructure	Apr 30-May 10 • M-Th • 4:30-8:50pm • 21010327N

### Advanced Technologies

Radar Angle Tracking, ECM and ECCM	Jan 29-Feb 2 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 23010120N
Introduction to Radar Systems	Feb 12-16 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 23010352N
Fund. of Engineering: Prep. for the FE Exam	Feb 15-Apr 5 • T&Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 23010338N
Kalman Filtering Theory and Application	Mar 5-9 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 23010121N
Adv. 6 DOF Sim. & Missile Guidance Control	Mar 5-May 14 • M • 6-9pm • 23010351N
RF and MMW Seeker Technology	Apr 2-6 • M-F • 8am-Noon • 23010122N

### Management Training

3D Home Design	Feb 3-24 • Sat • 8:30-Noon • 22010037N
Legal Aspects of Govt. Contracting	Feb 5-12 • M • 6-9pm • 23010061N
ISO9000-2000 Implementation	Feb 8-Mar 1 • Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 23010286N
Competing for Today's Workforce: Generation X	Feb 15-22 • Th • 6-9pm • 23010138N
Procurement Mgmt. and Contract Administration	Feb 20-Mar 13 • T • 6-9pm • 23010056N
Cost and Price Analysis	Mar 5-12 • M • 6-9pm • 23010064N
Contract Types and Structures	Mar 19-26 • M • 6-9pm • 23010063N
Performance Measurement	Mar 20-Apr 10 • T • 6-9pm • 23010057N
ISO9000-2000 Documentation	Mar 22-Apr 12 • Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 23010051N
Understanding Human Relations at Work	Mar 26-Apr 30 • M • 6-9pm • 23010059N
Procurement/Purchasing Process Essentials	Apr 2-9 • M • 6-9pm • 23010068N
Required and Optional Contract Clauses	Apr 2-23 • M • 6-9pm • 23010062N
ISO9000-2000 Internal Audits	Apr 26-May 17 • Th • 5:30-8:30pm • 23010052N
Elements of Contract Administration	Apr 30-May 21 • M • 6-9pm • 23010065N

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# Personnel actions made easier with automation.

## Civilian Personnel Operations Center adopts modern computer system soon

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor

It's the logical next step in the personnel business. Back in the old days, everything was done by paper. Personnel action requests went from one office to another, generating more paperwork and so on. Then came the computer age and, more recently, regional personnel centers. Now supervisors can request personnel actions electronically.

But progress doesn't stop there. The latest step is... drum roll, please... a new and improved computer system.

The Modern Defense Civilian Personnel Data System— called Modern, for short – is replacing the current or so-called legacy system throughout the Department of Defense. It's been in development since 1994 and was first implemented in October 1999 by the Pacific Region at Fort Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska.

The South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center (SC-CPOC), based at Redstone Arsenal, will begin using the new system soon. South Central will become the Army's fourth regional user to go on-line. It follows the Pacific Region, the Southwest Region at Fort Riley, Kan., and the North Central Region at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., all of which have converted to the Modern system.

"It replaces of course the current system, developed in



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**ON-LINE—** Mike Mohlere, deputy director for South Central CPOC, browses personnel data on the new system which will be used in the South Central region.

the 1970s, and the functional process improvement suite of software tools commonly referred to as FPIs: PERS-ACTION, COREDOC, Regional, and TRAIN," Mike Mohlere, deputy director for SC-CPOC, said. Unlike the

current system, centrally maintained in San Antonio, Texas, the new system will operate in a network environment, with the data base maintained on servers at the respective civilian personnel operations center for each region.

"One of the advantages of the new system is that it gives employees a 'point and click' windows environment. It's got a relational data base, thus reducing or eliminating duplicate entries or redundant operations. It provides real-time access to information; whereas under the current system, you have to wait 24 hours for the information to be processed," Mohlere said. "And the Modern system allows the users to access a multitude of reports."

It's easier to get data through drop-down menus. Under the current system, users have to type a string of cryptic codes to generate information. "The Modern system is a lot more user friendly," said Mohlere, program manager for the new system in the seven-state South Central region.

The more than 220 SC-CPOC workers will be the most frequent users, since they are the ones who actually process personnel actions. Supervisors and managers will use the system to request personnel actions for their workers.

There are about 31,000 civilian workers in the South Central Region, including about 10,000 at Redstone. The goal is to transfer personnel data maintained on all civilian workers in the Department of the Army to the new system by August.

See Automation on page 8

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February 12	6:30	Phil Price	DUI
	7:40	J. Allen Brinkley	Contracts
February 19	6:30	Steve Heninger	Bad Faith
	7:40	Ed Gentle	Constitutional Reform
February 26	6:30	George Moore	Workman's Compensation
	7:40	Connie Glass/Carol Wallace	Elder Law
March 5	6:30	Archie Lamb	Politics of Power/HMO & Healthcare
	7:40	Bill Burgess	Divorce Law
March 12	6:30	Tommy Siniard	Nursing Home Abuse & Neglect
	7:40	Charles Brinkley	Insurance Law
March 19	6:30	Jere Beasley	Defective Products and the Law
	7:40	TBA	TBA
March 26	6:30	Don McKenna	Whistle Blower Litigation
	7:40	Jim Yance/Mike Worell	Medical Malpractice
April 2	6:40	Robert Patterson	Damages & Civil Actions
	7:40	Elizabeth Beason Moore	Employment Discrimination
April 9	6:30	Bob Prince	Car Wrecks
	7:40	Richard Chesnut	Real Estate Law

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■ You've got a friend with sponsorship program

## Friends

continued from page 1

talk to someone who knows the place you're moving to and can tell you all the ins and outs. They can get you information about housing, spouse employment assistance, child care, schools. ACS doesn't provide the sponsor per se, but we do offer sponsor training and have a bundle of resources sponsors can come in and pick up. There's no reason for the sponsor to reinvent the wheel when we have so much information already gathered here."

Sasan is a firm believer in the program, having served as a sponsor at his previous post in Germany and having been sponsored when he came to Redstone a year ago.

"There are so many questions, depending on what your needs are," Sasan said. "That's one of the reasons the program is so individual. A sponsor needs to find out the needs of the family coming in and then get those particular questions answered. You have to put yourself in their shoes."

To be successful, a sponsor needs to be able to put in some time.

"We're happy to offer sponsor training to an individual or to a group," Breeden said. "It can take anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour, depending on what the sponsor wants to know. We have source materials they can use to learn about how to make first contact and what questions to ask."

Getting information out to incoming families is only the first step. Sponsors also need to know when the soldier or employee will be arriving and to make

sure lodging and transportation arrangements have been made. Sometimes it means picking them up at the airport or train station.

Upon the newcomer's arrival, sponsors should meet them with a personal welcome, see that they are situated in their temporary lodging, introduce them to personnel and to the immediate chain of command and perhaps give them a tour of the post or surrounding area.

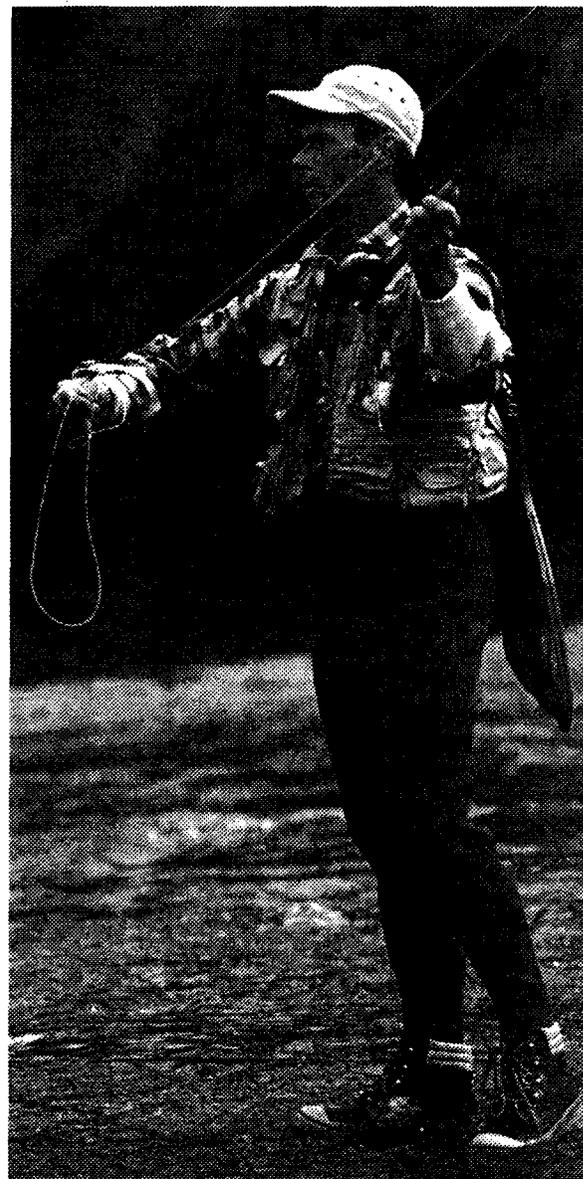
"The great part about sponsorship is that it makes the soldier feel important, like someone cares about him and his family," Sasan said. "If he, or she, knows the unit will take personal time to make sure their needs are met, they know they are coming into a good unit."

Sponsors are requested on an as-needed basis. Civilians or soldiers can request a sponsor from the gaining post by contacting either the civilian or military personnel office at that location. When a request is received, the call for volunteers goes out within the particular unit or civilian organization.

"Our only requirement for sponsors is that they can provide positive support," Breeden said. "The office or unit tries to match newcomers with sponsors of like gender, rank and family status. If someone has a friend that is moving here, they can informally sponsor them if they like and they can still come here and get information to send. The whole program is about making relocation less stressful. To let newcomers know they've got a friend, someone to help them—that they're not alone."

For more information, contact Breeden at 876-5397.

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# Troop hoops season tips off at Pagano Gymnasium

## AMCOM, Delta Dragons look like teams to beat

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE  
Staff writer

The post basketball season kicked off Jan. 10 with 10 military teams vying for annual strutting rights.

Last year the 59th took the championship with a 72-69 win over AMCOM in the final.

Both companies are fielding teams again this year.

However the 59th had a number of departures, so many in fact that it had to merge with MEDDAC to have enough players.

“We are totally rebuilding,” player/coach Robert Bullard said. “We have a lot of new soldiers, and we’re just going to have to go out there and see what it is.”

AMCOM on the other hand only lost one of its five starters.

“We feel very strongly that we are going to dominate this year,” player Columbus Wheeler said.

AMCOM’s championship loss last year was a disappointment, considering it won in 1999.

“We are going to bring the championship title back home to AMCOM where it belongs,” Wheeler said.

Ball control and rebounding are AMCOM strengths this year. “We have a couple of guys that are 6-4 and 6-5,” Wheeler said. “We also have players that have a good pickup game.”

But the Devastating Dragons from D Company might provide competition. Several key players have returned; and Bruce Hollis, formerly a top scorer for 59th, is now a Dragon.

“We have a lot of experience returning this year,” player/coach Jay Ragan said. “But we have no big men. So basically we have to play mistake free.

Everyone will have to rebound. But I expect that experience we have to take us all the way. We should fare quite well.”

The Devil Dogs from the Marine Detachment also look formidable this year. Although there are only three returnees, the Marines have a number of talented, young players.

“We have a good all-around team,” player/coach Ryan Stewart said. “We hustle, and we have some guys that are good outside shooters and a couple of guys that are pretty good down low. Hopefully when it’s all over we will end up No. 1.”

The post championship tournament is scheduled March 5-12.

## Townsend leads C Company to opening win over Bravo

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor

C Company and B Company got the troop basketball season off to a fast start.

Charlie beat Bravo-1 by 47-46 on opening night Jan. 10 at Pagano Gym. It was a rematch of the pre-season tournament final which C Company won.

Marcus Townsend, a 6-foot-1 forward, led Charlie with 15 points. Oscar Royster, a 6-3 forward, added 12.

“Basically Pvt. Townsend took over the last couple of minutes and scored a couple of essential baskets and actually put us up. And they couldn’t come back,” C Company coach Chelsie Stokes said.

“He’s our No. 1 player. He’s the one that took over and got a couple of baskets with about two minutes left. And the defense stepped up the last few seconds of the game and kept Bravo from scoring.”

Bravo-1 missed a potential game-winner at the end. Michael Bogan scored 22 points and Humberto Zamora had 13 for B Company.

Here are the standings as of Jan. 18:

Eastern Division— NCO Academy (3-0), AMCOM (3-0), Headquarters & Alpha (0-2), ROTC (0-2) and Bravo-1 (0-2).

Western Division— Marines (3-0), Bravo-2 (1-1), Delta (1-2), Charlie (1-2) and HHC 59th (0-1).



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## Modern system should go on-line in February

### Automation

continued from page 6

“It’ll make things easier because it’s a more modern system,” Dave Nixon, chief of the Information Services Division at CPOC, said. “It’s based on more modern technology than the current one. And it’ll improve communications. It’ll shorten the communication path because we won’t have to go all the way to San Antonio; the data base will be here. And we can take advantage of more modern things, like using the web, because the data base uses more modern technology.”

Under a train-the-trainers program, members of the CPOC have been teaching employees of the 15 Civilian Personnel Advisory Centers (CPACs) in this region on the new system. The CPACs in turn are training the managers and supervisors at their respective installations.

“It’s going to be a lot easier to learn” compared to the current system, said Barbara Morrissey, a personnel staffing specialist serving on the CPOC’s three-member charter team for train-the-trainers.

“It’s a lot easier to maintain and update the data base.”

“In order to effect the conversion, the current civilian personnel data base system will be shut down on Feb. 1,” Mohlere said. “There will be no automated personnel processing capability in the South Central region until we are live on the Modern system on or about Feb. 16.” Information on submission requirements and cutoff dates for personnel actions have been provided the 15 CPACs serviced by the SC- CPOC.

There will be an adjustment time for converting from the current system to the Modern system. “While the deployment of this new automated system may be disruptive in the short-term, the Modern system has automation features which will help management officials fulfill their personnel management duties more quickly and efficiently,” Mohlere said. “Our continued success is directly related to our collective ability to support the serviced managers and employees, the CPACs, and the staff of SC- CPOC. Our ultimate goal is to implement a personnel system that is truly responsive to the needs of our customers.”

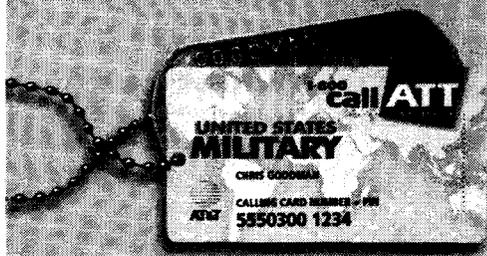
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Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Outstanding service

Megan Walde, a reporter for The Huntsville Times, receives the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal last Thursday for the series she wrote about the return of Sgt. Maj. Billy Ray Laney's remains from Vietnam. Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, makes the presentation.

## Changes proposed for education benefits

### Benefits

continued from page 2

for licensing and certification needed to enter, maintain, or advance into employment in certain civilian occupations (proposed to begin in March).

- Children eligible for DEA might get to choose appropriate beginning date.
- The payment of DEA to some spouses and children might be able to start earlier.
- New payments under DEA for preparation courses for college and graduate school entrance exams.
- A proposed extension of the allowable length of some school breaks for payment of VA education benefits to eight weeks.

Payments for the MGIB and DEA increased last Nov. 1. The monthly rates for full-time training for the MGIB went from \$552 to \$650 for eligible veterans with three-year periods of service, and from \$449 to \$528 for eligible veterans with two-year periods of service. For DEA the monthly rates for full-time training increased from \$485 to \$588 for eligible spouses and children.

In the past in order to be eligible for the MGIB, veterans and reservists (under the MGIB Selected Reserve program) had to receive a high school diploma or GED certificate, or complete 12 hours toward a college degree before the end of their first obligate period of service. Now with these changes, veterans and reservists can

become eligible by meeting this requirement before they apply for MGIB benefits.

The initial period of active duty as basis of eligibility for MGIB will also change. Before veterans weren't eligible for the MGIB if their initial period of active duty didn't meet the "length of service" requirement. Now the length of service requirement isn't based on the initial period of active duty. Veterans must serve their obligated period of service, but that time doesn't have to be only from their first period of service. They can now serve the required number of years in a later period of service.

There are also proposed increases in the amount of education assistance available to active duty servicemembers. Currently eligible servicemembers can have up to 75 percent of their tuition and expenses paid through tuition assistance program. Also a servicemember eligible for the MGIB wasn't allowed to receive both tuition assistance and the MGIB for the same course. That may change soon.

There are proposals to raise the amount of tuition assistance; and in some cases a servicemember can elect to receive MGIB benefits as well as tuition assistance for the same courses.

"More official information will be put out at a later date," Whitaker said. Servicemembers with questions about education benefits are encouraged to visit the Education Center, building 3222, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For appointments call 876-9761.

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# Annual conference addresses quality of life issues

## Army family representatives asked to air grievances, discuss solutions

By **BETH SKARUPA**  
Staff writer

The annual Army Family Action Plan Conference is billed as a grassroots level process to identify and resolve quality of life issues for the total Army family.

Soldiers, their family members, youths, retirees, National Guard, reservists and Department of Army civilians are asked to volunteer to be delegates at this year's conference from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 14-15 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

Delegates form seven work groups to address issues in these areas: medical and dental; commissary and AAFES; youth support; family housing and facilities maintenance; travel, transportation, personnel and finance; and morale, welfare and recreation.

"It's a great opportunity for anybody to have an impact on their day-to-day life and the life that comes after that and to know that they made a positive impact," Cathy Ryan, quality of life program manager, said.

Each work group is made up of a cross-section of the delegates, with the exception of the youth. They will have their own work group and retirees may request to form their own group as well. Each group will present issues and possible solutions.

"It's not just a forum to come and complain, it's a forum to come and solve issues. On the second day at the end of the conference, the top three issues from each work group will be briefed to the commanding general. Those 21 issues will then be tasked to the appropriate agencies for study," Ryan said.

"If any can't be solved at the local level, they will be forwarded to our MACOM (major command) and addressed at the AMC conference. If they're not solved there, they will be forwarded to the Department of the Army conference. This is the first level and if they cannot be solved - if they require higher level authority or funding or congressional support - they will be forwarded on. Just because an issue needs Congress to vote on it, doesn't mean it stops here."

Those interested in serving as delegates or those who have issues that they would like to be discussed at the conference can call Ryan at 842-8375. Lunch will be provided to all partici-

pants; and military family members who volunteer will be reimbursed for child care through Child Development Services. Quality of life surveys and drop boxes for issues will be available at the Post Exchange, the commissary, Fox Army Health Center, the Sparkman Center and the 832nd Ordnance Battalion before the conference.



### REDSTONE ARSENAL'S ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN CONFERENCE 14-15 February 2001 REGISTRATION FORM

DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974; AUTHORITY: 5 USC 301, 10 USC 3013, PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Identification of participants in the Army Family Action Plan Conference. ROUTINE USES: Used to record the names and addresses of attendees at the Army Family Action Plan Conference. Used to contact participants. DISCLOSURE: Disclosure is voluntary. If the requested information is not provided, registration for the conference may not be possible.

1. FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
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or OFFICE SYMBOL (Line 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
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#### COMPLETE ALL THAT APPLY:

2. YOUR MILITARY AFFILIATION?  
(If not applicable, go to item 3.)

- a. Are you a:
- Soldier or Retiree
  - Spouse of Soldier or Retiree
  - Youth of Soldier or Retiree

- b. Are you or is your sponsor:
- Active-duty
  - Reserve
  - National Guard
  - Retired

c. Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

4. YOUR MARITAL STATUS?

- Single  Married  Widow/Widower

6. YOUR CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION?

- Delegate  Admin support  
 Facilitator  Conference Volunteer  
 Recorder  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Matter Expert

8. YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST (pick 3 and indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice):

- \_\_\_\_ Medical/Dental                      \_\_\_\_ Commissary/AAFES                      \_\_\_\_ Civilian  
\_\_\_\_ Family Housing/Facilities Maintenance                      \_\_\_\_ Youth  
\_\_\_\_ Traffic/Transportation/Personnel/Finance                      \_\_\_\_ Morale, Welfare and Recreation Activities

3. YOUR DA CIVILIAN AFFILIATION?  
(If Active Duty Military, go to item 4.)

- a. Are you a:
- DA Civilian Employee
  - Spouse of DA Civilian
  - Youth of DA Civilian

- b. Are you or is your sponsor:
- APF (GS, WG)
  - NAF (NF)

c. Series/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

5. YOUR FAMILY TYPE?

- Dual-Military  Sole-parent  Traditional  Other

7. HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN A FAMILY CONFERENCE?  
WHERE / WHEN?

- Installation level; what year(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 MACOM level; what year(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 DA Level; what year(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Never participated at any level

Please return this form to your organization's point of contact or send to Cathy Ryan, AMSAM-RA-CF-FS-AC, Bldg 3491, or fax 842-8052.

Army Family Action Plan Conference Quality of Life Survey

This is your opportunity to make suggestions about programs, services, or benefits affecting you and your family. Suggestions will be discussed at the Redstone Arsenal Army Family Action Plan Conference, 14-15 Feb 01.

Consider what could be improved in the following areas: medical & dental services, AAFES, commissary, military or civilian pay, allowances, entitlements, relocation, housing, traffic, travel, transportation, education, child care, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Activities.

Your rank/grade/status: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been at Redstone Arsenal? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live on or off post? \_\_\_\_\_

(Please type or write legibly)

How would you improve the Army's programs, services, or benefits?

(Be specific and recommend solutions. Give brief examples. Issues can be anything affecting the quality of life at Redstone or impacts the total Army family. Issues must have attainable solutions. Personal complaints will not be addressed. Comments may be continued on a separate sheet. One issue per page.)

Please include the following in the event we need clarification:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your completed survey to Commander, USAAMCOM, ATTN: AMSAM-RA-CF-FS-AC, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5300; Bldg 3491; or fax to 842-8052. Comments can be E-mailed to [cryan@mwr.redstone.army.mil](mailto:cryan@mwr.redstone.army.mil)

If you would like to participate as a Conference Delegate, please contact Ms. Cathy Ryan, at 842-8375.

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# Announcements

## Sports & Recreation

### Super Bowl party

Make plans to attend the party of the season at the Firehouse Pub. Invite your friends, cheer for your favorite team, and leave the cleanup to the pub staff. Super Bowl Sunday is Jan. 28, so make plans now to attend. For more information, call 842-0748 or 830-CLUB.

### Braves bus trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring a bus trip for the Cards vs. Braves baseball games May 4-5 in Atlanta. Only 50 tickets are available, so make your plans early. The \$175 cost includes roundtrip bus travel, refreshments, hotel, and two games. A \$100 deposit is due by Feb. 1. Call Mary Ann Meyer-Schuck 313-5924 for reservations or more information.

### Youth baseball

The Monrovia Predators traveling baseball team is recruiting 12-and-under players for the 2001 season. The Predators intend to play a 45-game schedule, with the goal of making the USSSA World Series in late July. For more information, call coach Jim Smith 837-7631.

### A&M basketball

Alabama A&M University's home basketball game doubleheader against Mississippi Valley State University Feb. 3 has been designated the "NCAA Take a Kid to the Game" competition. Tipoff for the women's matchup is scheduled for 2 p.m., while the men's game follows at 4 at Elmore Gym. As part of the "Take a Kid to the Game" program, kids receive a free

or reduced price ticket with the purchase of an adult ticket. Call the A&M ticket office 858-4743 for more information.

## Miscellaneous

### Merit awards

Officer and Civilian Women's Club dependents (high school seniors or college students), spouses, and members may compete for merit awards to pay for tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. To be eligible to apply for merit awards the club member must be an OCWC member in good standing as of Oct. 1. Applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 6. Call Chris Swart 722-3087 to obtain an application or for more information.

### Severe weather closings

The winter weather season is approaching. If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: Radio—WAHR, 99.1FM; WDRM, 102FM; WEKR, 1240AM; WEUP, 1600 AM; WGSV, 1270AM; WJAB, 90.9FM; WLRH, 89.3FM; WRAB, 1380AM; WRSA, 97FM; WTKI, 1450AM; WVNN, 770AM; WWIC, 1050AM; WZYP, 104.3FM.; Television—WAAY (Ch 31), WAFF (Ch 48) or WHNT (Ch 19). Two additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures. A recorded announcement can be heard by calling 955-8445 or one can log on to the Team Redstone Internet Site ([www.redstone.army.mil](http://www.redstone.army.mil)) and click the Weather Alert button for

weather information.

### Redstone support activity

Redstone Arsenal Support Activity will hold a New Year's Bash for Organizational Day in the Recreation Center, building 3711, from 11 a.m. Jan. 30 until close of business. All RASA employees are invited to come out and enjoy this fun-filled day. Tickets are \$6 each. For tickets or more information, call Donna Johnson 876-9675.

### Young Marines

The Young Marines of North Alabama will hold Recruit Training beginning Feb. 15. Young Marines, founded in 1958, has been operational in Huntsville since 1995. Recruit training will be held one night a week for 13 weeks. Recruits will complete an intensive course of training in citizenship, drug abuse prevention, close order drill and physical fitness, before becoming Young Marines in graduation ceremonies scheduled for May 27. Young Marines stress academic achievement, service to others, devotion to God, country, community and family. Young Marines is open to boys and girls ages 8-17. Parent's Orientation will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 1 and 8 at the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, 3506 South Memorial Parkway. Prospective Young Marines and their parents are welcome to attend. For more information, call Amy Wisdom 536-2054.

### Valentines for vets

This year, the Department of Veterans Affairs National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will be observed the week of Feb. 11-18. As part of the "Valentines for Vets" program, you can mail your valentines to the nearest VA medical center. The addresses of its facilities can be obtained by looking in the telephone directory, or by calling the VA's toll-free number, 1-800-827-1000, or by accessing the VA's web site at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and clicking on "Health Benefits and Services."

### Newcomers orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service New-

comers' Orientation to be held Feb. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at building 3447, Zeus Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths, and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Participants earn MWR bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for permanently-assigned military. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is provided at the Child Development Center, building 3145. Child's shot records are required. For more information, call Mary Breedon 876-5397.

### Federal bar luncheon

Huntsville and Madison County are at the forefront of a new statewide grassroots movement to reform Alabama's 1901 Constitution. Join the North Alabama Chapter, Federal Bar Association for an informative luncheon on this topic at the Officers and Civilians Club, Thursday from 11:15 a.m. until 1 p.m. Scheduled speaker is Woody Sanderson, an attorney with Lanier, Ford, Shaver & Payne, and the City of Madison's attorney. Sanderson will cover the impact of Alabama's constitution on local government, education and growth in our communities. For reservations call Glenda Collins 842-0528. The cost of the lunch is \$6.50.

### Reengineering certification

The Strategic Planning Office, teaming with the Quality Institute, announces that the DoD Business Process Reengineering (BPR) Certification Program is being offered once again at Redstone. Mountain Home Training & Consulting, Inc., the former Army Management Engineering College (AMEC) BPR Group, will conduct the training. The series includes the original, seven-course training curriculum developed by AMEC and required for completion of the DoD BPR Certification Program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (C3I). Classes begin April 24 and run through Aug. 10. All federal, state, and local government employees are eligible to attend this training. In addition, individuals from

See Announcements on page 15

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private sector firms who want an insight into how reengineering is applied in the government, are also welcome to attend and participate in the DoD BPR Certification Program. More information about classes and tuition can be found on Mountain Home's web site, <http://www.mhcn.net.com>. If you are interested, please register early. The slots are on a first-come, first-serve basis. AMCOM employees will need to register through TIPS and on Mountain Home's web site. For more information on the certification program, call Danita Brooks of the Strategic Planning Office 842-9456 or e-mail her at [danita.brooks@redstone.army.mil](mailto:danita.brooks@redstone.army.mil).

### Combined fund organization

The Local Federal Coordinating Committee for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign will accept applications for a Principle Combined Fund Organization to administer the 2001 CFC. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. Only federations, charitable organizations, or a combination thereof are eligible to apply for this position. Applications must be received by the CFC chairman, AMSAM-CFC, building 3197, Redstone Arsenal, 35898-5795.

### Birthday party

The Officers and Civilians Club will hold a "Birthday Bash," Thursday which is free

to members whose birthdays are in December, January, February or March. Entertainment will be provided by Sentimental Journey from 7-10 p.m. Buffet will be open from 6-8 p.m. Tickets prices are: adults, \$12.95; children 7-12, \$7.95; and 6 and under, free.

### Administrative professionals

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) will hold its sixth annual Seminar and Education Forum, Feb. 13 at the Huntsville Hilton. Registration is \$110; late registration after Feb. 5 is \$125. Rogena Walden is to speak on the topic, "No Buts About It! Choose and Get the Goals You Set." There are two concurrent sessions in the afternoon. Choose between Violence in the Workplace, Sgt. John Reed, Huntsville Police Department; Advanced Outlook, Jan Williamson, New Horizons; or The Writer's Life, Mary Kay Remick, author. The second session is "How to Keep Your Head Above Water (Or Good Mental Health While Working.), Dr. James Mason; Excel Formulas/Graphs/Tables, Anita Geinnert, CPA; or Microsoft Office User Specialist, Jan Williamson, New Horizons. The registration fee includes keynote speaker, continental breakfast, Office Expo, luncheon workshop, afternoon workshops, and breaks. For more information or a registration form, call Ellen Mahathey 876-3322 or Carole Worsham 895-4449.

to members whose birthdays are in December, January, February or March. Entertainment will be provided by Sentimental Journey from 7-10 p.m. Buffet will be open from 6-8 p.m. Tickets prices are: adults, \$12.95; children 7-12, \$7.95; and 6 and under, free.

### Wine tasting

The Women's Guild of the Huntsville Museum of Art will sponsor Odyssey 2001, a wine tasting and auction, from 7-10 p.m. Friday at the Museum of Art, 300 Church St. There is a fee of \$50 per person for the regular wine tasting and \$65 per person for the Premium Room. Attendance to the wine tasting is by invitation only. If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend, call the Museum 535-4350.

### Astronomical society

The Von Braun Astronomical Society will hold a program about the planet Venus at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. A star-gazing party will follow the show. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 464-0945.

### Green to gold

A seminar on the "Active Duty Green to Gold Scholarship from Enlisted to Officer plus a College Education" will be held this morning at 9:30 at the Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road. For more information, call Sam Whitaker 876-9761.

### Abandoned vehicles

The following vehicles have been moved

to the Provost Marshal Office Impound Lot, building 3453: a purple 1993 Plymouth Acclaim, tan 1987 Hyundai Excel, and brown 1987 Nissan pickup truck. The owners or anyone having any knowledge of these vehicles should call SSgt. Hokanson or Sgt. Silvia, Operations Section, building 3453, 842-2442 or 876-2222.

### Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 8 at Trinity Personal Growth Center on Airport Road. Scheduled speaker is John Stallworth, president of Madison Research Corporation and former pro football player. Cost is \$9 for members, \$10 for non-members. For reservations call Lisa White 955-6806.

### Garden plots

Due to the ongoing construction of new family housing, the Wesson Circle (Area 2) garden plots cannot be utilized. The housing office said all personnel desiring garden plots for the 2001 planting season must utilize the Vincent Drive (Area 1) garden plots. There are only 54 garden plot available in Area 1. Consequently, there may not be enough to accommodate everyone's request. The procedures for requesting and assigning garden plots are the same as last year. Priorities have been

See Announcements on page 16

## North Alabama Christian College

(Meeting at Liberty Baptist Church)

3134 Highway 53 (Jordan Lane)

828-1681 (Dr. Richards) or 859-4976 (Rev. Mike McFarlen)

### SPRING SEMESTER

Registration: Jan. 25 Late registration: Feb. 1

Both Registrations: 6-8pm

Classes: Mondays or Tuesdays, Feb. 5th - May 21; 5:30-10:30pm

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### Senior Analyst/Logistician/Specialist

Duties will include acquisition, program management and logistics systems analysis of Army weapon systems related to maintenance, testing and diagnostics. Conduct assessments of weapons systems requirements and acquisition planning. Strong working knowledge of the Army logistics system is expected. Must have BS/BA in field of expertise. Acquisitions, Logistics, Business Management with 10 years of experience related to Acquisitions/Business Management or 15 years experience without Bachelors Degree. Full Time.

### Journeyman Analyst/Logistician/Specialist

Duties will include providing programmatic support and analysis for acquisition of Army test and maintenance equipment. Includes acquisition and logistics analysis, support documentation and planning and evaluations of processes and procedures. Must have Bachelors degree from accredited university with 5 years related experience or without bachelors degree, 8 years of experience in programmatic, logistical analysis and acquisition planning. Full Time.

### Technical Specialist

Duties will include warehousing of electronic equipment, computer data entry into databases and other automated systems. Must have HS diploma with 5 years of related experience.

Please submit resumes by January 26th to Amy Rinehart, Fax: (256)890-0242 or email: [rinehart@asi-hsv.com](mailto:rinehart@asi-hsv.com)

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# Announcements

established to better serve all interested personnel. First priority: Active duty military must request their plots during Feb. 15 through March 1. Second priority: Retired military must request their plots March 2-16. Third priority: DoD civilians must make their requests March 17-31. If there are any plots left over, assignments will be on a first come, first serve basis. Due to the limited number of plots available, only one plot will be assigned per family until March 31, according to MSgt. Scott Hardiman, housing management NCO-in-charge. For more information, call the housing office 876-1445.

### PX hours

The Post Exchange is open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday.

### Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley, Catholic community at Bicentennial Chapel holds weekly mass at 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

### Grissom theater

Grissom Musical Theater will perform "Fiddler on the Roof" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1-3 and 2 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Grissom High School Auditorium on Bailey Cove Road. Reserved seats for the evening performances are \$10 for general admission, \$6 for seniors and students. Tickets for the matinee are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for seniors and students. Tickets are on sale at Blossoms and Blooms, Books-A-Million on Airport Road, and Parisian at Parkway City. For tickets call 880-2496.

### Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association will hold its monthly luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. Jan. 31 at the Officers and Civilian Club. Scheduled speaker is Dr. Martin Weisskopf, chief scientist for CHANDRA Telescope Program. For more information, call retired Navy Cmdr. Matthew Boenker 885-4274.

### Chapter scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP) will award two \$500 scholarships, one to a local high school student and one to a college student majoring in business administration. The application may be picked up at your high school counselor's office or by contacting Arnita Lee, lee.arnita@redstone.army.mil or Susan Douglas 876-7806, susan.douglas@redstone.army.mil.

### Community project

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers (ASMC) chooses a community project monthly to support organizations in the surrounding community. For February, the group has chosen to support the Child Development Center on Redstone Arsenal. The child-care providers work hard to give children the love, care and education they need each day. Unfortunately, like most government

agencies, they lack the finances available to purchase many items. Various items are needed to include: books, toys, educational computer games, poster board, crayons, markers, Polaroid film, etc. If you would like to donate items, call Brandy Moss 313-4433 or Dora Moore 876-5567. If you are a parent of a child at the Child Development Center, and would like to donate to your particular classroom, contact the group and it will provide you with a list of items. Remember, these are children of soldiers, Marines, civil service employees, and contractors. This is an opportunity to support military families and co-workers and friends.

### Relic seekers

The Madison County Amateur Relic Seekers will conduct an initial organizational meeting in February. The purpose of MARS is to provide an organizational forum for like-minded amateur "seeker" enthusiasts dedicated to the conduct of safe, legal, and environmentally correct searches for buried relics, coins, caches, and treasures of all kinds. So pull out your metal detectors, dousing rods, maps and shovels and join them for the fun. For more information, call John Adams 880-8691.

See Announcements on page 18



Photo by Madelyn Bussey

## Odyssey 2001

Members of the Women's Guild of the Huntsville Museum of Art prepare for Odyssey 2001, a wine tasting and auction to be held 7-10 p.m. Friday at the museum. All three of these members are wives of military retirees. From left are Middle Thompson, guild president; Shirley Fugit and Lynda Doud.



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