

Redstone Rocket

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Reward money offered here to catch computer thieves

Collect up to \$400 for information about theft of laptops, other items

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer

Crime doesn't pay but providing information that helps CID agents catch criminals can be very lucrative.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Command is offering cash rewards from \$200-\$400 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the thefts of laptop computers and personal property stolen from Redstone Arsenal.

"We have a high number of laptop computer thefts for this post," Special Agent Denise Young, Criminal Investigation Division, said. "We've had at least three here in the last quarter. Sometimes we recover them, sometimes we don't. The good news is that as technology gets more sophisticated, there are other ways to track them. Some have internal trackers."

Laptop computers are especially challenging at all the Army installations, Young said, because they are small, portable and easily concealed in a brief case. Since many people are authorized to take laptops out of the office, tracking which ones are truly missing and when is tricky.

Computers aren't the only items on the reward list. A set of personal golf clubs was stolen from the Redstone Golf Course in July 2000.

"Even though the clubs are personal property, they were stolen on the installation and so we can offer a reward for information," Young said.

The reward money and missing items include:

- \$200 reward— for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of a Datrek golf bag containing Callaway Hawkeye irons, three Orlimar Trimetal woods, one Odyssey putter and one Console sand wedge. All of the items were stolen from the Redstone Golf Course July 16, 2000.

See Reward on page 4



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

GOTCHA!— Laptop computer thefts are a problem at the Arsenal, according to Special Agent Denise Young, Criminal Investigation Division, who demonstrates fingerprinting. Reward money is being offered for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the persons responsible for several thefts at Redstone.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

FINALIST— Capt. Retha Adams, among 10 finalists in Betty Crocker's "Recipes From the Soul Contest," shows a Winter Cake which she baked with her prize-winning recipe.

Denver native feels mile-high after recipe wins \$500 prize

Soldier among finalists nationwide in Recipe From the Soul contest

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor

Capt. Retha Adams wanted to test her recipe before entering a nationwide contest that celebrates African-American cooking.

So she tried her Winter Cake recipe last December on her fellow worshippers at the Church of the Firstborn. The 15 members sampled the cake during their Christmas fellowship.

They loved it.

Adams then mailed her recipe to the 2000-01 Betty Crocker "Recipes From the Soul Contest" that she read about in Jet magazine.

The contest judges loved it, too.

Several weeks ago, a woman called her at work and

told her she was among 25 semifinalists who each won \$500. And Jan. 24, Adams learned by checking the web site that she was among the 10 finalists. She and the other finalists will be flown (along with one guest each) with all expenses paid to Minneapolis, Minn., for a cookoff the weekend of Feb. 15-18. She's taking her husband, Edward.

"I was surprised," said Adams, a logistics officer in the Logistics Support Activity. "I had forgotten that I entered the contest until they called me."

She should have expected the call. After all her pastor, Bröderick Humphrey, had told her in December that she had a winner and not to change anything.

"It's something I created," she said of her winning recipe. "I'm always creating stuff. It's one of my concoctions. I always do a dump method because I never really measure anything; I just dump it in a bowl. So that was the challenging thing when I turned it in; I had to figure out the measurements."

See Recipe on page 9

Conference features new technology
Ammunition tour 6

Supply center marks anniversary
Party in store 8

'Rocket Boys' author down to earth
Sky writer 10

Letters to the editor

Motor Pool worker sends thanks

I have had the privilege of working on Redstone Arsenal for the past 17 years. During this time of my employment, I have had the honor of working with some of the most professional and outstanding people I've ever known.

In the past few weeks, medical conditions have taken me out of the work force and away from the Redstone community; it is then that you realize just how much you miss and care for these special people.

Words cannot express my heartfelt

thanks and appreciation for the love, concern and compassion that has been shown to me and my family by my friends and co-workers of the government, Northrop Grumman, and Chugach Management Services. I, as well as my family, have been deeply touched by this display of affection.

My family and I pray that my health improves and allows me to come back to the Motor Pool soon. Until then, please continue to keep us in your prayers. I love and miss all of you.

Austin, Sandra and Mandy Pack

Promotion policy could still use work

I recently read the Commander's Policy on Merit Promotion and Related Placements, and attended the training. I agree with the need and applaud the commander's efforts, but this policy is not flawless and needs work.

Don 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 employees are provided competition opportunities." This is about as far from the truth as one can get. It is like asking for better communications and limiting who you can talk to until your tongue is cut out.

First of all, it limits competition to the size of the POE's organization, or cleverly to a Division, or Branch, or even Section as long as the POE gets five names showing interest. I don't think this practice meets the spirit of the law, nor the letter of the law—fair and equal competition and treatment.

It limits one's ability to compete internal and external to one's organization. Example: It limits me to five opportunities in SAMD at my grade. It gives many of my less experienced colleagues (assumption for example only) in the IMMC at least 20-plus opportunities because the IMMC has as many as four GS-15s stacked on top each other reporting up the

chain where in SAMD we have one. That gives people in the IMMC, ARDEC, and larger organizations a tremendous advantage, and limits the outlying organizations (those outside the canvassed area).

One could say, "well the supervisor has the option to canvas in a wider area." Yes he does, but no POE in his right mind is going to canvas any farther outside his organization than he has to because he is going to want to take care and show his loyalty to his own organization. If you don't believe me, ask yourself how many high grades you have selected outside your organization this year or last five years. If you are lucky, you may have selected one. In other words, you can't compete in the canvas with your less experienced colleagues in the IMMC or perhaps, more experienced colleagues in ARDEC (used for example only) because they are in a different POE area of consideration.

Concurrently the competitive selection process should start and a choice will be made on experience in the job (the 120-day limited assess POE canvas and 120-day noncompetitive temporary promotion).

Headquarters AMC guidance on filling GM/GS-15 positions requires outreach efforts to locate and attract qualified minorities and females when sufficient minority and female candidates are

See Policy on page 3

Post has plans for excess housing complex

I have been driving down Redstone Road for around 10 years now and I have always wondered about the housing complex behind the Goddard House. After doing a little research I found out that it used to be the quarters for Redstone Arsenal's command group during the Arsenal's early days. It also appears that one of the home's belonged to the first Redstone commander, Col. Carroll D. Hudson.

What is the Arsenal's plans for these homes? It would be great if they could be renovated, restored and utilized (much in the manner that the Goddard House) was.

Glenn E. Painter
System Studies and Simulations Inc.
Comanche Program Office

Editor's note: The Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following

response. "The 10 homes south of the Goddard House were excess to the housing inventory several years ago. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) is constructing a Hazardous Devices Training Facility that will utilize these homes as a mock village. This village will be used to train students to maneuver robots in actual urban environments. We are working with the State of Alabama Historical Preservation Officer to ensure that these homes are protected in accordance with Alabama law. This project will greatly enhance our ability to preserve and maintain these homes. Presently, we are working with the FBI and the Mobile District Corps of Engineers to get the first phase of this project awarded in FY '01. The first phase includes the mock village construction."

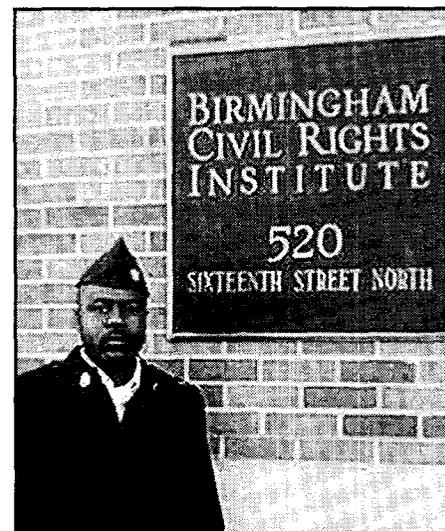
Civil rights museum makes impression

On Thursday, Jan. 25, I embarked upon one of the greatest journeys of my life, a tour of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. What started

off as the usual "get out of work free" trip, quickly turned into something much more beautiful and fulfilling than I could have ever imagined.

From the initial entry into the main foyer, I was immediately overcome by a feeling of sheer delight and intrigue; little did I know I was about to receive an abbreviated history lesson on civil rights. Four individuals, a white, a Mexican, and two more blacks accompanied me on this particular trip. Up until the point of entrance, we were all laughing and joking with each other; our company commander had read an old flyer that said entrance on Thursdays was free. Needless to say it was not free, only on Sundays, but the nice lady at the ticket booth had agreed to let us enter with a donation (we wound up paying full price anyway).

At the start of the tour we were shown a brief history of the founding of Birmingham; when the screen retracted



Courtesy photo

MEMORABLE VISIT— SSgt. Tilden Morgan, of HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade, stands outside the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

See Trip on page 3

Redstone Rocket

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email: redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil

Rocket Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Sandy Riebeling

Beth Skarupa

Sgt. Sharon McBride

Copy Editor: Scott Seeley

Advertising Sales: Morrisia Taylor

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Reader promotes recommendations

Policy

continued from page 2

not available on Army level or local referral lists. Won't the canvassing and 120-day noncompetitive promotion illuminate them before the real competition begins? And was that 120-day noncompetitive promotion per job series per year or 120-day noncompetitive promotion regardless of job series?

So, who do you think will get the permanent promotion, and which would be the best return on investment for the Army? The extremely well educated and experienced person who was never canvassed, or the less experienced 120-day temporary promotee? History tells us the temporary promotee gets the job permanently better than 95 percent of the time.

Here are some recommendations to consider:

- Canvass at a minimum installation wide, not POE wide. This will illuminate the rush of personnel out of the smaller organizations, and give women and minorities a real opportunity to compete.

- Only allow one 120-day temporary promotion per individual per year until all people in the POE area have had at least one 120-day temporary promotion. This will force mentoring and developing all not just the chosen few.

- Rotate more than one person (maybe three minimum) through the position. Make it a real competition.

- Institute a selection process that requires 1/4 to 1/2 of all selections at all grades to come from outside the POE organization, and 10 percent of that from off installation. That will force mentoring, bring in new ideas, stop inbreeding, and force more staff people into hands-on field environments and vice versa.

- Promote supervisors based on their ability to prepare and get their subordinates promoted. That should stop inhibiting of careers, force teamwork, preparation for advancement, and most important a better work force.

- Form an IPT to rework the Commander's Policy on Merit Promotion and Related Placements providing an acquisi-

tion testing period before implementation.

Those are my thoughts. I could be wrong.

Steve Gebert
RAMEA

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "The AMCOM Commander's revised Merit Promotion Policy makes several significant changes in the procedures for temporary assignments. First it reduces from 179 to 120 days the period of time that employees can serve on noncompetitive temporary promotions. Second, it requires that all details to "Sets of Duties" be limited to 120 days. These two changes will help ensure that temporary assignments to higher graded AMCOM positions for more than 120 days are rotated among employees or that full competition (to all serviced activities) is used, as recommended by the writer. For some jobs, continuity may be required to support the mission and the customer, therefore full competition may be used for a longer term temporary assignment in lieu of rotating employees. Third, although federal and Army regulations do not require any competition for temporary assignments (details and temporary promotions) of less than 179 days, the Commander's policy requires management to canvass for interest for noncompetitive temporary assignments that last from 30-120 days. At a minimum this canvassing will be AMCOM POE-wide or could be a smaller area if it could produce at least five candidates.

"Selections for competitive temporary assignments and permanent promotions must be based on merit. The Commander's policy requires preparation of a selection matrix for competitive merit promotion and career referral selections. The applicants' total background (not just short term temporary assignments) must be considered. It would violate merit system principles and be unfair to all employees to establish arbitrary quotas on the percentage of employees who must be selected from various organizations. Employees also share in the responsibility for improving their competitiveness through education, training, superior performance, and being a team player."

Civil Rights Institute inspires soldier

Trip

continued from page 2

into the ceiling, we were immediately transported back in time. From that point, no one said a word; we were all captivated by the first display, a set of water fountains signifying "whites" and "colored." It's hard to fathom the thought of these events actually taking place; the silence had to be the result of sheer disbelief.

We all spread out and viewed the various displays and read the different accounts of life in a segregated world. I soon realized that I was involved in a Catch-22; around every corner was a different scene from the past, some good, and some bad. I found myself not wanting to go further because I feared what I might find, but then again, I had to go forward because I had to know. As I walked from item to item, over the intercom, I could hear voices of the past as they told their stories of life in the South. There were many people involved in the civil rights movement who put their lives at risk to stand up for what was right. As I looked at the dangers that these brave individuals faced, it made me wonder where the courage came from.

The civil rights movement was more than a black thing; it was a white thing, a human thing, and an American thing. As I looked at the images of the different marchers and protesters, I was amazed to see just as many whites taking an interest as there were blacks. The images were so real; it was as if I was actually there sitting next to Rosa Parks as she sat on the bus. I could feel a chill come over me as I turned the corner and unexpectedly saw the replica of a bus that had been bombed by protesters of the "Freedom Riders" in Anniston (I went to basic training there). During one part of the tour, I was taken to the Lincoln Memorial and given a front row seat to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak. The feeling and caption were so real, and his voice so forceful, a young lady who happened to be standing next to me started crying as Dr. King stat-

ed these famous words: "Free at last, Free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last." I felt the joy as a young attorney named Thurgood Marshall helped the NAACP win an historic court case in Brown vs. Board of Education. I could smell the ink from the pen of President Lyndon Johnson as he signed the Voters Rights Act of 1965. I could actually see Dr. King as he composed his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail," and then read it to me for my approval. I felt the pain of the victims of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing. Even though I had read of these events in history books, nothing could have prepared me for the feelings that came over me on this particular morning.

Martin Luther King Jr. is the name that comes to mind when one speaks of civil rights; on this day I learned of the many people who also fought the same battle. The students who conducted "jail-ins" instead of paying bail were subjected to horrendous treatment while detained in the prisons. This was a shock. Up until that point I had only heard of the sit-ins conducted in restaurants. I learned of the courageous white brethren who put their lives on the line as they stood side-by-side with blacks in the fight for freedom. There is so much to learn from that particular era in time. As unbelievable as it all may seem, it is an unfortunate reality that should never be forgotten. What I soon realized was black history is American history; and our struggle for equality has helped to inspire countries, organizations and individuals around the world in their quest for a better life.

As we celebrate yet another Black History Month, I ask that you keep in mind the reason for the season, remembering that "All men are created equal." On this day, I left the Civil Rights Institute with a renewed spirit, strong sense of pride, and the determination to somehow try and make a difference just as those who preceded me.

SSgt. Tilden Morgan
HHC 59th Ordnance Brigade

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Ordnance chief visits Redstone Arsenal, troops

General officer impressed by missile school's work

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer

Making his third trip to the Arsenal since taking command of the Ordnance Corps six months ago, Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson, chief of Ordnance, visited Jan. 24-26.

As always, Stevenson's top concern was getting out and talking with the soldiers and civilians under his command.

While here Stevenson made it a point to visit the student companies, the ranges, several of MOS directorates as well as taking time out to eat breakfast with the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School drill sergeants.

"Every time I visit here, and talk to the leaders, staff and faculty, as well as our students, I am reminded of how outstanding an organization this truly is," he said. "Everywhere I go, I see the staff and the faculty just doing an absolutely outstanding job, most of the time without senior leadership even noticing—they do it because it's the right thing to do for soldiers. It is another expression of Army values at work — by both Army civilians and NCOs/officers. They have enormous pride in providing the



Photo by Sgt. Sharon McBride

MAKING THE ROUNDS— Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson, chief of Ordnance, talks with Drill Sgt. Kimberly Motley of B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, during breakfast at the dining facility. Stevenson visited Redstone Jan. 24-26.

best possible instruction that they can.

"I could not be more pleased by the leadership, instructors, students and the facilities that are so successful in transitioning citizens to soldiers. Of particular note is the outstanding relationship that OMMCS enjoys with both the civilian community

and Team Redstone. I'm not sure I've ever seen a situation where the local community supports the efforts of the military installation as do Huntsville and Madison."

While here, Stevenson was also able to see how the Arsenal is changing, keeping up with the mandatory transition that will take not only the Ordnance Corps, but also the entire Army, into the future.

"The United States Army is in the midst of one of the most dramatic transformations in its history, and well-trained

Ordnance soldiers are an essential part of that transformation," Stevenson said. "As you know, the United States Constitution, a document of great vision which has served as the basis for our government for more than 220 years, begins with 'We, the people.' The history of the United States Army Ordnance Corps could also well begin with the words, 'We, the people.'

"The formation of a distinct Ordnance Corps was also a great vision," he said. "It was a vision of a specialized professional team of dedicated craftsmen, artisans, thinkers and developers who would come together to provide our Army with the implements to defend our nation. Since 1812, this vision has become a reality. What began as a small group of providers to a young Army has indeed become a strong vital corps living the motto 'Armament for Peace' in support of our great Army."

Stevenson took the reins of the Ordnance Corps last fall; he was promoted to the rank of major general Oct. 13. Stevenson says he's looking forward to leading the Ordnance Corps and making positive changes along the way.

"I'd like to be able to look back and say that I contributed to helping make the Ordnance Center and Schools better than they were when I arrived. Maj. Gen. (Dennis) Jackson left a great legacy; I'd just like to make it even better, if that's possible," Stevenson said.

Stevenson's next scheduled trip to the Arsenal is March 12-16 for the Worldwide Ammunition, Missile and TMDE Conference, sponsored by OMMCS.

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Computer theft a problem at Redstone

Reward

continued from page 1

• \$400 reward— for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of a Dell brand computer notebook, serial numbers 5143C-REV.A00, stolen from room S113, building 5400, between Oct. 9-19, 2000.

• \$400 reward— for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of a Dell Inspiron 3800 laptop computer, serial number 46RK201, Redstone bar code 073455, stolen from room 7134, building 5307 between Nov. 16-17,

2000.

• \$250 reward— for information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the larceny of a Toshiba laptop computer, serial number 99089760A, Redstone bar code 0565161, stolen from the first floor TV room, building 3411, B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, on Nov. 17, 2000.

Anyone with information concerning these incidents is urged to call Young at 876-1565/2037. Callers may remain anonymous and still collect the reward.

"We do solve cases with people just calling in and telling us what they know about a particular case. Most people give us their name but it's OK if you don't want to."

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Local Ordnance Corps Association recruiting members

Creating a hall of fame among many activities

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer

The Redstone Ordnance Corps Association wants YOU!

In the spirit of the old Uncle Sam campaign to get young and old to join the Army, the local chapter of the Ordnance Corps Association is looking for new members from all over the Arsenal and the community to join its ranks.

The first general membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 4 p.m. at the Firehouse, second floor meeting room.

"We are extending and expanding our membership to everyone on the Arsenal," Col. John Wright, president of the Redstone Arsenal Ordnance Corps Association, said.

For example, Wright explained, there are several people who might have "grown up" in the Ordnance Corps but are now working as a contractor or in another area on post.

And the membership invite also extends to those who are in the local community.

There is a large population of retirees that have deep roots stemming from the Ordnance Corps.

"We would like them to share their experiences in the Corps," Wright said. "To pass on their knowledge to the new generation of Ordnance Corps servicemembers."

The association, which has a national foundation, had declined in membership in the past few years on post. In recent months, an injection of newfound spirit and desire has been implemented in the local chapter, Wright said.

"It's our mission to preserve the spirit, heritage and the tradition of the Ordnance Corps," he said. And what better

place to do that locally than within the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School and the home of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion and the 59th Ordnance Brigade?

Several projects have been slated by the association to cement the desire for a strong local chapter to include the co-sponsorship of the annual Ordnance Ball. Other initiatives include the renovation of the old post theater, now known as the OMMCS Regimental Hall.

"We are creating a local Ordnance Hall of Fame at the OMMCS Regimental Hall," Wright said. Currently, a national Hall of Fame exists at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. It is hoped that a local Hall of Fame will help bring a little of that heritage closer to the Arsenal. Other memorabilia will be included in the décor of the hall that will host future consolidated graduations of all the MOS's and professional development courses on post.

A special breakfast is also scheduled at the OMMCS Regimental Hall during the Worldwide Ammunition, Missile and TMDE Conference to celebrate the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Ordnance Guided Missile School, the predecessor of today's OMMCS. The breakfast will mark a yearlong celebration established to commemorate the Arsenal's 50 years of Ordnance Corps service to the Army and the nation.

"We are making the effort to recognize the contributions of everyone who has been associated with the Ordnance Corps and the Arsenal," Wright said.

For more information on the local chapter, call Wright at 876-3315 or Tim Brady 876-9177. For information on the national Ordnance Corps Association, the OMMCS home page has a direct link. A Redstone Ordnance Corps Association web site is currently in the works.



Photo by Sgt. Sharon McBride

PRESERVING HISTORY— Items like this will adorn the walls at the OMMCS Regimental Hall, formerly the old post theater. The Redstone Ordnance Corps Association is looking for other memorabilia to help decorate the hall as well as new members to help restore the spirit of the association on post.

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Worldwide ammunition conference promises to be a blast

Annual event March 12-16 features new technology

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer

This year some of the newest, cutting-edge technology from the world of ammunition, missile, electronic, TMDE and explosive ordnance disposal will be displayed at the Worldwide Ammunition, Missile, and TMDE Conference scheduled March 12-16.

The weeklong event kicks off March 12 with guests from throughout the world.

"This is an excellent opportunity as a school house to bring together many of the 'smart' people from the various fields we train and develop to hear updates, share information and work issues related to their fields," Col. Stephen Taylor, commandant of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, said. "It's also a chance for experts to interact with their counterparts, military, Department of the Army civilians, and contractors."

There is a wide range of activities planned for the week. New this year is the WAMTC Golf Tournament to be held March 13 at the Redstone Golf Course. Also new is an Ordnance Regimental Breakfast, to be held March 16 at the newly opened Ordnance Regimental

Hall (the old post theater) to celebrate the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Ordnance Guided Missile School, the predecessor of today's OMMCS.

And of course there are some of the old standbys like the social mixer scheduled for March 13 and the conference dinner March 14.

"These are opportunities for conference attendees to get together in a social setting to share ideas," Taylor said. "And an opportunity for old acquaintances to be renewed and for new ones to be made."

Other key highlights include special guest speakers, Maj. Gen. Wade McManus, commander, Operations Support Command, Rock Island, Ill. and the Chief of Ordnance, Maj. Gen. Mitchell Stevenson.

McManus is scheduled to speak at the annual Ordnance Ball, hosted by the 832nd Ordnance Battalion; and Stevenson is scheduled to speak on the "Health of the Ordnance Corps" on the opening briefing day, March 14 and at the Wednesday night dinner as well.

This year's conference will also include an exciting innovation.

"There will be a Virtual Reality Tour of the electronic repair station," Capt. Sam Deboard, conference coordinator, said. "This virtual reality demonstration will

follow a five-part video series from USAOMMCS major departments. After the virtual tour (scheduled for March 14), the conference will move outside to view other displays."

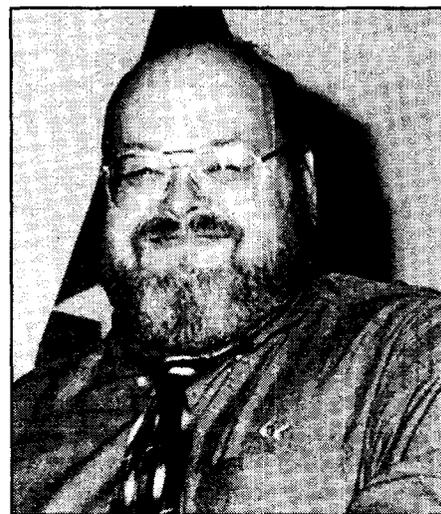
Most of the conference will be held at the Bob Jones Auditorium. The ball will be at the Officers and Civilians Club; and the dinner and social mixer are scheduled

at the Research Park Holiday Inn.

For a complete schedule of events, locations and how to register, log on at <http://www.redstone.army.mil/ommcs/wamtc/itinerary.html>.

"USOMMCS prides itself on providing useful information to a wide and dynamic audience from all over the globe," Taylor said.

Logistics assistance rep dies after short battle with cancer



BARRETT J. CUDDEBACK

Barrett J. "BJ" Cuddeback, a long-time AMCOM logistics assistance representative, died Jan. 18 after a short battle with cancer. He was 52.

A memorial service was held Jan. 22 at Spry Funeral Home with Dr. Rick Craft officiating.

Cuddeback, a native of Eugene, Ore., resided in Huntsville for many years. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Cuddeback was a senior logistics management specialist in the Readiness Directorate with 17 years of service.

Survivors include his wife, Dana, and son, Michael.

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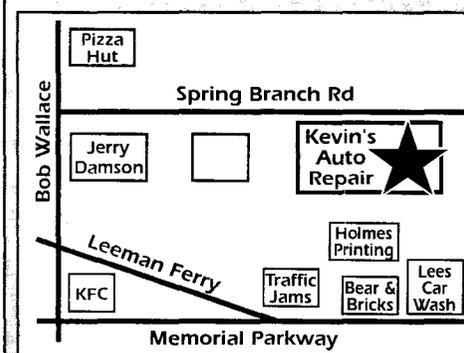
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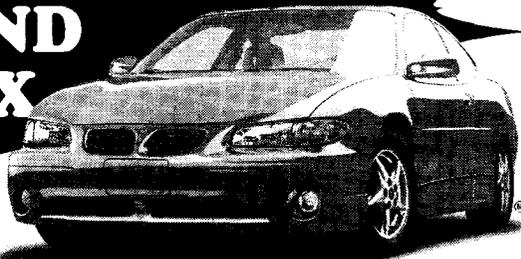
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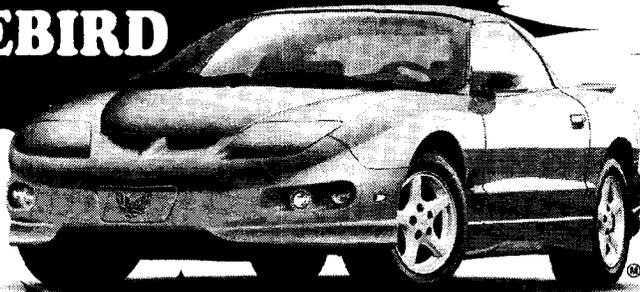
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Base Supply Center takes stock of anniversary



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

WORKER BEE— As the new store manager for the Base Supply Center, Elaine Evans doesn't stay behind a desk all the time. She stocks shelves, assists customers and is even certified to drive the forklift.

First year at new location to be celebrated Feb. 28

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer

The Base Supply Center is having a party and everyone is invited.

This month marks the first anniversary of the store's move from Cottonwood Road to its new location in building 3775 near the Sparkman Center on Maintenance Row. To celebrate, the store is having an all-day anniversary celebration Feb. 28.

"We're giving away free gifts to everyone who comes in and mentions this article," Elaine Evans, store manager, said. "We'll be having refreshments all day and special promotions throughout February. It's our way of saying thank you to the community for all their support."

It will also give customers a chance to meet some new staff members. Tammie Rockhill joined the center in August as assistant manager and Evans came on board last month as store manager.

The Base Supply Center has been operated on post by the Alabama Industries for the Blind since July 1997, providing employment for people who are considered legally blind and offering products manufactured by people with handicaps. The move to the new location last year was a monumental task, with great rewards.

"This location is so much better for our customers," Vickey Barnett, regional sales representative for AIB, said. "Even though the facility is a little smaller, we've added more stock. We put a little less on the shelves and put more in storage."

"This store is totally different," Thomas McCray, supply technician,

Management, Engineering and Resource Analysis Division, said. "I love it here because it's not so big and spread out. There's still lots of variety. It's more like a grocery store."

"And we have air conditioning," Barnett said, thrilled at what most others take for granted. "The other store was in a warehouse and we didn't have air conditioning. It used to get so hot in the summer. Air conditioning makes a big difference, especially to our customers."

Service to its customers is what the Base Supply Center is all about.

"Our goals for the upcoming year are to expand our services and do whatever we can to make our customers' lives better," Evans said. "Customers can fax their orders in and get free delivery. We're also willing to open for after-hours emergencies or on special occasions. We were open until midnight on Sept. 30 to offer assistance and for end of the year funds. We're also working on reducing turnaround time for special orders. Our goal is to cater to the customer. That's who we work for."

Reaching those customers is the challenge. The Base Supply Center looks for opportunities to get involved with the community, such as holding blood drives and participating in safety days.

"We're doing everything we can to be a part of the Redstone/NASA community," Barnett said. "We're glad to be here and appreciate the support from the community."

Barnett also announced a special "mission essential" screen printing service offered by the AIB marketing department for items such as tote bags, T-shirts and coffee mugs.

Store hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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Earl Hildebran/ Readiness Directorate

Century of service

Five members of Readiness Directorate retired this year with 157 years of combined service. They include, from left, Ray Dobbs (38 years), Richard Brown (16 years), Frank Gardner (37 years), Harold "Joe" Rutherford (32 years) and Richard Pingry (34 years).

■ Soldier reaches national contest cookoff

Recipe

continued from page 1

Adams is a native of sometimes-snowy Denver, Colo., so it figures that her prize recipe would be for Winter Cake. She arrived at Redstone in April 2000 from Fort Bliss, Texas, where she served as plans and operations branch chief at the Air and Missile Defense Battle Lab.

She was one of four children of career Air Force member William Sidberry, who died in 1990, and his wife Thelma who resides in Denver. Adams joined the Army in 1984 and earned her commission through Officer Candidate School in 1988. While stationed at Fort Bliss, she earned a bachelor's degree in 1996 in management of health care from Park College and a master's in management in 1998 from Webster College.

Edward, her husband, is a retired sergeant first class who runs a karate school out of their home called the Adams Martial Arts Academy and Christian Center. She has three children of her own— son Que Tarkington, 23, daughter Tasha Tarkington, 20, and son Markis Tarkington, 18— and two stepchildren: Andrea Adams, 19, and Andrew Adams, 9. Que does

video productions in Denver; Tasha is a junior at Georgia State in Atlanta; Markis, a freshman at Alabama A&M University; Andrea, a sophomore at Hill College in Texas; and Andrew is a fourth-grader residing with his mother in El Paso. Two dogs round out the Adams household in Huntsville.

"Baking is a stress reliever for me," said Adams, who also enjoys reading. "I bake to just relax."

She likes her chances at the \$50,000 grand prize in the Recipes From the Soul contest. The five celebrity judges include television actress Daphne Maxwell Reed, comedienne Myra J, author Charlotte Lyons, Oakland Raiders quarterback Rodney Peete, and Mayor Sharon Sayles-Belton, the first black mayor of Minneapolis. Actress Holly Robinson Peete will be the emcee for the Mall of America Announcement, Feb. 17.

"I'm just excited. God's showing me favor, that's all I can say," Adams said. "It's certainly nothing that I have done."

On Jan. 31 she baked two versions of her Winter Cake which she brought to her office the next day. "This one is made with brandy, and this one's the sober one," she said laughing. "You can make it both ways."

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Real 'Rocket boy' holds on to his dreams

Author of best-selling memoir shares secrets of his success

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer

This "Rocket Boy" has his feet planted firmly on the ground. Despite being the author of the best selling memoir "Rocket Boys" that inspired the film "October Sky," despite becoming somewhat of a celebrity with national television talk show appearances, speaking engagements and a soaring writing career, Homer Hickam Jr. is as friendly and personable as the young "Sonny" Hickam who speaks to us in his memoir.

"Rocket Boys" tells the story of a group of young men who dream of launching rockets into space. The Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik on Oct. 5, 1957 takes hold of the boys' imaginations and propels them toward a future of science and engineering. In their quest to launch their homemade rockets, they overcome the gravitational pull of their West Virginia mining town and get out to make better lives for themselves.

Hickam fulfilled his childhood dream of working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration when he became an engineer for the Spacelab program here at Marshall Space Flight Center.

"When you have a dream when you're young, it seems like that is one that's important to you throughout life. There are so few of us who get to accomplish those childhood dreams and I know that I am blessed. My whole life has in some ways been a series of miracles and that's one of them - to finally have that title of NASA engineer," Hickam said.

Achieving the dream

Although it took him 21 years to achieve his dream and he has accomplished a lot since then, he said his proudest title will always be NASA engineer. He graduated from high school in 1960,

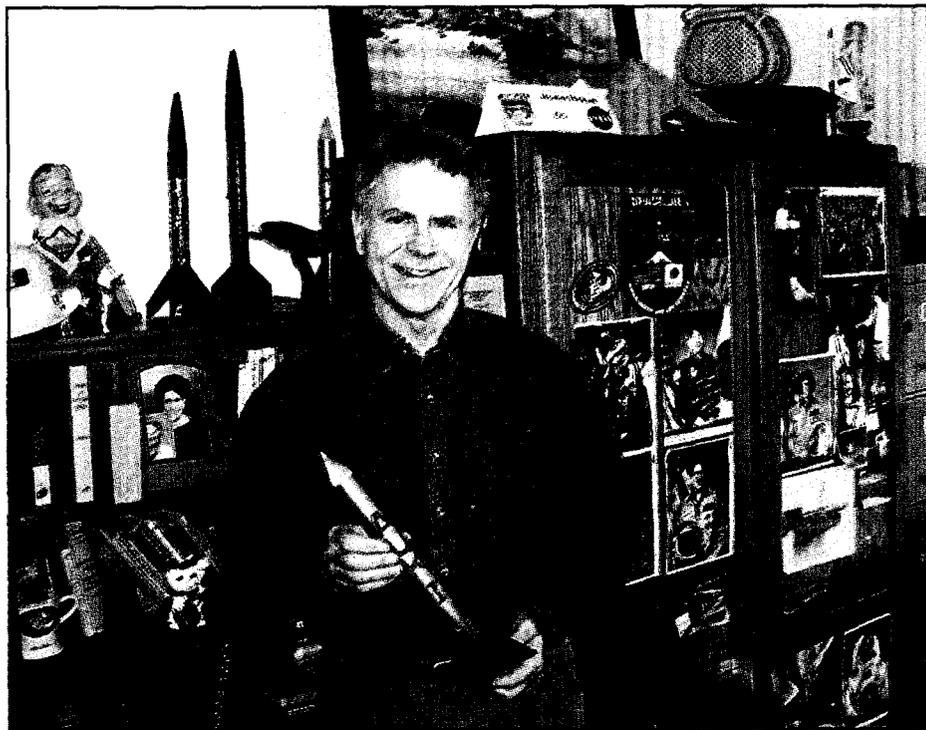


Photo by Beth Skarupa

ROCKET REVERIE —Homer Hickam Jr., author of the best-selling memoir "Rocket Boys" that inspired the film "October Sky," poses in his home office with a mockup of one of the rockets he built as a young boy that was recreated for the film.

then attended Virginia Tech. After earning his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering, he joined the Army and served in Vietnam from 1967-68 as a first lieutenant.

"I got to see the Tet Offensive up close and personal and I learned a lot that year. I grew up a lot," he said. "One thing I quickly learned in the Army was that I was indeed my father's son. I was a pretty good organizer and when it was necessary I could direct my troops to go and do what they needed to do and in fact, it surprised me.

"I had always kind of thought my dad was too tough, then I realized it was just because he was under pressure that he acted tough. Then when I got under pressure in the Army, I acted the same way. I just adapted his personality and, boy, did it work. So throughout my career with the

Army as a civilian and later with NASA, I've always had that confidence that I could get done what needed to be done, that at bottom, if necessary, that side of my personality that was my dad's would come out and carry me through."

Hickam served six years in the Army on active duty, leaving the service with the rank of captain. He worked on Minuteman and Poseidon rocket engine programs for the Thiokol Corporation in Ogden, Utah and later worked at Redstone Arsenal as part of the Combat Development team that wrote doctrine about the deployment of defensive missiles, defensive maintenance and other subjects.

"Because I got a good offer, I got out of the rocket business for a little while and actually ended up working for the facilities engineer there on Redstone Arsenal," he said. "I ended up working for them for about five years and that was good because I learned a lot of good, practical engineering skills."

Still interested in working on the space program, he applied for a job with NASA in 1978 but failed to get a positive response. So he went to work in Germany for the Corps of Engineers, assisting with the design and construction of Army training ranges later used to train troops deployed in Desert Storm.

Hickam finally achieved his dream of working for NASA when he was assigned to work on the design of the Spacelab at Marshall Space Flight Center in 1981. He worked on several projects during his NASA career, including training astronaut

crews for Spacelab and Space Shuttle missions and using his scuba diving instructor training to train astronauts on extravehicular activities. He first learned to scuba dive while in the Army, stationed in Puerto Rico. Prior to his retirement, he was the lead payload training manager for the International Space Station program. He retired from NASA in 1998 after completing 30 years of government service.

"I had confidence that somehow I would end up over (at NASA). I really enjoyed my career working for the Army here in Huntsville and there was always something interesting going on, even though it wasn't working in space. But working over at Marshall was just a dream come true. I really loved it," he said.

The writer's life

Now that he's retired, Hickam usually spends his days writing at his home in Huntsville. On a typical day, he wakes up at 6:30 a.m. and writes for six hours with a short break for lunch. He and his wife Linda try to get some exercise in, then he works for an hour or two in the evening revising what he wrote earlier in the day.

"I have to say, I really enjoy the career of an author. That's a second dream come true really," he said. "I don't really miss the engineering. I miss the people over at NASA and on Redstone Arsenal, but I don't miss the day-to-day work. I did it, I got it done, I moved on."

Although he started writing when he was young, Hickam never seriously thought of making his living as a writer. When he returned from Vietnam, however, he said he felt like something was missing from his life and figured out that it was writing. So he started writing short stories in his spare time and freelancing for several scuba diving magazines.

"I would come home and just start writing until it was time to go to bed. Later, when I was writing book-length manuscripts, I would get up in the morning a couple of hours before I had to go to work and write. Then when I came home, I'd write some more. You really have to dedicate yourself to it and be willing to put the hours in," he said.

Hickam's best advice to aspiring writers is to have the discipline to sit down and write every day. He believes that writing well is something you learn by doing and in order to develop your own particular style, you have to "put a lot of words down on paper until you get into that kind of flow that works for you."

"If you don't find that rhythm, I guess whatever you write will probably come out pretty jerky and not be very attractive to the reader's mind somehow," he said. "I think that's where a lot of writers make their mistake. They don't ever find their rhythm." See Hickam on page 12

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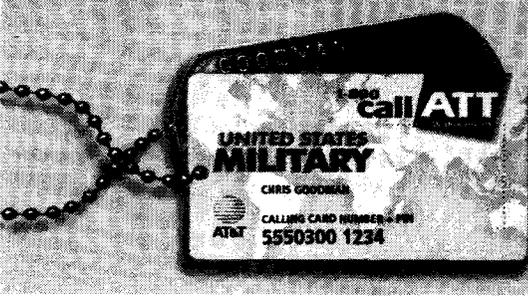
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■ Best-selling author recalls Redstone roots

Hickam

continued from page 10

rhythm and that means the reader doesn't get to enjoy what they're reading – including those editors out there that make final decisions on what's being published."

Another ingredient for becoming a good writer is reading. Reading was so important to Hickam while he was growing up, that he naturally wanted to emulate the authors he admired. He believes reading shows a writer how or how not to entertain the reader. He continues to be an avid reader today, although there are certain authors he says he can't read when he's writing.

"John Steinbeck's one of them. He has a rhythm that I – that my mind apparently really likes – because I'll read his stuff and I'll write bad John Steinbeck for about a month after that," he said laughing. "When I'm really seriously writing, I read mostly light, popular stuff. I like books about the old seafaring days and adventure. Patrick O'Brien is a favorite writer of mine."

Being a memoir writer, Hickam ascribes to the adage, "Write what you know." But he found his success by writing about his passions. His interest in scuba diving led to his articles about diving and the history of the underwater wrecks he explored. His first book, "Torpedo Junction," is a military history of the battle against the German U-boats that operated along the American coast during World War II.

He wrote his first novel, "Back to the Moon," as an entertaining diversion from writing his memoir. It is the story of Jack Medaris, an ex-NASA engineer, who has to get to the moon in six months or watch the world go dark. It's also the story of Penny High Eagle, one of the most famous women on the planet, who gets caught up in Medaris' scheme to hijack the space shuttle Columbia and set off for the moon.

"Right now I'm wrapping up the third in the trilogy of what I call the Coalwood books. The first one was 'October Sky,' also known as 'Rocket Boys,' and the second one was 'The Coalwood Way,'" Hickam said. "That wasn't a sequel so much as what I call an equal. It told a story, really a Christmas story more than anything, set in the same time frame as 'Rocket Boys.' So it was really a memoir within a memoir. The third one is a true sequel and tells the story of the summer that I worked with my dad in the coal mine while I was in college."

Hope for the future

After the success of "October Sky," Hickam became one of the most requested graduation speakers in the nation. He gave the commencement speech at West Virginia University in 1999 and continues to make public appearances when it doesn't interfere with his writing schedule. His speaking engagements in schools across the nation have taught him that a pessimistic view of today's youth is not warranted.

"I don't see that much difference between (America's youth) then and now. They're all the same way we were – a bit confused about the world and worried about what they're going to do with their lives," he said. "The teachers are very dedicated in general and trying to do the best job they can, although I think they're a little bit more hampered by bureaucracy than they were when I was growing up."

"I think students are a little, if not a lot, more organized by their parents and teachers than they were when I was growing up – which I don't think is a good idea necessarily. But otherwise I'm very heartened by what I've seen out there and I think that we're going to be fine and they're going to do fine."

Having come out of Coalwood, W.Va., with a strong knowledge of mathematics, science and literature taught by teachers who had virtually no equipment showed

Hickam that giving more money to education and welfare programs is not necessarily the best thing to do. He disagrees with people who argue that funding should go to those programs rather than the space program or the military.

"They all work together. You can't just fund one and ignore everything else," he said. "I think that the space program has two aspects to it. One of them is the dream of going into space that seems to inspire a lot of people around the world and really does inspire kids ... but the space program also has a very practical aspect. That is that ultimately we're going to have to go into space because of the resources that are available there, principally energy ... I sometimes think that the clutter in the modern classroom gets in the way of education, so I don't really believe in throwing money at it."

"The military is something that when you buy something – when you buy an airplane or when you buy a rocket – it's something real, it's tangible. You can put your hand on it. It's real and it really is a shield between us and the bad guys out there. And believe me, there's a bunch of bad guys out there in this world. Thank God for the United States military – if it wasn't for the United States military, this planet would be chaos. So anybody that thinks that we can do without it is just not being very thoughtful and doesn't know their history very well, I'm afraid."

Although Hickam has his feet on the ground, he still hopes to visit the moon one day. When people ask him whether he's disappointed that he never went into space, he responds laughing, "I'm not dead yet." He believes that there will be commercial flights to the moon, but it's not likely to happen for several years because the current rocket engine systems are too weak.

"The key is building the propulsion systems to do it. Those we don't have. The old chemical rocket systems like the Saturn 5 that took us to the moon and so on, I don't think we should go back and try to reconstruct those," he said. "I think we

now need to take the next step beyond and develop non-chemical systems – that's nuclear or fusion or even anti-matter. We tested some anti-matter drives out there at Marshall Space Flight Center just in the last couple of years with some pretty good results."

Hickam thinks we should put a laboratory on the moon and make it very clear that we're doing it in order to determine how we can use the resources in the solar system. But he said he'd also sneak around to the back side of the moon and put a telescope out there. He thinks we can probably see earth-like planets around other stars from that stable platform.

"I think if anything is going to really recreate the interest that we had back in the late '50s in the space program, it would be if we were able to image a water planet around another star. I think we'd be so curious about that, we'd just have to go out there," he said.

When he talks about going to the moon and the possibility of life on other planets, Hickam's boyhood enthusiasm for space exploration shines in his eyes. That passion fueled his dream of becoming a NASA engineer and is the key to his success as an author. But it's also what keeps him from getting too enthralled with his own accomplishments. He understands that everyone has that same passion burning inside.

"You know, you look on 'NASA Select' and you see the mission controller and they're sitting there in their little suits with their pocket protectors and you go, 'My goodness, how dull these people must be!' But you see, I know the truth," Hickam said. "Inside, underneath that pocket protector, beats a passionate heart. They wouldn't be doing that if they didn't love it."

"I think that's true of most of the engineers here in Huntsville, they do what they do because they love it and it's meaningful to them. And the work that we do on Redstone Arsenal, not just at NASA but at the whole Arsenal, is very important to our country and to our people."



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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NCO Academy edges Marines in showdown of division leaders

Enthusiastic fans help lead Academy's Leaders to win

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor

NCO Academy basketball coach Victor Blade credited "the sixth man" with helping his team in Thursday night's game against the Marines.

He was referring to the academy's many supportive fans who turned out en masse complete with guidon. They cheered as the Academy Leaders held off the Marines 39-38 at the Fitness Center.

"For a minute we thought we had the Army-Navy game out there," Blade said of the enthusiastic crowd. "When the NCO Academy's playing, people are coming out."

The Leaders (6-1) needed all the support they could get against the determined Marines (5-2). The Marines raced to a 6-0 lead at the start. But the Leaders regrouped and led 22-13 at halftime.

Fatugye Bukle, a female who plays guard, sparked the Leaders' first-half comeback by hitting two consecutive 3-pointers.

The Marines went up by two points at the start of the second half; and the teams

exchanged the lead the rest of the way. The issue was in doubt until the Marines missed a desperation 3-point attempt from half court in the final seconds.

"I think what really paid off for us was our inside-outside game," Blade said.

Besides timely outside shooting by Bukle and others, Reggie Curry provided the inside firepower. Curry, a 6-foot-5 center, finished with 14 points for the Leaders.

Jermaine Parlow scored 14 points and Ryan Stewart had 10 for the Marines.

"We just got outthustled first half and outplayed the whole night," said Stewart, a 6-foot shooting guard. "They killed us in rebounding. And we weren't making the shots we usually make."

"I told (the Marines) they played a good game," Blade said. "They showed the diehard spirit of the Corps. And we would expect to see them again."

Here are the league standings as of Feb. 1:

Eastern Division— NCO Academy (6-1), AMCOM (5-1), Bravo-1 (5-2) and ROTC (1-5).

Western Division— Marines (5-2), Delta (5-2), Charlie (4-3), HHC 59th (3-5) and Bravo-2 (2-5).

Rocketry 'Fireside Chats' videotape now available

A series of talks recalling the space exploration history of Huntsville held last year on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville is now available on videotape.

The NASA-Marshall Retirees Association organized and presented "Reminiscence of Space Exploration History— Fireside Chats," a four-part series that covered five decades of rocketry and space exploration in the Rocket City. Redstone Arsenal's AMCOM, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and UAH contributed to the series of talks.

The first talk covered Huntsville's character, before and after the von Braun team arrived in North Alabama. Moderators included Bob Ward and Margaret Belle Mahoney Crow. Panelists were Peter Lanier, Eleanor Hutchens, Martha Simms Rambo, Axel Roth and Dr. Ernst Stuhlinger.

The second recalled the Army years

between 1950 and 1960. Joe Moquin was the moderator and panelists were Jim Kingsbury, Stuhlinger and Dave Harris.

The lunar program during the 1960s was covered in the third chat. Woody Bethay was the moderator and panelists were Bonnie Holmes, Col. Lee James, Bob Lindstrom, Dr. William R. Lucas, Leland Belew and Konrad Dannenberg.

The final talk covered the space shuttle and beyond, covering the years 1970 to 2000 and beyond. Ed Buckbee and Jay Foster were the moderators and panelists included Sid Saucier, George Hardy, Owen Garriott and Fred Wojtalik.

Copies of the five-hour videotape in VHS format are available for \$19.95 plus \$2 postage and shipping. To order videotape, call Ed Buckbee, president of the NASA-Marshall Retirees Association, at 881-9622 or email buckbee@air-space.com.

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Rape prevention means more than just saying 'No!'

Special agent teaches rape awareness class

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer

It can happen on every college campus across the nation. It can happen down the street from where you live. And it can happen here on post.

It's called rape, sexual assault, or date rape. Sexual assault crimes continue to represent the most rapidly growing violent crime in America, according to the American Medical Association.

Here are some national statistics:

- Over 700,000 women are sexually assaulted each year.
- It is estimated that fewer than 50 percent of rapes are reported.
- Assaultants unknown to the victim commit approximately 20 percent of sexual assaults against women. The remainder is committed by friends, acquaintances, intimates, and family members. Acquaintance rape is particularly common among adolescent victims.
- Male victims represent 5 percent of reported sexual assaults.
- Among female rape victims, 61 percent are under age 18.
- At least 20 percent of adult women,



Photo by Sgt. Sharon McBride

LAW RESEARCH— Special Agent Denise Young, left, of Criminal Investigation Command, and Sgt. Melynda Dugdale, of Provost Marshal Office, look over Article 120 in the Uniform Code of Military Justice that covers rape. Young teaches soldiers a class on rape awareness.

15 percent of college women and 12 percent of adolescent women have experienced some form of sexual abuse or assault during their lifetimes.

Special Agent Denise Young, of the Criminal Investigation Command, spends a lot of time educating soldiers at Redstone on all the aspects of rape awareness.

"I begin by focusing on what rape is," she said. "There's a misconception out there that it's 'just saying no.'"

According to Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, there are several descriptions and circumstances of what constitutes rape. In her class Young outlines each and every description and circumstance using that regulation.

But that's not all the class is about. Young also teaches what happens after a rape is reported on post. "Everyone has the responsibility to report a rape," she said. Often, a friend of a victim helps initiate an investigation.

Reporting an incident is just the start.

"We have to prove everything that is said," Young said. Most reported cases boil down to "he said, she said." And the process of interviewing and gathering evidence determines the outcome of an investigation.

"But we need to know everything," Young said. And it's important to note, that when a victim is interviewed the questions can be very detailed and personal in nature.

"We are not asking these questions to re-victimize the victim," Young said. "These are questions that we need to ask and we need the answers to."

"I like to re-emphasize that we need to know everything," she said. Everything

means prior relationships that included consensual sex with the accused to hugging and kissing before the alleged rape took place.

"If you don't tell us it can look bad," Young said. "And it all comes out in the open anyway. But we are here to help—not set you up."

All findings and evidence of an investigation are forwarded to the Staff Judge Advocate and the Command. They are the ones that are in charge of prosecution, not CID.

Young's class also emphasizes what soldiers can do to protect themselves before something bad does happen.

"Most of it is common sense type of things," Young said. Like letting someone know where you are, keeping change in case you have to call for help or a ride, and being aware of how much alcohol you are consuming and what others around you are doing and consuming, she explained.

"Also I tell them that if they set their drink down and leave, don't continue to drink it," Young said. "You can't be sure that it wasn't tampered with."

And lastly, she advocates the buddy system even after-duty hours.

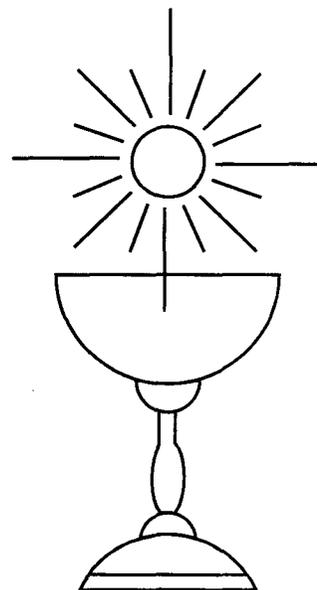
"Have a buddy with you when you go out at night off post," Young said. "It's very hard to rape two people."

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Move from St. Louis to Huntsville inspires first novel

Program analyst has book signings at area Books-a-Million stores

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer

The book is totally fiction, according to new author Marian Guidry, but her husband Ronald would argue the point.

The novel, "Perfect Reunion," captures the uncertainty of a family facing separation when a military installation is closed, forcing the heroine, Regina Buchanan, to make a choice. Give up her 15 years of benefits as a civil servant and stay with her husband and children in a large town in upstate Indiana, or hope her husband, Frank, who is also a federal employee, in a different agency, can get a job transfer to the new location.

"The book is really about choices," Guidry, program analyst, Apache Project Office, said. "I came down from St. Louis in '97 and my family was facing this problem. My husband worked for the former Defense Mapping Agency. I worked at ATCOM. Who was going to give up their career? We had to make a lot of tough choices as a family."

The choices Guidry and her family made differ from the characters in her book. Plus there's added suspense of a mystery thrown in the mix, not to mention an incredibly realistic chapter on the mental anguish women face as they gear up to start yet another diet.

While living with the consequences of separation for a short time in 1997, Guidry began to write a little here and there. Her writing wasn't intended to be a book; it served more as a therapeutic tool.

She and her three sons, Darryl, 15, Justin, 13, and Zachary, 10, had made the move to Redstone. Ronald stayed behind in St. Louis, hoping priority placement would bring them together again soon. Three months into the separation, Ronald quit his job and moved to Huntsville to be with his family. It took a year for him to find employment with a private company.

"I know what we went through," Guidry said. "It was tough, but at least we're together now. I look at some of the people around me who are still separated after all this time and my heart really goes out to them."

Guidry put her writing away for a time, busy building a new life here. It wasn't until last year, under unique circumstances, that she began writing again.

"The whole thing came out of a chal-

lenge from my boys," Guidry said. "They would read—they liked to read but they didn't like to write. They said they would write if I would write. So I dug out my old notes and writings and started putting the story together."

It took Guidry by surprise that the characters created out of her own mind had taken on a life of their own. "I'd be sitting there writing and then one of the characters would do or say something totally different than what I expected. I'd think, 'I can't believe she said that!' It was strange, and wonderful. The story had taken on a mind of its own."

There were times along the way that Guidry got discouraged and thought about giving up, but it was her family that kept her going.

You've done all this work, they would say. You can't quit now.

"I wasn't writing with the intention of getting it published," she said. "But I felt like for them, for the boys, it wasn't really finished until it was published."

Guidry opted against having the book professionally edited. She, her husband and her sons did all of the work. Her husband even designed the cover art.

"I didn't go with an editor because the way I wrote it is the way I wanted it presented. I didn't want them to change it."

After what seemed like hundreds of read throughs, Guidry mustered her courage and sent it to the publishing company, Infinity Publishing.com. It is a print-on-demand company that sets the pages, binds the book, and ships it to the customer. Guidry remembers fondly the day her first book arrived for proofing.

"The feeling is unimaginable," she said. "Seeing your work in print—there's nothing else like it. I was very happy with the way Infinity packaged it, with very few changes in the content or the cover art."

The preface of the book is where you will find the basis for the title, "Perfect Reunion." The words come from the preamble of the U.S. Constitution. "... in order to form a more perfect union..." The story is a quest, a rollercoaster ride with peaks and valleys of emotion and mystery and the chance for a perfect reunion.

Guidry's book is available at Books-a-Million and Buybooksontheweb.com. The dates for her book signings at area Books-a-Million stores include Feb. 18, 2-4 p.m. at the Madison store; Feb. 25, 2-4 p.m. at the Memorial Parkway store; March 4, 1-3 p.m. at the Airport Road store; and March 11, 2-4 p.m. at the Decatur store on the Beltline.

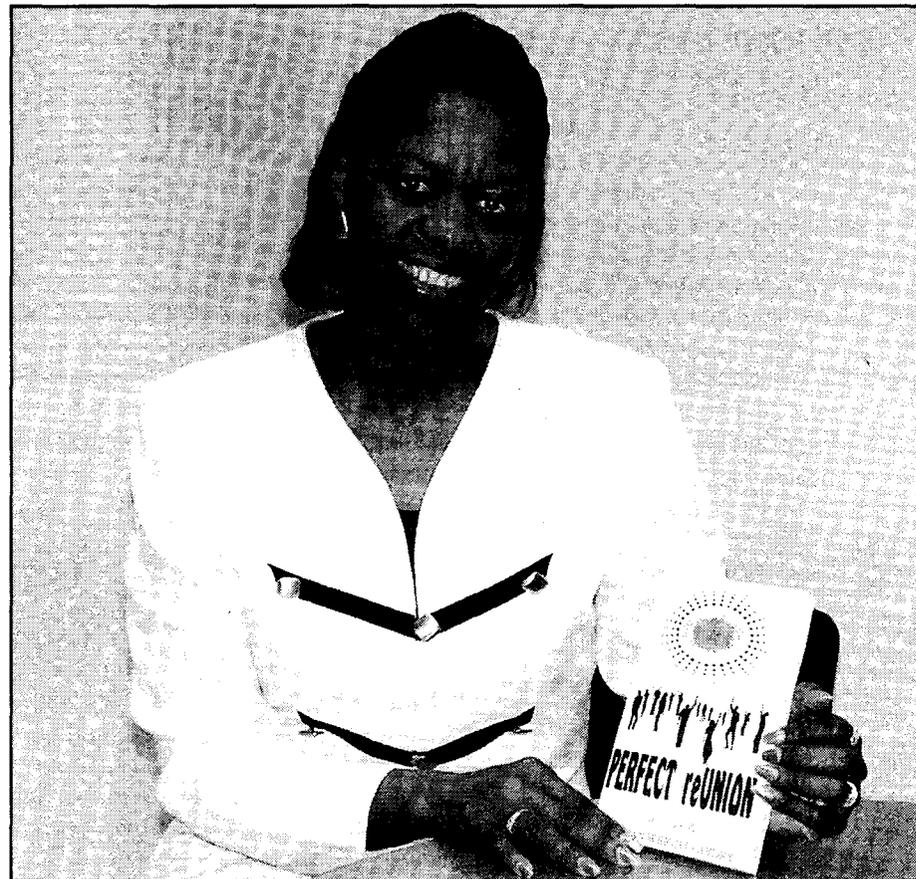


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

NOVEL IDEA— Marian Guidry, program analyst, drew from personal experiences for the plot to her recently published novel, "Perfect Reunion," which deals with family separations due to military downsizing and job relocation.

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Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Bowling center

Rocket Lanes is open for lunch every Thursday and Friday. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with bowling and beverage service available all afternoon. Cost is \$1.25 a line to bowl. Stop by Rocket Lanes for the Betty Burger Value Meal—two regular burgers, regular fries and a medium soft drink for \$3.50. For more information, call Rocket Lanes 876-6634.

Gym renovation

Pagano Gym will be closed through March 12 for renovation.



Miscellaneous

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 a.m. in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For information call 313-1478. The Redstone Arsenal Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets each Wednesday at noon and Friday at 5:15 p.m. in room 11 of the Bicentennial Chapel.

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 and clicking on "Health Benefits and Services."

Aviation symposium

The Army Aviation Association of America and AMCOM will co-sponsor the annual Joseph P. Cribbins Product Support Symposium, Feb. 21-23 for interested members of industry and the aviation logistics and acquisition communities. The theme of this year's symposium is "Aviation Materiel and Logistics Transformation." The symposium will focus on emerging insights into sustaining, modernizing, and retiring our aviation fleet. For more information, call Kim Daniel 464-9191.

Relic seekers

The Madison County Amateur Relic Seekers will conduct an initial organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the small conference center room of the Huntsville Public Library. 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 detec-

tors, dousing rods, maps and shovels and join them for the fun. For more information, call John Adams 880-8691.

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 Geinert, 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.

Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold its monthly meeting at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the union office, building 3202. All employees are invited. For more information, call 876-4880 or 881-7430.

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

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday 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 plots 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 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.

Charity campaign

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from non-profit organizations for participation in the 2001 fund-raising campaign. Under federal law, an organization must have 501 (c) (3) status, proof of human health and welfare services, an annual audit/IRS 990 Form, and a board of directors. The open period for acceptance of application packages is March 1 through April 6. This fund-raising campaign encompasses federal, military, retired federal, and government contractors from Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. Funds are allocated based on employee designations. For more information or to obtain an application, call Melinda Seigler, CFC director, United Way of Madison County, 536-0745, ext. 108.

AMCOM town hall

The AMCOM Quarterly Town Hall Meeting, with Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, AMCOM commander, will be held at 9 a.m. Feb. 14 in the Bob Jones Auditorium. Sullivan will discuss personnel management issues, future project and product manager transitions and reshape planning. The Town Hall Meeting will be broadcast on Team Redstone television Channel 42. The meeting will also be videotaped. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7 of the auditorium.

Ordnance ball

Col. Stephen Taylor, commandant of OMMCS; and the Redstone Chapter of the Ordnance Corps Association announce the Ordnance Ball 2001 will be held March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. For information call 1st Lt. Muwwakkid 842-0609 or 842-0612. You can register at www.redstone.army.mil/ommcs/wamtc/ordnance_ball.html.

Bible study

Bible study is held every Thursday from 12-12:45 p.m. in room 7219, acquisition logistics center, Sparkman building 5307, second floor.

See Announcements on page 17

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), as the Executing Agency for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), offers for public review the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and the signed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) of the Space-Based Laser Integrated Flight (IFX) Experiment Facilities construction and ground testing, a technology development program. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has been a cooperating agency in the NEPA process. The EA assessed potential impacts to air quality, airspace, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials and hazardous waste management, health and safety, land use and aesthetics, noise, socioeconomic, transportation, utilities, water resources, and environmental justice. The draft EA and unsigned FONSI were made available for public comment from September 10, 2000 through October 9, 2000. The final EA and signed FONSI are posted on the following web site: <http://ax.laafb.af.mil/axf/>. Copies of the EA and FONSI are also available for review, at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library, located at 915 Monroe Street in Huntsville, Alabama; the Triana Public Library, located at 280 Zierdt Road in Triana, Alabama; and the Environmental and History Offices, located at Redstone Arsenal. Requests for more information about the EA may be addressed to Adel Hashad, P.E., HQ SMC/AXFV, 2420 Vela Way, Suite 1467, Los Angeles AFB, California 90245-4659, Telephone: (310) 363-0934, Fax: 1170, or e-mail to Adel.Hashad@losangeles.af.mil. The document will be available from January 25, 2001 through February 23, 2001.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 15 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Radisson Suite Hotel on South Memorial Parkway. For more information call Sgt. Maj. Bob Furia 842-9770.

Assistant manager

The Thrift Shop has a job opening for assistant manager. Requirements include knowledge in retail sales, data entry, computer, organizational skills and interfacing with volunteers and paid staff. Applications are available during business hours Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the store in building 3209 on Hercules Road. For more information, call Sheila 881-6992.

Retired officers

The Retired Officers Association (TROA) will hold its informal monthly breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Mullins Restaurant. For more information, call retired Lt. Col. Bill Aldrup Jr. 881-0652.

Cost analysts

The Greater Alabama Chapter of the Society of Cost Estimating and Analysis (SCEA) will hold a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 13 at the Holiday Inn-Madison Square Mall. Cost is \$10. For reservations call Paula Leu 313-4380 by 10 a.m. Friday.

Investment class

National Association of Investor's Corporation will sponsor a Beginning Investment class, Feb 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Eagles Club, 2500 10th St. SW, off Bob Wallace Avenue. The \$35 cost includes lunch. Advance registration is required as space is limited. NAIC is a non-profit organization which promotes investment education of individuals and investment clubs. For more information, call Carla Knight 842-8468.

Comptrollers society

American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) Redstone-Huntsville Chapter will hold its annual Mini-PDI, "Leadership in the New Millennium," March 7. The event is open to everyone, even those that are not in the comptroller field. The cost is \$45 for ASMC members and \$60 for non-members. Two separate half-day sessions will be offered, with a luncheon for the combined groups. Both sessions will be held at the Bob Jones Auditorium, with bus transportation provided to and from Trinity Personal Growth Center for the luncheon. Registrants should choose either: morning session (8-10:30 a.m.) and lunch following (10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.); and afternoon session (1-3:30 p.m.) and lunch prior (10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.). Special guest speaker at the luncheon will be retired Lt. Gen. Jim Link. Cutoff date for reservations is Feb. 28. For information and reservations, call Cherry Hovik 876-1696 or Kim Jean 876-7208.

Warrant officers

Redstone Arsenal Chapter, U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14 at Gibson's Barbecue, 3319 South Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Don St.Germain 890-3423.

Prayer breakfast

The next IMMC Nondenominational Prayer Breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. Feb. 20 at building 5308, room 8124 (conference room), Sparkman Center. No food or drinks will be served, but you may bring your own. Everyone is invited. For information call Clifton Canady 955-7224.

Fashion fair

Join the Officer and Civilian Women's Club for its Feb. 13, "Fashion Fair" luncheon. Enjoy a fashion coordinate and makeup seminar by Dillard's and Jewelry Exhibition by Alexander's Jewelry. Social hour begins at 10:30 a.m. For reservations call Pat Hevoroh for A-L at 772-4450 or Jen Anne Mance for M-Z at 895-2691.

Transporter of year

Nominations are sought for the Transportation Corps Active Duty Regimental Officer/Warrant Officer/Noncommissioned Officer/Civilian Transporter of the Year Award. Nomination packets must be forwarded by Feb. 21 to the following address: Commander, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Attention: AMSAM-PT-MO-AG-SPO, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35898-5193; or send e-mail to hamcw@redstone.army.mil. For more information, call the Regimental S-3, Office of the Chief of Transportation (757) 878-6103.

Logistics support symposium

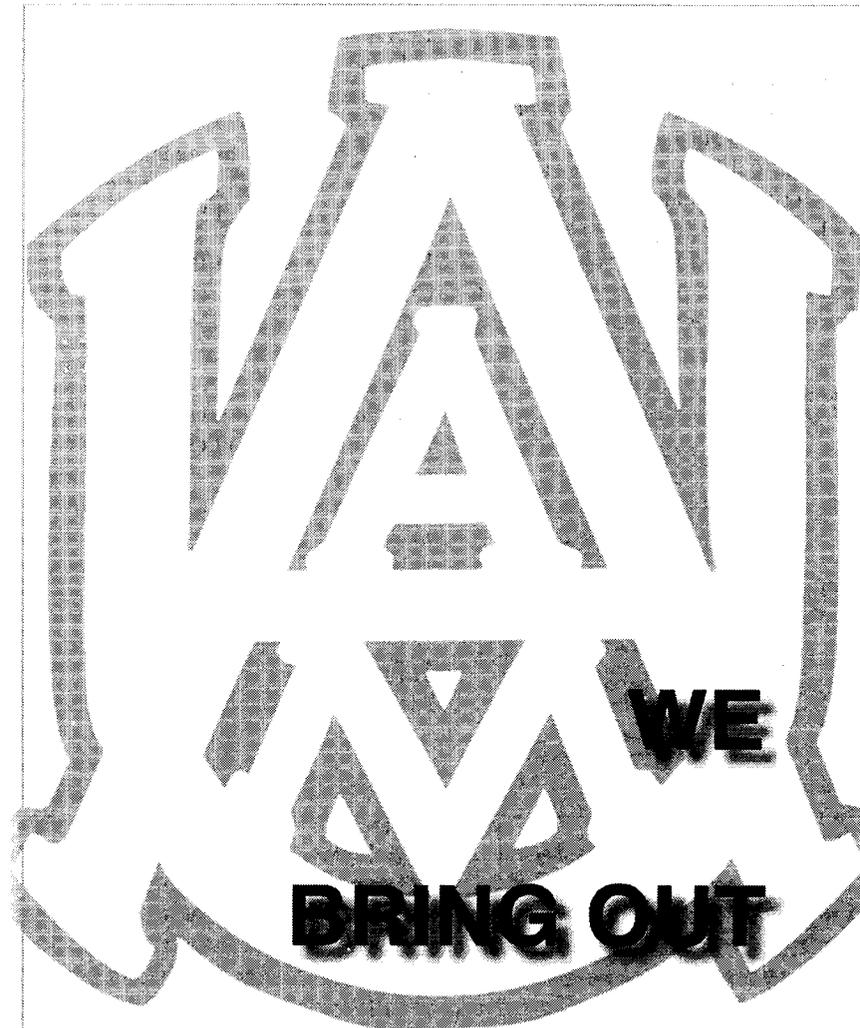
The Joint-Government/Industry Supportability Information Exchange Symposium 2001 will be held May 7-11 at the Bob Jones Auditorium and the Huntsville Hilton. Pre-registration is under way through April 9. Check and credit card payments are the only method of pre-registering for the \$75 fee. Cash payments will only be accepted at the door, and they will require the payment of a \$100 fee. For more information, call Emerson McAfee 955-0808.

Black history program

The Aviation and Missile Command will hold a Black History Month Program at 2 p.m. Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium. Scheduled speaker is Dr. Oscar Montgomery, pastor of Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church.

Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley, Catholic community at Bicentennial Chapel will hold a "marriage renewal" at 5 p.m. Saturday. Weekly mass is held at 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday.



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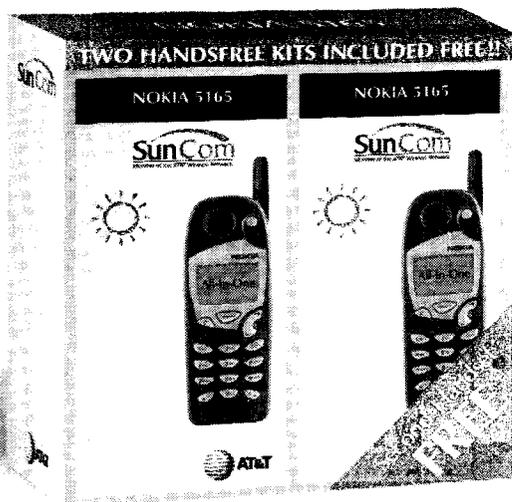
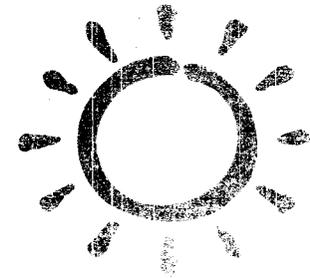
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