

Redstone Rocket

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July 4, 2001

Organizations thanked for most successful AER drive ever

Army Emergency Relief benefits from fund-raisers

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor

It's amazing what teamwork can do for a fund-raising campaign.

This year's Army Emergency Relief drive was the most successful ever for Redstone Arsenal. The \$80,398.83 total eclipsed the previous high achieved during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s when there was an outpouring of community support for the soldier.

AER, which began in 1942, had its most successful year at Redstone ever for peacetime or wartime. Organizations in the community were thanked in an awards ceremony June 26 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"It takes a team, and that's what we've got here at Redstone," Ann Owens, AER officer, said. "The team did it."

Some of the fund-raisers during the campaign included car washes, cookouts, a golf tournament, and an AER jail. "I really think it was because we had more key representatives and they were out there setting up these fund-raisers," Owens said of this year's success.

Many organizations stepped forward to sponsor events. Sixty-two awards were



Mary Petty/ Photo Lab

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN— Ann Owens is AER officer; and Capt. James Pittman was chairman of this year's Army Emergency Relief campaign.

presented to organizations during the ceremony.

"This is one of those unique communities in which everybody seems to work together," Capt. James Pittman, chairman for the 2001 drive, said. "And we proved that again in this campaign."

The campaign co-chairman, MSgt.

Mairlyn Johnson, is within two weeks of having her first baby so she missed the ceremony for medical reasons. Her husband, MSgt. Arthur Johnson, left for Korea at the beginning of the year. "She was with us till the very end," Owens said.

Pittman, operations officer for 832nd Ordnance Battalion, received an Army

Commendation Medal from Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal. Owens received an on-the-spot cash award signed by Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities.

"I was blessed to have been a part of it," Pittman said.

"I want to thank each and every person for that 50 cents, quarter up to that \$500; even that one dollar bill counts," Owens said of the AER contributions. "And I want to thank each and every one of them because that's what makes your job easier."

This was Sullivan's last AER ceremony as commanding general because he is retiring after more than 30 years of military service. He said those who work on next year's campaign will have to "aim high" after this year's success.

People eligible to receive Army Emergency Relief assistance include active duty soldiers and their family members, Army members of Reserve components on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their family members, retirees and their eligible family members, and widows and orphans of soldiers who died on active duty or after retirement.

"On behalf of all the people who will benefit from your great work over the next year, let me say thanks," Sullivan said.

Korean War veteran wishes U.S. a happy birthday

Service in segregated Army doesn't dampen patriotism

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer

Despite being drafted into the Army in 1943 – a time when black servicemen were often mistreated – John Sands is proud of the United States.

"If I had to put on a uniform and fight for my country today, I would do it. This is a wonderful country despite its ups and downs," Sands, a material handler who served his country in World War II and the Korean War, said.

"Even though I was drafted into the Army at the age of 17, I felt proud about fighting for my country – to serve my country for me was a wonderful thing," he said. "I still feel proud of that and my government service. Serving our Lord Jesus Christ and serving our fellow man and our

country – there's no greater service.

"It makes you feel special to have served. There's a lot of history people don't know about our servicemen and serving our great country. It's a great honor to be a part of that team... The freedom we find here, you don't find in other countries, believe me. This country's not perfect and we're not a perfect people. It saddens you along the way because being a black serviceman was not easy – a lot of people don't know that, black or white, but they don't want to open that wound."

He explained that although black men and women fought in the Spanish-American War and even through the Civil War, they often were thought of as property rather than human beings. Things were said throughout his Army and civil service career that hurt him, but he learned to think of all his friends, both black and white, and decided not to be bitter.

See Veteran on page 5



Photo by Beth Skarupa

PROUD TO SERVE— John Sands, right, a material handler who served in World War II and the Korean War, shows Mike Baker, command historian, the Korean War Service Medal he received in May.

Communicators mark 20th year

Make a toast

6

Auditor a certified fraud examiner

Puzzle solver

8

Ministry reaches out to inmates

Behind bars

12

Letters to the editor

Survey done on lab demo project

The AFGE Local 1858 recently sent out surveys regarding the AMCOM Research Development and Engineering Center (RDEC) Laboratory Demonstration Project Experiment. This survey consisted of one question to be answered and sent back to the union office no later than June 29. The question posed was "Are you in favor of extending the AMCOM RDEC Laboratory Demonstration Experiment (Paybanding) beyond August 2002?" If you are an employee of RDEC who is working under this demonstration project, this survey should be of great concern to you because it will probably become part of the comprehensive evaluations going on regarding this experiment. This demonstration project experiment was implemented Sept. 28, 1997. At the five-year point, the entire demonstration will be re-examined for either: (a) permanent implementation; (b) change and another 3-5 year test period, or (c) expiration. Please respond to these surveys because they could affect your future and the future of others at Redstone Arsenal.

The demonstration project (demo project) is supposed to provide a means for testing and introducing beneficial change in the government's human resources management systems. Office

of Personnel Management is authorized to waive the existing Federal Human Resources Management Law and regulations in Title 5, U.S. Code, and Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations to propose and develop, test and evaluate interventions for its own human resources management system that shape the future of federal human resource management. There are many waivers in connection with this demo project. These were listed in the June 27, 1997 Federal Register, part IX, titled "Required Waivers to Law and Regulation." Demonstration projects are supposed to address organizational needs and human resource management problems; however they are not designed to fit and fix all management problems in every federal agency. If you think that this project will be a benefit to the employees of RDEC, you should check "yes." If you feel that the continuation of this project or the permanent implementation of this project could pose serious consequences to you and the employees of RDEC, then check "no."

Ruth Easley
AMCOM employee

Editor's note: AFGE Local 1858 indicated it would accept responses to its survey after the June 29 deadline.

Aviation and Missile Command awaiting guidance on unit award

Your Army Superior Unit Award article, in the June 13 edition, says that civilians who were here during that period of time may wear the lapel pin and have the award noted in their official personnel file. My question is where does a civilian who does not have PX or military clothing store privileges acquire this lapel pin and how do you get this noted in your official personnel file?

Thank you for any information that you might be able to provide.

Johnny Head
RDEC

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response. "The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is awaiting guidance from the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) on how to procure lapel pins and document the Army Superior Unit Award in official personnel records for the thousands of eligible AMC and AMCOM civilians. Once instructions are received, the work force will be notified and actions will be taken as quickly as possible."

Shopper suggests using Earth bags

Why isn't DECA trying to persuade shoppers to use "Earth" bags? These are sturdy cotton bags, that are very strong, and reusable. I have been using mine for over 10 years, and wash them, every two weeks. I don't have the problem of a paper bag ripping and dumping my groceries in the driveway, nor what to do with a zillion plastic bags, also with the straps, I can carry 3 or 4 bags into my house, in one trip. Civilian stores usually offer a five-cent discount for each cloth bag, but they will hold more groceries than a plastic bag will.

Lynn Curry

Editor's note: The Redstone Commissary provided the following response. "Thanks for your economical, Earth-friendly suggestion! Actually, a Defense Commissary Agency directive encourages the practice of using customers' cloth bags when offered, so I appreciate

the reminder. We will ask the Redstone Rocket to run an occasional news brief, inviting patrons to bring clean, cloth bags for their groceries. Just be sure to present the bags to the bagger immediately before the bagging service begins. Reusing other types of bags would not work as well. Used plastic bags would slow down the bagging process, since these bags work most effectively from their rack on the check stand. Reusing paper bags can introduce a sanitation problem that cloth bags do not, since shoppers can launder their cloth bags. For your convenience, the commissary provides recycle bins for used plastic bags in support of the base recycling program. As for providing a few cents credit, this would not be possible. Unlike civilian grocers, your commissary sells groceries at cost, and your 5 percent surcharge goes toward improving stores and building new ones. Thanks for shopping!"

Take steps to make Fourth of July free of injuries from accidents

SAFETY OFFICE RELEASE

Independence Day celebrates the birthday of the United States of America. Founded July 4, 1776, with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, America is celebrating its 225th birthday this year.

The AMCOM Safety Office reminds all personnel to take the steps needed to have a safe holiday. Commanders and supervisors should provide personnel a pre-holiday/long weekend safety briefing. Suggested safety briefing topics to make your celebration of America's birthday safer include:

- Traveling. Remind personnel who plan to travel that safety checks to vehicles is essential. Don't just go through the motions - really look over your vehicle. Discuss fatigue as a killer and suggest rest stops at least every two hours. Stress the importance of using seat belts and not driving under the influence of alcohol.

- Heat stress. Remind personnel that heat stress injuries can range from painful

heat cramps to a deadly heat stroke. Discuss preventive measures such as drinking plenty of water and resting in a cool or shaded place. Stress the importance of seeking medical attention immediately when heat injuries are suspected.

- Water activities. Remind personnel, whether it is a dip in the backyard pool or a swim in the ocean, always follow the rules on water safety. Discuss the numerous hazards associated with water activities. Stress that the risks of unsafe water activities can result in drowning.

- Fireworks. Discuss playing it safe with fireworks. Stress watching the experts set off the fireworks at public displays rather than taking the risks amateurs face when "playing with fire."

The AMCOM Safety Office wishes everyone a safe and healthful holiday weekend! Take a few minutes to consider the hazards of the holiday and what you can do to avoid them. Commit to making this holiday free of injuries.

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Spotlight on progress



Work force gets update on personnel processes

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor

All but one of the command's initial steps toward improving its personnel processes have been implemented so far. The 12 so-called "Quick Hit" items, approved June 11 by the command's board of directors, are in response to rec-

ommendations from an independent study by Booz-Allen & Hamilton. Members of the Aviation and Missile Command received an update in a Personnel Management Processes Progress Report Meeting held June 27 and again June 28 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

The only item awaiting implementation involves ensuring "personnel management" objectives are established in supervisors' performance standards. This will take longer to do since there are several hundred managers and supervisors at AMCOM, according to Don Dixon, chief of Customer Support B in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

See Progress on page 4



Photo by Skip Vaughn

OFFICIAL EXPLANATION— Don Dixon of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center answers a question during the Personnel Management Processes Progress Report Meeting, June 27 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Missile school says goodbye to leader

After 28 years of service Taylor retires, relinquishes role as school commandant

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer

It could only be described as an event with mixed emotions. Col. Stephen C. Taylor retired from the position of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School commandant and the 59th

Ordnance Brigade commander and turned over the reins of responsibility to Col. David A. Hafele in a change of command ceremony June 29.

Hundreds of soldiers from the Arsenal and Fort Gordon, Ga., along with Marines, lined the parade field on Patton Road to allow Taylor to inspect OMMCS troops one last time before changing command and retiring.

Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson,
See Change on page 4



Photo by Sgt. Sharon McBride

ONE LAST TIME— Col. Stephen Taylor stands before the soldiers and Marines of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School during the change of command June 29. After 28 years of service, Taylor retired and turned over the role of commandant and commander of the 59th Ordnance Brigade to Col. David A. Hafele.

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PEARL HARBOR (PG13)	12:30-4:15-8:00
SWORDFISH (R)	12:15-2:30-4:45-7:15-9:45

Quick hit items represent step in journey

Progress

continued from page 3

"All the other 11 have been implemented," Dixon said.

Charlie Barnes, of the Quick Hits Integrated Process Team, outlined the following approved items. "Our commitment to this process is to continue to recommend improvements that will make this a better place to work for all AMCOM employees," he said.

Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal,

answered questions from workers during the two-hour meeting. In response to one question, he stressed that the 12 quick hits do not represent a final destination in the improvement process.

"What we've done is another step in the journey," Sullivan said.

Here are the 12 quick hit items:

- Brief work force on the current merit promotion processes and the campaign plan to address the Booz-Allen & Hamilton recommendations.
- Publicize (in one source) information about current application processes.
- Post the names of selectees for jobs

onto the CPAC web site within five business days of CPAC/Civilian Personnel Operations Center approval, and ensure letters of notification are mailed to each non-selectee.

- Request South Central CPOC to include the selection notification web site in AMCOM Redstone Arsenal job announcements.

- Develop a checklist of required selection documentation indicating who maintains what documents and for how long.

- Use the selection checklist in each selection. The selecting official and reviewer must sign the checklist; and the signed checklist and supporting documentation will be forwarded to CPAC with the referral list.

- Provide selection criteria to CPAC prior to issuance of a referral list. Selection criteria must be pre-approved by the next higher-level supervisor.

- Obtain approval of interview questions from the higher-level supervisor prior to use.

- Require non-disclosure statements for all interviewees and panel members.

- Ensure "Personnel Management" objectives are established in supervisors' performance standards.

- Remind the work force that selecting officials are required to debrief non-selected candidates, upon request.

- Publicize (in one source) information on the current appeals and redress processes.

New commandant arrives at missile school

Change

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chief of Ordnance, was on hand for the event and said goodbye to Taylor. Stevenson said that Taylor was a well-known soldier and leader whose accomplishments greatly benefited present and future servicemembers of the Ordnance Corps and he welcomed a new face and commander to OMMCS, Hafele.

"Today we are celebrating both an ending and a beginning," Stevenson said. The official ceremony marked the end of Tay-

lor's 28-year military career. "It was no accident that he was selected for this assignment... His motto, 'What have you done for the soldier today' will remain the work ethic for many years to come in this organization... We do not say goodbye, we say 'Godspeed' as you start on a different journey."

"My remarks today will in no way come close to expressing the significant gratitude that I feel today," Taylor said. "My sole purpose today is to say thank you to each and everyone that had a part in my success here at Redstone Arsenal."

Taylor thanked the many soldiers and civilians that make up the staff and cadre

of OMMCS and the many other tenant organizations located on Redstone that support the mission of the school. Taylor also said special thanks to his wife, family and friends who often had to make sacrifices during his military career.

"I never would have made it at all without you," he said. "And I promise I'll try to slow down the 'Army walk' that you often complain about (being so fast)."

Taylor was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptional service and achievement as the commandant of OMMCS and the 59th Ordnance Brigade commander. He also received his certificate of retirement for 28 years of active federal service. His wife, Becky, was also honored. She received the Outstand-

ing Civilian Service Medal and the Department of the Army's Certificate of Appreciation in honor of her husband's retirement. She also was officially given the title of "OMMCS Ordnance Lady," for her selfless service and commitment to the OMMCS family. After retirement, the Taylors have plans to stay in the Huntsville area.

Hafele is a native of Alabama and most recently served as commander, AMC Forward Europe in Germany. With him he brings his wife, Barbara, and their son, Cassidy.

"It's an honor and a privilege to assume the role of commandant here at OMMCS and command of the 59th Ordnance Brigade," Hafele said.

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Travel pay information available on new web site

DFAS-SL RELEASE

Defense Finance and Accounting Service in St. Louis has debuted a new customer service tool on its web site.

The tool is a link to travel pay information. It's at the following address: <https://portal.ssg.gunter.af.mil/tpq2/>. The information is updated daily, contains travel information from May 1 to present, and the information will stay in the database for 90 days before being removed.

In the past, if inquiring about a submitted travel voucher, the customer would have to contact the customer service department, and have a customer service representative research the information.

Now, after filing a travel voucher, the traveler can access such information as: if the voucher was received, the date payment will be made, and the amount of the payment.

With the click of the mouse, the information is at hand, and can be queried in three different ways: by Social Security number, by SSN and travel order number, or by SSN and dates traveled.

"Our goal is to provide the highest quality of accurate and timely service to our customers," Pam Regensburger, chief of travel, DFAS-SL, said. "Currently the travel office is experiencing a time of personnel shortage."

Hopefully with this new tool on the

web site, calls to customer service concerning the status of a submitted voucher will be reduced to allow the customer service representatives time to contact customers who have submitted a voucher with missing documentation or discrepancies.

Due to this personnel shortage and the desire to service customers in a timely manner, a new policy was initiated June 11. If there is a discrepancy on a voucher, two attempts will be made to contact the traveler via telephone. If no one is contacted, the voucher will either be returned or will be short paid. If the traveler includes his or her e-mail address on page 2 of the 1351-2, Block 29: Remarks, this

would speed up the process and prevent the return or short pay of the voucher.

The travel pay information web site is already deemed a success. With several DFAS sites now reporting information to it, the number of hits against the site is up to 13,933 as of June 20. As with all new technology, DFAS-SL has experienced a few glitches, but has worked through them. If you have traveled in the last 30 days and are paid through DFAS-SL, give the web site a try. If you experience any difficulties, or have any suggestions on how to improve the site, let the agency know by sending an e-mail to sue.hoff@dfas.mil.

John Sands proud to be an American

Veteran

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"All of us are human beings here and - even though our skin is different - all our blood is red. God created us with blood all of us can use. There are different types of blood, but it would take a pretty sick person who needs to ask if this is a white person's blood or a black person's blood," he said. "I'm a proud person to be an American."

Sands received a Korean War Service Medal, May 25. Kim Dae-jung, the president of the Republic of Korea, awarded the service medal on the 50th anniversary of the Korean War in appreciation for all the soldiers did for his country. A letter accompanying the medal expressed his wish to "honor and reaffirm" their friendship.

"To me it was a wonderful thing to receive something of this nature for my service. For a country to think enough of the service personnel to do something like this, it showed they cared about us being a service to their country," Sands said.

When Sands arrived in Korea in 1954,

the main part of the war was over. He worked with an ordnance ammunition battalion salvaging some ammunition and destroying the rest by demolition.

"Coming from Europe it was sort of a strange setting and the people we were living with were so much different," he said. "They had dirt floors with tunnels underneath so the fire they used to cook with would heat the whole house. It was neat the way they did it. They had small tables they sat at to eat and mats to sleep on the floor. The floors would stay hot all night.

"Food was really scarce and they ate a small amount of rice and some dried fish and they could live off that. Americans hadn't learned to live that way... I never was able to eat it all and such. But I enjoyed being there and all. It was a learning experience to see a different culture and how they practice their religion and the way they do their worship."

Sands came away from the experience in Korea with a better understanding of the culture and several friends he kept in touch with for years. He arrived at Redstone Arsenal in 1955 and stayed here as a

government employee once he retired from the Army. Between his Army service and civil service, he has served a total of 53 years.

He had a break in service from 1946-53 when he worked for Chrysler transporting cars from Indiana to Georgia, but decided to join the Army again because he wanted to go overseas again. He said he was returning from a job in Stone Mountain, Ga., when he met an Army convoy. Something about seeing the men in uniform made him go to an Army recruiter to re-enlist.

When he first entered the Army, white servicemen and black servicemen were on two sides of post. Today it's "just one big Army and that's a beautiful thing," he said. He has been happy to call Redstone Arsenal home since 1955.

"This is a friendly post, a caring post. The family at Redstone Arsenal will come together for you," he said. "I lost two wives to cancer and it was my church family and the Redstone family that were there to pull me through."



Photo by Beth Skarupa

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Toastmasters Communicators Club inducts officers for 20th year

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor

This wasn't a typical Toastmasters meeting. Sure, there were the usual speeches and evaluations of speeches and evaluations of the evaluators. But this was

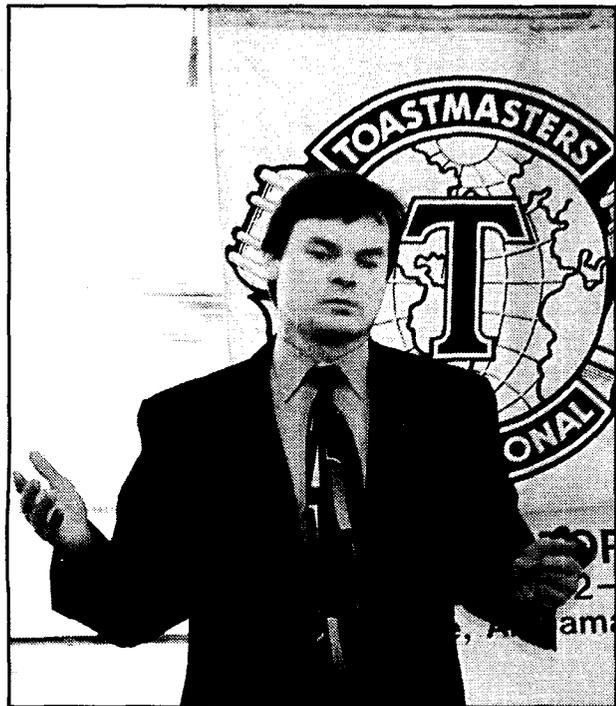


Photo by Skip Vaughn

NEW PRESIDENT— Richard Wilson addresses the members after becoming president of Communicators Club No. 4562.

different; and the refreshments were an obvious clue.

Toastmasters International, Communicators Club No. 4562 celebrated its 20th anniversary at its lunchtime meeting Thursday in Sparkman Center building 5304. The club also inducted new officers.

"We've had a wonderful year, and I thank everybody for your participation," Elizabeth Callahan, outgoing president, told the members.

Callahan, a contract specialist at Space and Missile Defense Command, turned over the gavel to Richard Wilson, the new president.

"It takes all of us to achieve those possibilities that we can attain if we work together," said Wilson, who does systems management for System Studies and Simulation Inc., a NASA contractor.

The other new officers of the 24-member club include Ron Legowik, vice president for education; Tim Allston, vice president for membership; Jae Steele, vice president for public relations; Rich Mason, sergeant at arms; Ted Mebane, secretary; and Jillion Gant, treasurer.

"Toastmasters has a public speaking track as well as a leadership track," Callahan told a visitor. "Most people identify it with just the speaking, they think it's just public speaking."

Callahan gave a seven-minute speech on "Creating the Best Club Climate"; and Legowik spoke for 12 minutes on "The Beginning of an Anniversary." Legowik's talk was voted best speech.

"Overall this was an excellent meeting," Mebane concluded. The Toastmasters even evaluate their meetings.

Redstone water gets clean bill of health

The Directorate of Environmental Management has completed the installation's 2001 Drinking Water Quality Report and announces that Redstone's drinking water meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements.

Environmental Management has made the report available to residents on Redstone Arsenal through the U.S. Postal Service and to installation personnel and organizations via the Redstone web page: https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/rasa/whats_new/water.rtf.

President Clinton announced the U. S. Environmen-

tal Protection Agency's new drinking water right-to-know initiative, the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule, in 1998. The rule requires that all community water supply systems prepare annual drinking water quality reports for their consumers.

These CCRs will enable individuals to make practical and knowledgeable decisions about their health and their environment. You are encouraged to review the CCR. If you have any questions or comments regarding this report call Eugene Daniels at Directorate of Environmental Management, Installation Compliance Division, 955-7591.

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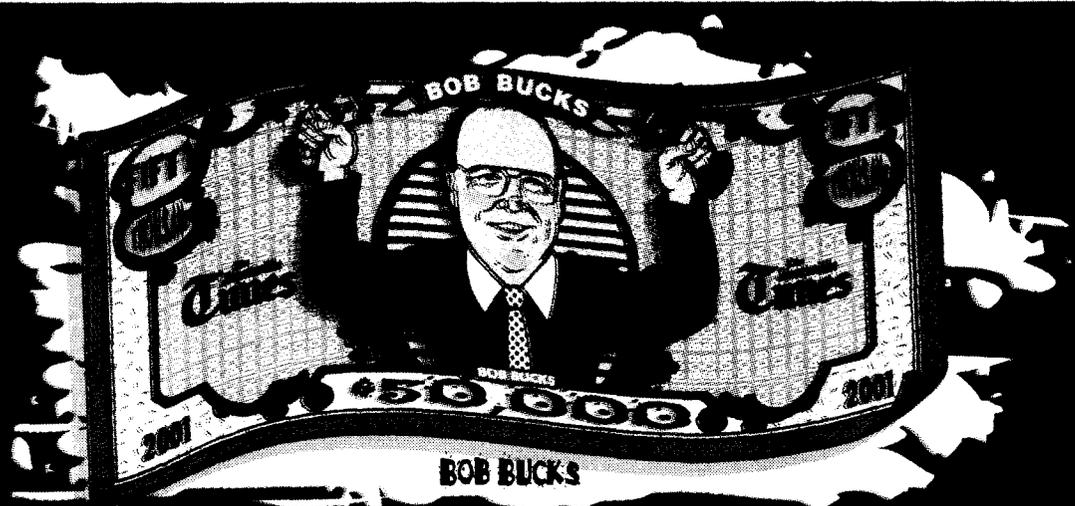
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Auditor says investigating fraud cases is like solving puzzle

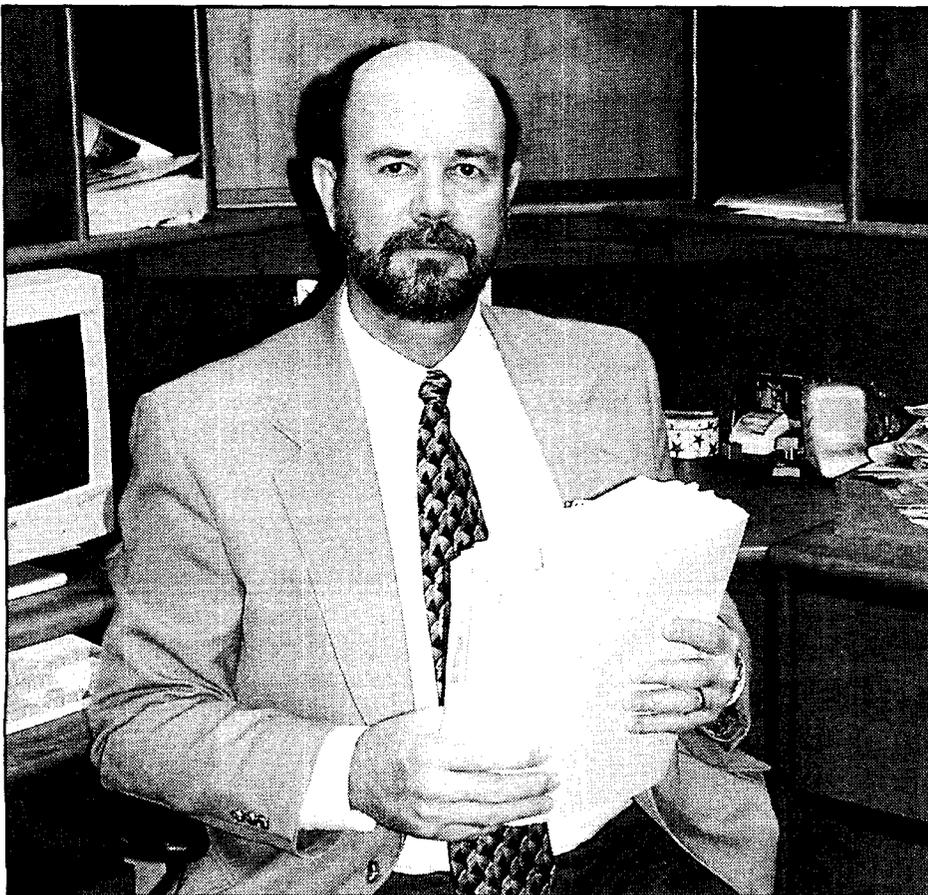


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE— Redstone auditor Hal Cook checks files page by page looking for clues during a fraud investigation. Cook earned the Certified Fraud Examiner Designation in June after completing six months of extensive study.

Investigation work leads to certification status

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer

To catch a thief, you have to think like a criminal. That's what makes Hal Cook's job interesting.

"My first audit involved embezzlement," Cook said. "My dad was the chief of police so I guess I've always been interested in solving crimes. It's a test of wits to get inside the perpetrator's mind and think, 'If I were in this job, with this responsibility, access to these records and of a mind to steal something, how would I go about it?' Usually there's a record. I just have to figure out where to find it."

Cook is an auditor with the Internal Review and Audit Compliance office at Redstone. It was that first case three and a half years ago that set him on the path to specialize in fraud cases. In June he earned the designation of certified fraud examiner from the professional organization, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

"With a command this size and the kind of mission we have, I suspect there are dozens of fraud schemes going on," Cook said. "The good news is that because of the type of business we're in,

most of them can be traced. It's on the books somewhere."

Fraud at AMCOM, according to Cook, would most likely occur within divisions handling procurement, contracting, purchasing or smaller cases of credit card abuse, and activities that handle a lot of cash throughout the command.

"It's like working a puzzle," Cook said. "The evidence is here. You just have to look hard enough and deep enough and use your imagination. And we have a good working relationship with CID (Criminal Investigation Division) and agent Janet Salas for auditing and investigation. That helps."

Since joining the IRAC office, Cook has worked five or six fraud cases. Although none have led to criminal prosecution, some cases have been founded.

The Aviation and Missile Command has more problems with waste than fraud, according to Cook. There are no incentives for spending wisely. In fact, there are disincentives because offices know that if they don't spend all their money by the end of the year, they won't get as much next year.

"Fraud is not all I do," Cook said. "There are lots of times organizations request audits before an outside agency

See Auditor on page 9

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Southwest Research Institute, a nonprofit applied research and development organization, has immediate openings for a Sr. Research Analyst/Research Analyst in the Electronic Integration and Information Technology division in Huntsville, Alabama.

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North Patton Road widening to four lanes

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Work is continuing on the pavement milling and resurfacing of Patton Road between Gate 10 and Gate 4. Once the project is completed, under the contract with Shelby Contracting Company Inc., the existing three-lane roadway will be widened to four lanes.

In general the work will involve pavement widening along both sides of the existing roadway. In addition to the required milling and resurfacing within the limits of the existing pavement, other incidental work will be accomplished. This work includes curb and gutter construction, work on drainage structures and culvert extensions, reshaping shoulders, slopes and ditches, and minor

utility adjustments.

The work is scheduled to progress in three phases. The first phase, which started June 27, required closing the existing northbound lane and diverting this traffic to the center lane. The necessary pavement widening, culvert extension, shoulder work, and final site preparation along the east side is expected to take an estimated 44 calendar days. A transitional phase will involve moving traffic from the west side to the completed east side. Milling and resurfacing work will occur in the center lane and when the two eastern lanes are complete traffic will be diverted to them. Estimated completion time for this phase is seven calendar days. A final phase will

begin with the existing west lane being closed and the surface milled. The required widening of the west side will be completed similarly to the construction just completed on the opposite side. Completion of this phase, which includes permanent striping and reflectors, is expected to last 70 calendar days.

When the project is complete, motorists will travel on two inbound lanes and two outbound lanes similar to Patton Road outside Gate 10. The reversible lane concept will no longer be used and the overhead lane lights will be removed. Your patience and safe driving is encouraged and appreciated to ensure the construction in this roadway project occurs as efficiently and safely as possible.

■ Auditor certified as fraud examiner

Auditor

continued from page 8

comes in to do one. Sometimes the command group will initiate an audit. An audit can pinpoint a breakdown in management controls.

"Most people are honest," he said. "They want to do a good job. There is a relatively small percentage of people that would defraud their employer."

Cook has 29 years in government service but only the last three and a half as an auditor. He came to Huntsville from St. Louis in 1997 with the strategic planning

office and later that year moved to the IRAC office.

He began working on the self-paced computerized course for his specialty certification in December. As a prerequisite, Cook had to file an application including work experience, education, character references and other personal information. His application packet had to be reviewed and approved before he could begin the course. A minimum of 50 hours of study is required before the final exam can be taken.

After passing the exam, his study materials, exam and application were reviewed again by a panel of professionals

within the association before the certification was awarded.

"Having the certification affects me in two ways, really," Cook said. "It will ensure I get the kinds of audits that I'm most interested in doing — the kinds of cases that fascinate me. And if I chose to retire someday, it will help me get post-retirement work."

Auditors are encouraged to gain spe-

cialties. The most well known is the certified public accountant but there are all sorts of areas of expertise.

Cook is the only fraud specialist in the IRAC office of 16 auditors. He is married to Carol, a contract employee at SAIC, who works at PEO Aviation. The couple have three daughters, Shannon, an attorney, Erin a school teacher and Allison, a college student.

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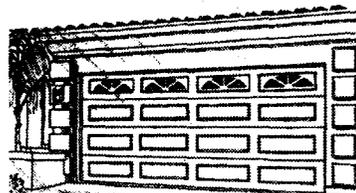
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Army completes first CH-47F Chinook flight

The Army launched a new chapter in the history of the Chinook helicopter program, June 25.

The first CH-47F Chinook prototype heavy-lift helicopter successfully completed its first flight at the Boeing Helicopters facility located at Ridley Park, Pa. The flight, which involved hover and basic flight maneuvers, capped a series of aircraft system checks leading to first flight as scheduled in the Improved Cargo Helicopter engineering and manufacturing development contract signed three years ago.

Lt. Col. Newman Shufflebarger, CH-47F product manager, attended this milestone event. Other attendees and participants included the CH-47F Combined Test Team, consisting of personnel from the Cargo Helicopters PMO, Aviation and Missile Command, Research Development and Engineering Center, Aviation

Technical Test Center at Fort Rucker, and Boeing Helicopters.

The ICH program will extend the life of the CH-47 fleet well into the 21st century. The remanufacturing process includes rebuilding the aircraft airframe, improving mission performance through technology insertion and reducing aircraft vibrations to provide for long-term Operating and Support cost reductions. The CH-47F also includes newly designed and improved avionics with integrated digital mission management systems and a digital map (glass cockpit). In addition, the aircraft will be configured with the more powerful T55GA-714A gas turbine engine.

The ICH program will convert approximately 300 of the Army's CH-47D helicopters to the CH-47F configuration. Upcoming milestone events include aircraft Developmental Testing, Operational Testing, and Low Rate Initial Production.



Courtesy photo

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED—The CH-47F, in development for the last three years, made its first flight June 25.



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832nd Ordnance Battalion gains new commander

Lt. Col. Craig Cotter arrives for his second Redstone tour

By Sgt. SHARON McBRIDE
Staff writer

With the traditional passing of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion colors, Col. John Wright relinquished command of the 832nd to Lt. Col. Craig Cotter in a ceremony Thursday.

Soldiers, civilians and family members were all on hand to wish Wright the best of luck at his new assignment as the professor of military science/battalion commander at the University of North Alabama and to welcome his successor.

Col. Stephen Taylor, OMMCS commandant and 59th Ordnance Brigade commander, was on hand to give kudos to Wright and to wish Cotter the best for his new assignment at Redstone.

"John Wright has been a tremendous commander," Taylor said to a large crowd packed into the Redstone Fitness Center. Wright's many accomplishments during his command included successfully managing an unprecedented number of students attending school at the Arsenal, and renovating the old post theater into the Ordnance ordained Heritage Hall.

"At one point we were thinking of

sending students home with cadre so that they would have a place to sleep, but thank goodness it never came to that," Taylor said. "The creation of the Heritage Hall was his idea. He saw a place where we could preserve the rich tradition of the Ordnance Corps."

During his last speech to the 832nd, Wright was quick to credit all the soldiers and civilians that make up the staff and cadre of the battalion and to credit them for his successful tenure as battalion commander.

"Each and every one of them have contributed to the path of excellence for that school that enables us to take care of each and every soldier and their families," Wright said.

"Today we welcome Lt. Col. Cotter," Wright said. "Each soldier you see standing before you represents the present and the future of the Ordnance Corps. We train the best Ordnance Corps soldiers in the world."

And as he addressed the 832nd for the last time he said, "To all (of you) for the last time, 'Steadfast with support, and Go Ordnance!'"

Before coming to the 832nd, Cotter was the munitions manager for the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. This will be Cotter's second tour at Redstone. As a young offi-

cer he was assigned to the 515th Ordnance Company where he served as platoon leader and executive officer. He complet-

ed his tour at Redstone as the brigade S-4, 269th Ordnance Brigade from January to November 1987.



Photo by Sgt. Sharon McBride

NEW FACE AT 832nd— Lt. Col. Craig Cotter meets soldiers of the 832nd Ordnance Battalion at a reception held after the change of command ceremony June 28. Lt. Col. John Wright relinquished command and is moving on to become the professor of military science/battalion commander at the University of North Alabama.

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Redstone workers spend weekend in prison

Kairos prison ministry holds hope for inmates

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer

For inmates at the Limestone Correctional Facility, getting to attend a Kairos weekend literally means winning the lottery. Hundreds of inmates sign up to attend the ministry weekend held on the prison grounds but only 42 are selected. Good behavior abounds prior to the weekend

because misconduct could cost a man his chance at Kairos.

The inmates are honest about why they want to go so badly. It isn't learning about the love of Jesus. It isn't the praise and worship. It isn't getting to spend time with visitors from "the outside." It's the cookies; thousands and thousands of cookies plus home cooking for every meal during the three-day event. It's enough to make even the most hardened criminal go soft.

"Most of them will tell you, they come for the food," said Bob Jernigan, Kairos

team member and leader of the Kairos team that ministered to a group of inmates from the Honor Dorm at the prison last fall. Jernigan, a logistics engineer with Tec-Masters Inc. in Huntsville, serves in the local chapter of the Kairos Ministry program. "But they'll also tell you that they get so much more than they bargained for by the end of the weekend. To see these men transformed in front of your eyes — it's a miracle. It's only something that the love of God can do."

The motivation for the inmates is obvious but what about the motivation for the 60-member Kairos team that spends months in preparation for a three-day weekend in prison?

"It's a calling from God," Jernigan said. "And making the choice to follow it."

Jernigan has been working Kairos weekends since 1996, when, after completing a spiritual journey of his own, he opened his heart to the possibility of working in prison ministry. To be a team leader, or rector, it was Jernigan's responsibility to choose the 60 or so people that would work his weekend.

"As a rector, you do a lot of praying about the team," Jernigan said. "I put up a

lot of names before God that had no leading. But I felt very strong about asking Jim (Flinn) to be on the team. I knew how busy he was and that this takes a great deal of time and effort but I really felt led to ask him."

"When Bob contacted me, everything was standing in the way," Jim Flinn, deputy to the commanding general, AMCOM, said. "Somehow the Lord just took everything out of the way for me to do it."

Kairos weekends are generally held four times a year at the Limestone prison. Since the prison population is male, all the Kairos members serving for the Kairos weekend are male. The kitchen staff can be either male or female because the meals are prepared off-site and brought to the prison. Jernigan's wife, Diane, has served on the kitchen staff for several Kairos weekends.

Team members come from all denominations. Rectors have access to a data base of roughly 500 local people, about half who are affiliated with Redstone, interested in serving on a Kairos team. Once the team of 60 is assembled, which includes a kitchen staff of at least seven, they meet

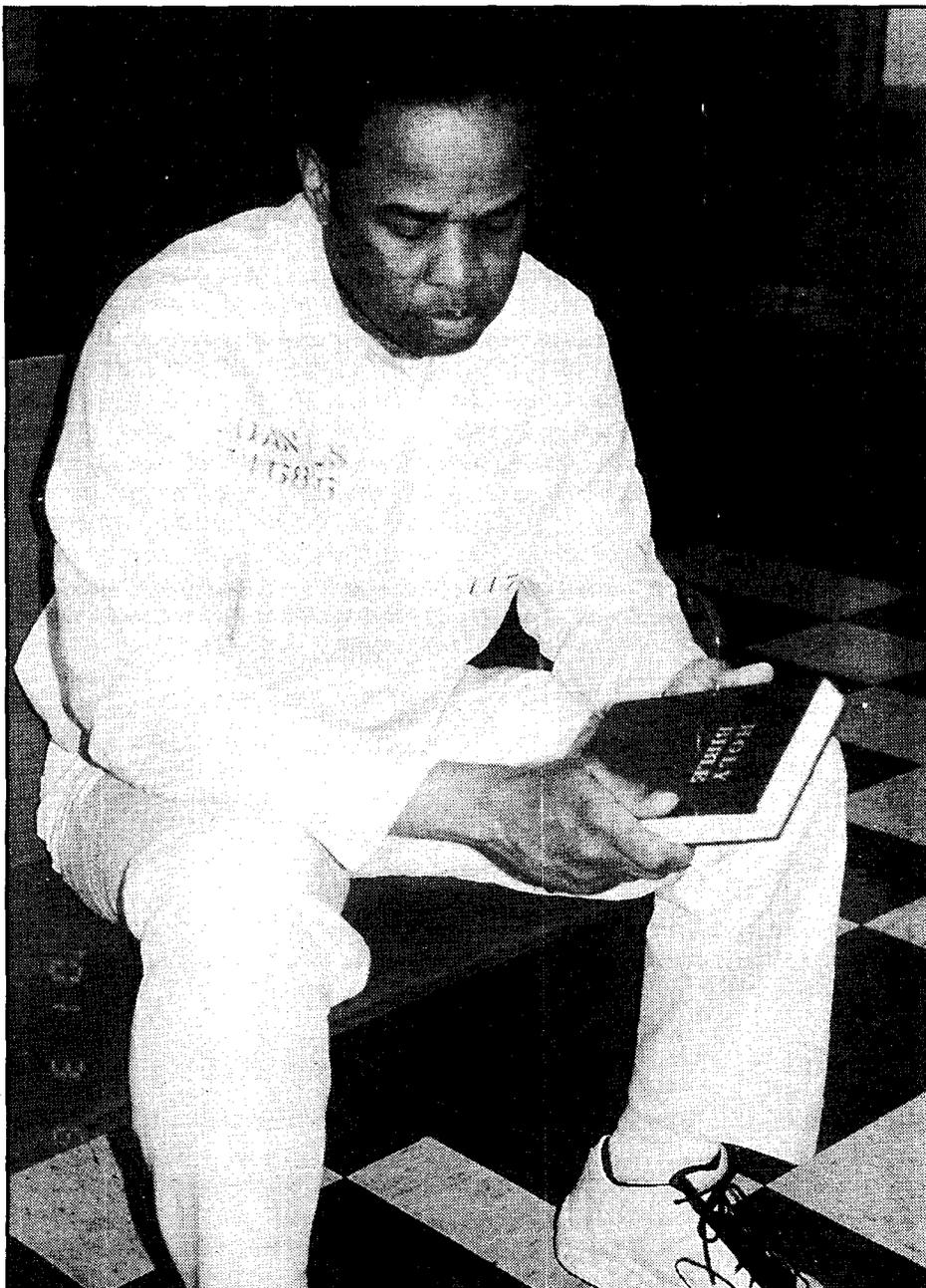


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

WALKING THE TALK— Inmate Jerome Daniels life was changed by a Kairos weekend in 1993. Since then he's been sharing the gospel with other inmates, serving in the chapel and tending the sick inmates.

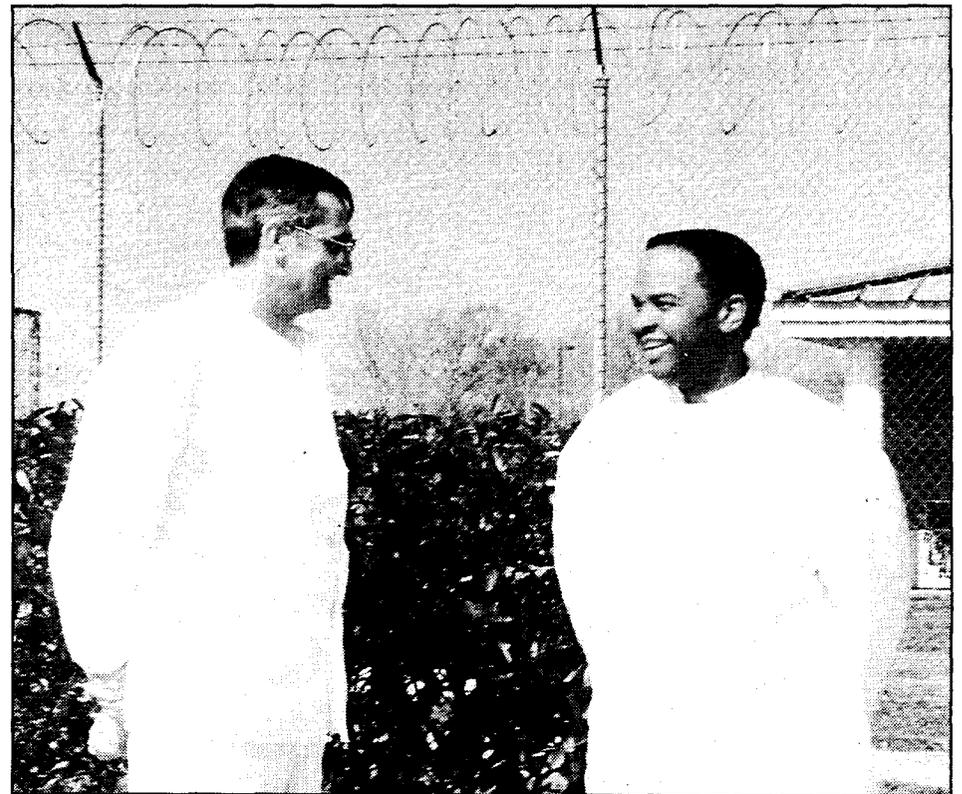


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS— Chaplains assistants Melvin Pope, right, and Jerome Daniels volunteer to serve at Kairos weekends held inside the Limestone state prison four times a year.

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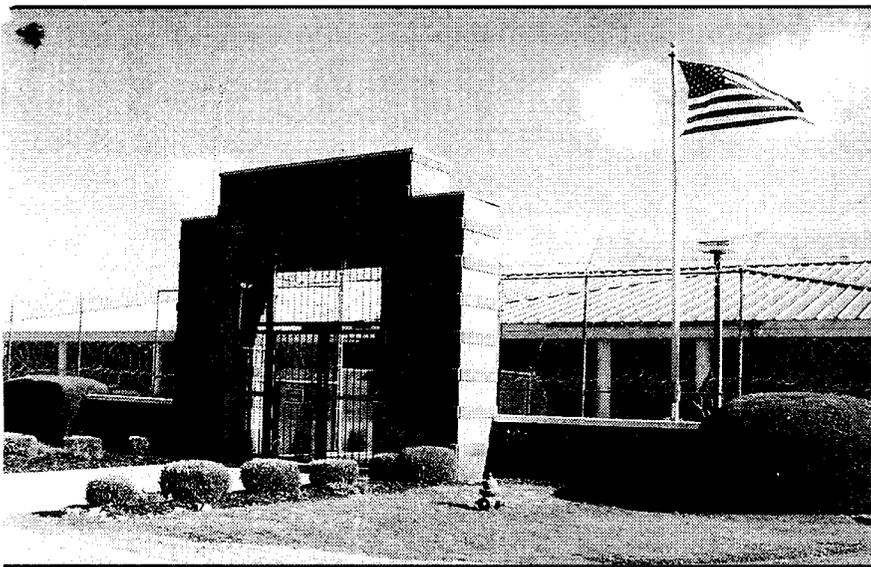


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

IND BARS— The Kairos Prison Ministry program sends teams of people into prisons across the country and around the world to share the Christian faith with inmates.

a week for eight weeks prior to the end. During these sessions they study the lines of the program and how to confront themselves and the meetings but importantly, they learn to work with others.

"We use this time to mold as a team," Jerome said. "To let us see each other's vulnerabilities. To teach us to let God take control. We have to go in as a team, ready to show the unconditional love of Jesus to others in prison. We can't judge. We ask why they're in jail. Many times inmates open up and share with us but not really the important thing. It's all about God's love; about loving others as you love yourself."

Team members have to put aside judgment to be effective. Inmates in the program come from all walks of life, murderers, thieves, drug dealers, each with their own hurts and vulnerabilities. Working with the crime that put them in prison. The Kairos mission is to bring love to every person with the hope that once they receive this unconditional love, they are able to love themselves, others, and live a new life in Christ.

During the weekends the 42 inmates are divided into groups of six. Three staff workers are assigned to each group. The nine people sit at a round table and give presentations then have discussion and a time for personal sharing. Each presentation offers a different perspective of Christianity. There's also time for meditation and praise and worship.

Each team member is responsible to bring 20 dozen cookies for the weekend. Each member also writes a letter to every inmate, by name, participating in the program. Other gifts of love to the inmates include placemats and place mats created by Sun-High school children.

"I still have the family letters I got from my first Kairos weekend," said Jerome. He is an inmate and chaplain's assistant at

Limestone Correctional Facility. "In Alabama, you only get to attend one Kairos weekend. Mine was in 1993. I can't tell you how that changed my life. I wasn't used to all that hugging and sharing but by the fourth day, I was done in. But now that I'm sold out to Christ, I have a responsibility to share Him with others. Everybody has that responsibility, no matter where you are."

Daniels is one of several inmates that volunteer to serve the Kairos team during the weekend, which begins late Thursday evening and ends with a "closing" on Sunday afternoon. Because of his service to the program for the past several years, he was presented with a certificate from Kairos naming him an honorary rector — something Daniels cherishes.

"Kairos has a powerful, calming effect on the whole institution," Charles Baggett, chaplain at the Limestone prison, said. "I've seen it change the lives of so many people."

Inmate Melvin Pope was one such person. He was, in fact, so troubled that the warden requested he attend a Kairos weekend.

"I wasn't really looking for anything when I went," Pope said. "But it showed me that there are people out there who care for us. Strangers who want to make life better for you... Well, not many people want to give up a weekend to spend time in prison but they do it out of love. Kairos put me on the right path."

Pope has for many years served at Kairos weekends. He also assists the chaplain with religious services throughout the week and does much of the paperwork for the chaplain's office.

Prisons have strict rules about what can be brought in and taken out of their facilities. Kairos members can't do special favors for inmates like mail letters or make phone calls or give gifts. Even the slightest gift could cause an uproar among the population.

Kairos delivers food, letters, placemats, and the love of Christ.

See Kairos on page 14

Doing time without committing a crime

Ministering to inmates' loved ones encourages families to stay together

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer

Angie Brown, a retired Redstone Arsenal employee, used to go into Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women and minister to the inmates through a program called Kairos prison ministry. She was there to bring the inmates hope and understanding, yet time and again she heard the women stand up and tell how their relatives, friends, co-workers, even their churches had shunned them. She knew it was important for the inmates to have support from their family members, so she decided to do something about it.

Kairos Outside is a non-profit ministry designed to support adult female family members of men and women who are or who have been incarcerated. Brown and Kathleen Drake of Birmingham co-founded Kairos Outside of Alabama more than five years ago. Wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and female relatives of those who have been incarcerated in the country's state or federal correctional facilities or who are in county jails awaiting trial or in youth offender programs, may attend a Kairos Outside weekend.

"We knew there was a need. We'd get up there (during the Kairos prison ministry weekends at Tutwiler) and it was such a good program, but these women would get up and talk about how their family had stopped coming to see them," Brown said.

During a Kairos Outside weekend, guests have a chance to interact with other women who are in similar situations and learn how to form small groups to support and give them strength to sustain them throughout life. The weekend provides an opportunity to explore their relationship with God and to have some fun, too. The program is interspersed with music, prayer, activities and "surprises to make them know they are cared for," according to Brown.

A Kairos team of 30 women, two clergywomen and five men who work in the kitchen presents the weekends. All team members have made similar Christian weekends such as a Cursillo, Emmaus or Kairos weekend and come from many different Christian denominations throughout the state. Some of the team members have had incarcerated loved ones themselves. All team members believe that the spouses, parents and other relatives of the incarcerated often "do time" along with their loved ones.

"As a parent you go through this guilt thing and think it's your fault, but it's not

your fault. It was your family member's choice to do what they did to end up in jail. You didn't do it," Brown said. "We affirm that it's OK to have a family member in jail. A lot of their other family members won't be bothered with it. They won't visit the person incarcerated and they just stop talking to the ones left outside, too."

'I feel very passionate about this ministry, I really do. To watch these women, sometimes I feel like it's a miracle. It is a miracle.'

— Phyllis Gibat
Catholic parish assistant

Although Kairos Outside weekends are only twice a year, the ministry continues year-round. Advertising and planning for the weekends takes months and two reunion sessions are scheduled each year as well. Team members turn to their churches to raise funds for the program because the weekend guests attend free of charge. If guests need help to pay for babysitting or even for transportation to the weekend, Kairos Outside will provide it. Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel has been involved with the program since 1997.

"As I became involved with Kairos Outside, it made such an impact on my life that it was just natural to come back here and share my experience with others in our congregation," Phyllis Gibat, Catholic parish assistant, said. "I went before the parish council and asked if they would be willing to take up a designated offering for Kairos Outside each week. I also talked before the congregation to let them know what it was about because many had not heard of it."

Gibat also asked people to bake items for the weekends so the women would know that others cared enough to make "home-made goodies" for them. She said everyone was very generous and as word spread, bible study groups began to pray for the women. Sunday school classes — both Catholic and Protestant — colored pages with logos expressing the theme for the weekends and prayed for the women while they did it.

"It's a very powerful way to show the women that everybody cares for them, whether it be a little child or an adult who colors really well. More and more people are becoming aware of Kairos Outside and as word spreads we are receiving more applications," Gibat said. "We have many

See Weekend on page 16

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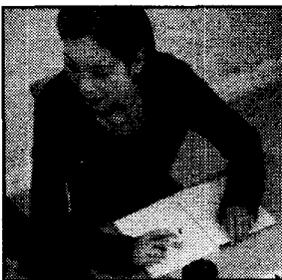
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Weekend program inspires inmates

Kairos

continued from page 13

"Sharing agape love — unconditional love — it's something that Christ does through you and you're just blessed to be there and be a part of it," Flinn said. "It's difficult to describe the experience but it's also something that you never forget."

The final hours of the weekend are called "the closing." It's a time the chapel is opened for visitors other than the Kairos team such as their family members, the kitchen staff and others. Inmates who participated in the weekend are encouraged to speak publicly about their experiences. Where they were spiritually when they came into the program and what they're taking away. It's a very emotional time for many of them. One of the rules though, is that they not thank the Kairos staff. Thanks is to be given to God.

Inmates respond differently to the weekend. Some are turned and set on a new path of serving God. Some are not. "But the seeds of love are planted into every man's heart. It's up to God to do the watering," Jernigan said.

The following are just a few of the quotes from inmates during the Kairos weekend closing last fall.

"I came here for the food but I got much more — food for the soul. Leaving

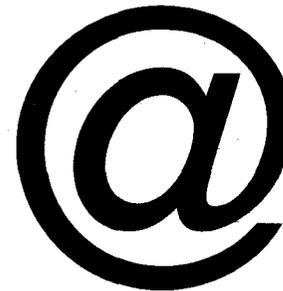
here, I feel like I've been lifted to the top of a mountain. We all come from different races and backgrounds but we were respectful to each other and showed love for each other. I'm taking with me the love of God and the knowledge of what unity in Christ can do for us."

"I came here a long way away from my spiritual self. I got love, peace, spiritual guidance, friendship and most of all, a warm feeling of the Holy Spirit all around us. Knowing that people are out there, praying for us, it means a lot. I can't remember the last time I cried. I'd built a shell around me. But when I read those letters, I couldn't hold my peace. I unloaded like a water sprinkler. I learned how to pray this weekend. To humble myself. To feel with my heart."

While the closing signals the end of the weekend, it's just the beginning of the Kairos ministry. A reunion for all the participants from that weekend is held shortly after the three-day program. All the past and present "graduates" of Kairos are encouraged to participate in small Share and Prayer groups that meet once a week to strengthen inmates' Christian walk and give time for fellowship. Kairos team members participate in the reunions and weekly meetings throughout the year.

The three-day weekend is just the beginning. Or in the words of an inmate, "It's a party with Jesus."

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Family members of inmates share ministry

Weekend

continued from page 13

men who are involved in Kairos and more women are involved because it is a woman's ministry. Everyone in the chapel is very supportive. Not everyone can be physically involved in the weekends, so the most powerful way to get involved is to pray."

Applications for Kairos Outside weekends are given to inmates during Kairos prison ministry weekends so they can pass them on to their loved ones. Kairos Outside also advertises in church bulletins throughout the state and in all major newspapers and weekly newspapers. Guests do not have to be a Christian to attend a weekend; they just need to be open to discussion from a Christian perspective.

"I have seen such a change in these women by the end of a weekend that words cannot even express what has turned into joy," Gibat said. "They have become a new person - they are no longer that frightened, insecure person they were. They remind me of a caterpillar that comes out as a butterfly. They come in on Friday looking so alone and by Sunday that is replaced by joy because someone loves them unconditionally.

"We do not ask any questions, we are

only there to love them and to listen. They have become a stronger woman who can go back into their community, their workplace, their family and continue with life the way it was meant to be lived - not behind these walls and these masks - because they know God loves them.... I feel very passionate about this ministry, I really do. To watch these women, sometimes I feel like it's a miracle. It is a miracle."

Bob Jernigan, a retired Army missile warrant officer who works as a logistics engineer for Tec-Masters Inc., and his wife Diane, a protocol officer for the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, have worked both Kairos Outside and Kairos prison ministry weekends. Working both has given them a unique perspective on how the two ministries work together to sustain the family unit.

"Having spent a lot of time inside, it's my observation that a lot of these men (in the prisons) do not realize the impact of what they've done, not only on society but on their own families. The women (who love them) become withdrawn and bitter with society, just like the men. They feel that they're alone and no one understands what they're going through," Jernigan said. "A Kairos Outside weekend shows them that they are not alone. It's been incredibly rewarding, especially for those whose husbands I knew from Kairos



Photo by Beth Skarupa

WOMEN MINISTERING TO WOMEN— Phyllis Gibat, Catholic parish assistant at the Bicentennial Chapel, shows a soldier a colored logo used during a Kairos Outside weekend that Sister Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking," signed. These logos are colored and shown to inmates' loved ones so they know that people care and are praying for them.

inside. The ministry really goes a long way toward bringing the family together even though they're still apart."

If you would like information about working a weekend, making donations,

referring an applicant or simply praying for the women helped by the Kairos Outside ministry, call Gibat at 842-2175 or write to Kairos Outside of Alabama, P.O. Box 12444, Huntsville, Ala., 35815.

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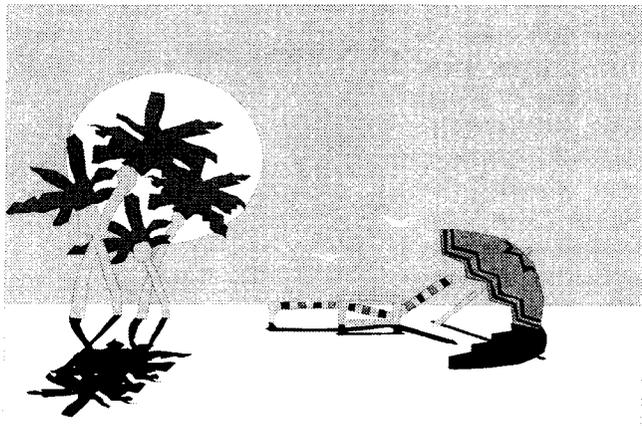
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Announcements



Sports & Recreation

Ten-Miler tryouts

Tryouts for Redstone Arsenal's team in the annual Army Ten-Miler will be held 7 a.m. July 21 and Aug. 4 beginning and ending at Sparkman Fitness Center. The team is to consist of 10 members, including six military and four civilians, plus coach Skip Vaughn and assistant coach Alexander Steel. Eligible persons include military, Army civilian workers, military family members and Army civilian family members. They should be stationed here through December. The Army Ten-Miler is Oct. 14 in Washington, D.C. For more information, call Vaughn 876-1500 or Steel 876-3867.

Football officials

Recruitment is under way locally for football officials. They will officiate organized football, from park and recreation leagues to area high schools. The first membership meeting/training session is scheduled 8 p.m. July 8 at the Red Cross building, 1101 Washington St. For more information, call William Hogue 828-4448.

Hunter education

A federal regulation requires individuals to take and pass a comprehensive accredited hunter education class before being afforded the privilege of hunting on feder-

al property. Outdoor Recreation has set up an accredited class July 9-10, from 6-9 p.m., with final examination July 14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Class availability is limited and pre-registration is required. Classes will be held at the Post Theater, building 3712. You may pre-register at Outdoor Recreation, building 5129, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation 876-6854/4868.

Football trip

CWFC and AAAA are sponsoring a trip to Atlanta to watch the St. Louis Rams vs. Falcons football game. This will be a two-day trip leaving Redstone on Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. and returning Dec. 2 after the game. The projected cost is \$130.00 per person based on double occupancy. This will include one night at the Embassy Suites Galleria, bus, game ticket, snacks and beverages on the bus. A \$50 per person deposit is due by July 12. Call Mary Ann Meyer-Schuck 313-5924 to sign up. There is limited seating.

Oldsmobile scramble

The RSA Golf Course is hosting the "World's Largest Amateur Golf Tournament," Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. This tournament is a four-person team competition and consists of local and sectional qualifying with a national final tournament. Every participant receives one dozen balls, \$500 purchase incentive from

Oldsmobile, \$50 RSA Pro Shop Gift Certificate after test-driving an Oldsmobile, team low-net prizes, as well as an opportunity to advance to the Sectional Championship held at Bent Brook Golf Course in Birmingham. Teams must consist of at least two authorized Redstone golfers (male/ female authorized user, age 16 or older) with an established USGA handicap at Redstone. Other team members must have a currently established USGA handicap. A meal will be served immediately following play, provided by Bentley Oldsmobile Cadillac. Teams must sign up at the RSA Pro Shop by close of business Friday. Individuals without a team may sign up and will be assisted in forming a team. Call 883-7977 for more information.

Grambling bus trip

You are invited to travel to Cajun country when the Bulldogs of Alabama A&M and the Tigers of Grambling State meet again for football Sept. 8 at Grambling, La. Transportation to the game, tailgate and tickets will be provided for a donation of \$70. For more information, including details on hotel reservation, call Patrick Walker 721-5576.

Professional hockey

CWFC will have tickets for the NHL pre-season game between the Nashville Predators and the Columbus BlueJackets, Sept. 21 at the Von Braun Center. If the schedule

permits, there could also be a trip to Nashville for a St. Louis Blues game. For more information, call Mary Ann of the Civilian Welfare Fund Council 313-5924.

Recreation tour

The Recreation Center plans the following event: July 14, Tour to Loony's Tavern Theater to see "Daddy's Dyin'— Who's Got the Will?," departs the Recreation Center at 4 p.m. and returns at approximately midnight; price includes transportation and admission to the play and dinner at Sister Sarah's. Cost is \$30 per person. Call Diane Campbell or Joe Ruffner at 876-5492 or 876-4531 to reserve your seats. Visit the ITR Office in the Recreation Center, building 3711 on Patton Road, for ticket discounts to Six Flags over Georgia, Dollywood, Point Mallard, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando, Sea World, and more.



Conferences & Meetings

Engineering management

American Society for Engineering Management 2001 Conference will be held Oct. 11-13 at the Huntsville Marriott. For more information, call Angel Armstrong 842-9416.

See Announcements on page 19



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Test and evaluation conference

The Test and Evaluation Management Agency, Washington, D.C., has chosen Huntsville as its site for the Army Test and Evaluation Days Conference for 2001. The conference will be held July 11-12 in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center, with the theme "Test and Evaluation in the Face of Army Transformation." Two short courses will be offered in conjunction with the event: Aviation Flight Testing and Managing Electromagnetic Effects. Courses, \$100 each, will be held in Salon 1A and 1B above the North Hall at the Von Braun Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Point of contact is Sherry Hilley 842-6715. For information regarding the preliminary agenda, registration fees, hotel accommodations, the golf scramble, exhibit information, etc., view the conference web site: www.testevaldays.com or call the host office, Test and Evaluation Management Office, 842-6715 or 876-3462.

Space and missile defense

The fourth annual Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition, presenting "Missile Defense Capabilities Beyond 2010," will take place Aug. 20-23 at the Von Braun Center. A golf tournament will be held Aug. 21 at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Hampton Cove course. The conference is sponsored by the Space and Missile Defense Industrial

Association, the National Defense Industrial Association Tennessee Valley Chapter, and the Air Defense Artillery Association-Huntsville Chapter. For more information, visit the web site at www.ndia-tvc.org/smdc2001. You may also call 533-5923 or fax 534-9899.

Transformation conference

The Army Transformation Conference-APBI will be held July 23-25 at Bob Jones Auditorium. This year's conference theme is "The Army Transformation." It will focus on the recapitalization and modernization axis as well as the objective force. The briefing is a continuing effort to keep industry informed of the Army's long-range technology development objectives and contractual opportunities. The briefings will be of particular interest to industrial executives who are concerned with the formulation of corporate long-range objectives. You can register online at <http://apbi.redstone.army.mil>, mail your registration to: APBI, 120 Holmes Avenue, Suite 304, Huntsville, Ala., 35801, or fax to 876-8866. Foreign nationals wishing to attend the briefing must submit requests through their embassies to Headquarters, Department of the Army. Upon approval of the visit request, a registration package will be accepted. For more information, call Lauretta Mitchell 876-4270 or Tammy Williams 955-6016.

Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous meeting is held 11 a.m. Thursdays at Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For more information, call the AA central office 885-0323.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. July 12 at Trinity Personal Growth Center, Airport Road. Scheduled speaker is Dr. Lawrence Dill, senior pastor of Trinity Church. Cost is \$9 for members, \$10 for non-members. For reservations call Lisa White 955-6806.

Miscellaneous

Sentinel ceremony

The Short Range Air Defense Project Office will conduct a Change of Product Manager ceremony at 10 a.m., July 9, to acknowledge the departure of Lt. Col. Lloyd McDaniels as the product manager, Sentinel, and the arrival of Lt. Col. David Cook as the new product manager for the Sentinel Radar System. The ceremony will be in the Bob Jones Auditorium, building 5304, Sparkman Center, Redstone Arsenal.

Soldier Show

Free tickets to the U. S. Army Soldier

Show will be available in the AMCOM Public Affairs Office in building 5300, room 5143 beginning July 9. Performances will be at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. July 25 and 7 p.m. July 26 in the Concert Hall at the Von Braun Center. Tickets are required for the performances.

Stamp vending machines

The U.S. Postal Service will remove the USPS stamp vending machines from the USPS carousel located at the Post Exchange parking lot. This USPS carousel will be taken out of service due to the USPS no longer providing stamp vendor service. The USPS drop box located on the sidewalk in front of the PX will remain in service for your convenience. Stamps are available for purchase at the PX (building 3220), the Shopette (building 3234), and the Redstone Arsenal Post Office (building 3648).

Education for soldiers

Soldiers eligible to receive benefits under the Veterans Educational Assistance Program are now able to convert these benefits to the Montgomery GI Bill. The Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000 established under Public Law 106-419 allows former VEAP enrollees to make this change. Soldiers who have served continuously in an active duty status from Oct. 9, 1996 through

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Contest runs from March 7, 2001 until February 27, 2002. You do not have to be present to win. All you have to do is find the Rocket contest page located somewhere in this paper. Fill out the entry form and drop by any of the participating businesses found on that page. Contest will have one winner per week for 52 weeks. A winner will be randomly drawn each Wednesday from all entries received. Trips do not include transportation. Each 4 day/3 night vacation package includes accommodations, double occupancy for two adults. Approximate retail value is \$599.98. Thirty-five day notice required to reserve room. Some restrictions or black out dates may apply. Trip must be taken by May 31, 2002. You may enter as many times as you like, but only one vacation per family will be awarded throughout the duration of the contest. You must be 18 years or older as of date of entry and legal resident of Alabama or Tennessee. Employees and families of The Huntsville Times and participating merchants are not eligible. Income and other taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the winner. Odds of winning are based on the number of entries received. Subject to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations; void outside Alabama and Tennessee and where prohibited. No substitution for prize except by sponsor in case of unavailability in which case a prize of equal or greater value will be substituted. The Huntsville Times has no responsibility or liability to the winner or any participants, once a winner is determined, other than that which is set forth herein. Acceptance of prize constitutes permission to use winner's name and likeness for advertising and publicity purposes at the discretion of the sponsors without additional consent or compensation, except where prohibited. The winner may be required to execute an affidavit of eligibility and winner and guests may be required to execute a liability/publicity release which must be returned within 30 days of notification or an alternate winner may be selected. Decision of the judges is final. Mechanically reproduced entries will not be accepted. For the name of the prize winners send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Contest Winners List, c/o Huntsville Times, P.O. Box 1487 WS, Huntsville, AL 35807 after 3/6/2002.

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Announcements

April 1, 2000 and were VEAP participants Oct. 9, 1996 are eligible for this program. A decision must be made by Oct. 31 to enroll in the MGIB. Once the change has been made, the decision is irrevocable, according to the Education Center. For more information, call the Education Center 876-9761.

Single soldiers

Join the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) and help community organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and Special Olympics. Members also enjoy parties, outings and tours. "We're all about the business of having fun while making our community a great place for single and unaccompanied service members," a prepared release said. BOSS meets bimonthly at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Recreation Center, building 3711. BOSS is open to all single or unaccompanied servicemembers stationed on Redstone Arsenal. Call Diane 876-5492/ 4531 for more information.

Huntsville High alums

The Huntsville High School Class of 1966 will hold its 35th reunion Aug. 4 at the Huntsville Country Club. The reunion will start at 7 p.m. with an informal dinner buffet. The cost is \$25 per person. To make your reservation send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address

with a check payable to "HHS Class of 1966" to: Nancy George Kramer, 2320 Little Cove Road, Huntsville 35763. Make your reservations by July 21. For more information call 881-4734, 533-5202 or 880-0944.

Mr. Man Premiere

SB Productions has begun its campaign for the 11th annual Mr. Man Premiere. Selected contestants will compete in the areas of style, finesse, performance and personality for the honorable title of Mr. Man. Screenings for prospective contestants, model escorts and entertainers are under way. The event will be Aug. 18 at the Von Braun Center. Proceeds will benefit the Madison Community Action Team in its efforts to build a center for teenagers of northern Alabama. For more information, call Samuel Brown (256) 233-4702 or 650-7736 pager.

Vietnam outreach

Dave Roeber, who suffered severe burns in the Vietnam War but later returned to that country and began Roeber Educational Assistance Projects, will be guest speaker Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Pulaski Pike Church of God, 3912 Pulaski Pike in Huntsville. He and his wife, Brenda, reside in Fort Worth, Texas.

American music

Madison Community Chorus will present "An American Music Concert," July 4 at 7

p.m. in the Bob Jones High School auditorium. The concert will feature patriotic music and American choral and instrumental music by Gershwin, Copland, Bernstein and others, as well as dance numbers. Featured performers include Brian Walker on piano, The Sweet Adelines, the Valley Community Orchestra, and the Madison Community Chorus. For tickets call 316-0521.

Professional development

Make plans now to attend a professional development seminar sponsored by the Huntsville-Madison Chapter of Blacks in Government. This seminar will be held Dec. 6 in the Tom Beville Center, at a cost of \$125. For more information, call 551-7230 and leave a voice-mail.

Astronomical society

The Von Braun Astronomical Society will hold a program on "Summer Skies: The Milky Way" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. A star-gazing party will be held after the show. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 464-0945.

Catholic community

Religious education classes for CCD and CYO have ended for the year, and will resume in September. RCIA classes will continue through Pentecost. CYO will continue to have recreational activities throughout the summer; and those in

grades 9-12 in the upcoming school year are encouraged to call Karen Sundry 883-5937. The chapel is closed on the Fourth of July. Weekend mass is held 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

Fire training in housing

Redstone Fire & Emergency Services will conduct live fire training exercises in the 1400 area of post housing this summer on scheduled weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Quarters 1415 (Saturday) and 1425 (Sunday) will be demolished by fire. Other non-fire related training will be conducted during the week. The lower area of Nike Street intersecting with Spartan Drive will be congested with fire apparatus during the exercises. One lane of Nike Street should be open for local traffic. Area residents should be able to drive to and from their homes with minimum or no delay. The fire department asks that people not tour this area while it is conducting its exercises.

Thrift shop

The Redstone Thrift Shop will be closed on the Fourth of July; and it will reopen Thursday and Friday. The shop will also be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will continue to feature used items such as clothing, books, toys, tools, furniture and most anything else you might find around your home. Thrift Shop hours are 9 a.m.

See **Announcements** on page 21

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to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month. If you are interested in donating items, consigning items or volunteering, call management 881-6992.

Fox Center hours

Fox Army Health Center will be on holiday hours the Fourth of July. Advice nursing will be available 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments for the Primary Care Clinic. All other clinics and the pharmacy will be closed.

Prayer breakfast

The Nondenominational Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by the IMMC, will be held July 24 at 7 a.m. in Sparkman Center building 5308, room 8124 (conference room). "No food or drinks will be served, but you may bring your own or come and feast on the spiritual food that will be served," a prepared release said. "Everyone is welcome and invited, so join us for prayer, praise and fellowship."

Auction sale

Marshall Space Flight Center will hold an auction sale July 18 at 9 a.m. with screening of the equipment July 17 from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Screening will also be permitted on the morning of the auction from 7:30-8:45. The auction will consist of approximately 1,200 line items consisting of ADP equipment, test equipment, and furniture. The location of the auction is Intergraph Building 21, 470 Dunlop Boulevard, Huntsville. For more information call the NASA/MSFC sales hotline 544-4667, Greg Tate 544-1774 or visit the following web site: <http://www.gsaauctions.gov>.

Veterans museum

The Alabama Center of Military History will offer a sneak preview of its Veterans Memorial Museum from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from 1-6 p.m. July 26. Admission is free, but donations will be appreciated. The museum is a work in progress, but everyone is invited to come by and see it being developed as a tribute to all veterans who have served in the U.S. armed forces. The museum is located in John Hunt Park, off South Memorial Parkway, just north of Kids' Space and the Huntsville Police Academy. For more information, call 883-3737.

Lynyrd Skynyrd

Don't miss the hottest concert of the summer. MWR is selling tickets for the Lynyrd Skynyrd/.38 Special concert, Aug. 25 at the Redstone Activity Field. All tickets are general admission; and ticket prices are \$25 advance or \$30 at the gate. Tickets are on sale at Sparkman Cafeteria building 5302; PX cashiers window; Information, Ticket and Registration Office, building 3711 on Patton Road, call 876-4531 (Wednesday through Friday from 4-9 p.m.); or you can charge by phone at 830-CLUB (from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Barbecue cookout

Post Restaurant will serve barbecue ribs Aug. 8 outside on the Sparkman Center Patio. The menu includes ribs served dry or with red barbecue sauce, bread, drink, and choice of two sides—cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, or potato chips for \$6.50. Arrange or take larger orders in advance: slab of ribs, \$9.75; pint of cole slaw, \$1.75; pint of potato salad, \$1.75; pint of baked beans, \$1.75; large chips or rolls, \$1.25; or slab of ribs, two sides, and rolls for \$13.75.



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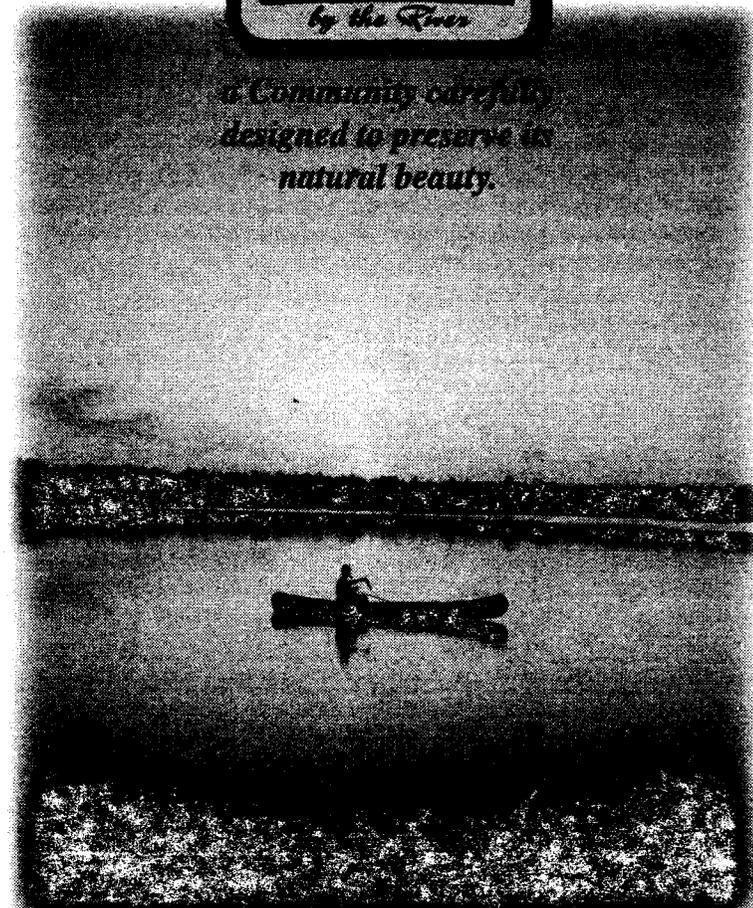
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