

# Redstone Rocket

VOL. 50 No. 30

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

August 1, 2001

## Redstone Arsenal blows out candles on 60th birthday cake

*Community celebrates  
Armed Forces Week*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor

Who cares that the party lasted past 11 p.m. Sixty-year-old Redstone Arsenal deserved a night out on the town. Seniors can sleep late anyway.

Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley celebrated Redstone's 60th anniversary July 24 with a rousing dinner at the Von Braun Center's North Hall during Armed Forces Week. The party — sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Association of the U.S. Army, among others — included singing, inspirational remarks and historical video.

"The Army is truly in your debt for this 60 years of achievement," Gen. John Keane, vice chief of staff of the Army and keynote speaker, said.

Some 1,107 of this Army community's closest friends attended including four past commanders of Redstone Arsenal: retired Lt. Gen. Jim Link (1994-97), Maj. Gen. Grayson Tate (January-July 1977), Maj. Gen. Louis Rachmeler (1977-79) and Maj. Gen. Joe Rigby (1992-94). Link

See **Birthday** on page 5



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**MUSICAL TRIBUTE**— Brenda "BJ" Reed sings during the 60th anniversary celebration for Redstone Arsenal.

## Deputy commanding general pushes transformation vehicle

*Army Materiel Command officer  
stresses value of modernization*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor

Lt. Gen. Roy Beauchamp sounds like a car dealer when explaining Army transformation.

Not only does he talk fast but he uses car images to make a point. It did the trick for his luncheon audience July 24 at the Officers and Civilians Club; and he received a standing ovation.

Beauchamp, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command, was keynote speaker at the Army Transformation Conference- Advance Planning Briefing for Industry.

In his talk, he used a slide of a 1957 Chevy to represent the Army's aging Legacy force. A 2001 Chevy represented the Interim force. And a futuristic vehicle from the "Blade Runner" movie represented the Future force. "Speed and mobility will be very critical to the future combat system," he said.

Beauchamp stressed how the Army must keep up with the rapid pace of technology and the evolving world threats. He also pointed out the importance of the Army's

industry partners.

"We couldn't do any of this without you," he told the mostly-industry audience of about 250.

The Army's logistics capability serves as "the muscle of today's Army" and is envied throughout the world, according to Beauchamp. "Logistics defines the campaign's operational limits," he said.

But the Army can't afford to rest on its laurels, according to Beauchamp. "We've often paid in blood when we didn't modernize our logistics infrastructure. We cannot afford to repeat those mistakes today.

"It doesn't do any good to build a better mousetrap if the mouse is already dead," he added.

AMC initiatives supporting modernization include the Global Army Support System, the Wholesale Logistics Modernization Program, the Single Stock Fund, and the National Maintenance Program.

"Recapitalization is a critical enabler for transformation of our Army," Beauchamp said.

In response to a question from a reporter after his speech, Beauchamp said the Aviation and Missile Command plays a key role in recapitalization. On another topic,

See **Future** on page 5



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**TRANSFORMATION TALK**— Lt. Gen. Roy Beauchamp, deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command, addresses a luncheon July 24 during the Army Transformation Conference- Advance Planning Briefing for Industry.

Missile gets highflying results  
PAC-3 power 6

Heroic pilot becomes contractor  
Second life 10

Veteran finds salvation in Vietnam  
Peace mission 20

## Letters to the editor

### Confederate flag makes statement

Reference: letter to the editor July 25, "Another side of the flag issue."

Allow this letter to clarify the issue I take with the display of the Confederate battle flag.

During the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, when peaceful, black, protesters marched, picketed, sat in, prayed for equality, sang songs of praise for strength and looked to the Lord for grace and joy, there was a group of people who, under the cover of darkness and white sheets, flew the Confederate battle flag, and went to the homes, churches and communities of black Americans, where they performed all manners of atrocities to the occupants of the black community.

During the term of Bull Connor, in the city of Birmingham, when the vote was being fought for by black Americans – as they picketed, marched and sang

peacefully – that same Confederate battle flag flew, as the vicious dogs and powerful fire hoses were loosed upon the elderly marchers.

On Bloody Monday, in the city of Selma, that same Confederate battle flag flew as the peaceful marchers were ridden over by riders on horseback.

Many brave, black, men and women were hurt and many killed under the shadow of that flag; and I cannot silently watch as it flies.

The Confederate flag is a call to brotherhood for those same types of people that performed the awful acts that I have described above. It does indeed make a statement and I defend the right for the statement to be made, but not on a military installation, not on an installation that houses a majority of black GIs, and not on an installation where my tax dollars count.

**Marian Caudle**

### Thanks for willingness to help

Team Redstone, some time ago we asked you to volunteer for a wonderful project, Habitat for Humanity. We have not forgotten your willingness to help. As stated previously each house costs approximately \$37,000. According to the AMCOM Legal Office, we are not permitted to raise funds for this project as government or Redstone

employees on the Arsenal; therefore the Habitat for Humanity Office is working to partner us with an organization that has funds, but not manpower. We have all the confidence that we will make this project happen; we just don't have a date as of yet. We again thank each of you for your support and we will keep in touch.

**Dorothy May and Dorothy Scott**

### Reader recalls Arsenal's early years

In July 1941 when the government acquired the land from the Chemical Munitions Manufacturing and Storage Plant known as Huntsville Arsenal, my stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John Tolbert (both deceased), operated a farm for 12 years on the northern border of the Tennessee River in the area of where buildings 8022 and 8027 are now located. My stepfather helped to clear the land in that area for the buildings to be built.

While living in this area, I walked the road (known as Buxton Road, gate 2) to Farley School where I attended and I would also walk to the general store for my mother, located on Highway 231 south, where Buxton Road intersects with South Memorial Parkway. I remember there was a beautiful two-story house, known as the Harris home, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sam Harris. It had a beautiful circle staircase from the first floor to the second floor. Mr. and Mrs. Harris bought a farm on Bob Wade Lane near Meridianville. They were the in-laws of Mr. Graham Shovelton, who was

the deputy civilian personnel officer here at Redstone for so many years.

In January 1942 we moved due to the family buying a farm in Hazel Green. After graduating from Hazel Green High School in 1951, I helped my stepfather farm and then in January 1952, I joined the Navy and served until January 1956. In May 1956, I went to work for Thiokol, which was located on Redstone Road, until 1967. Then I went to work for IBM. I had several aunts and uncles who used to work for Huntsville Arsenal and lived in the Redstone Park outside gate 2. I have seen a lot of changes over the years at Redstone Arsenal. I am now retired, but my wife, Ann Hastings, has worked for Redstone Arsenal for 42 years, and also one of my daughters, Kathryn Hastings Fowler, has been working for over 16 years.

In the lobby of the John J. Sparkman Center is a picture of my stepfather with Senator Sparkman in the cotton field on the farm in Hazel Green.

**Roy Edward Hastings**

### Spouse club membership can help today's independent woman

By MEREDITH LEYVA  
CinCHouse.com

Relocation is tough on a military wife. You've just moved (again), you've gotten the family settled, your husband is off on deployment and, well, it's lonely. It's time to start building a community around you

and your family.

Where to start? so many women ask. It's not as easy anymore without the "insta-community" wives used to have available in the form of spouse clubs. Spouse clubs membership has declined for

**See Commentary on page 13**



Photo by Bill Richardson/ ASMC

### Charity funds

Theresa McBride, left, chairman of community projects for Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, and Ron Lloyd, chapter president, present a \$7,213.83 check to Debbie Chandler, center, director of Hospice of North Alabama. Funds were raised at charity events at the ASMC Professional Development Institute 2001 hosted by the chapter in Dallas, May 29 to June 1.

## Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

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

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

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

email: redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil

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# Missile school gets 'good stuff' with new MLRS trainers

*Multiple Launch Rocket System mockups in place for students*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor

A \$10.6 million, five-year effort culminated Thursday with the dedication of new MLRS trainers at the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School.

The first delivery included two mockups and a diagnostic trainer with six student stations. A class of students, in specialty 27M, will begin using the new equipment by late November and finish in late January.

"This is leading edge technology for training systems for the Army," Pat Dillaha, director of instruction for OMMCS,

said. "It really is good stuff."

Joining members of the missile school for the ceremony were representatives from the Multiple Launch Rocket System Project Office and from Research Training Institute, prime contractor for the trainers.

"This is a team effort," Wayne Burke, deputy project manager for MLRS, said. He and George Benzenhafer, assistant commandant of the missile school, cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The MLRS Project Office will merge with the Army TACMS-Bat Project Office to form the Precision Fires Missile and Rocket Systems Project Office in a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 6 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

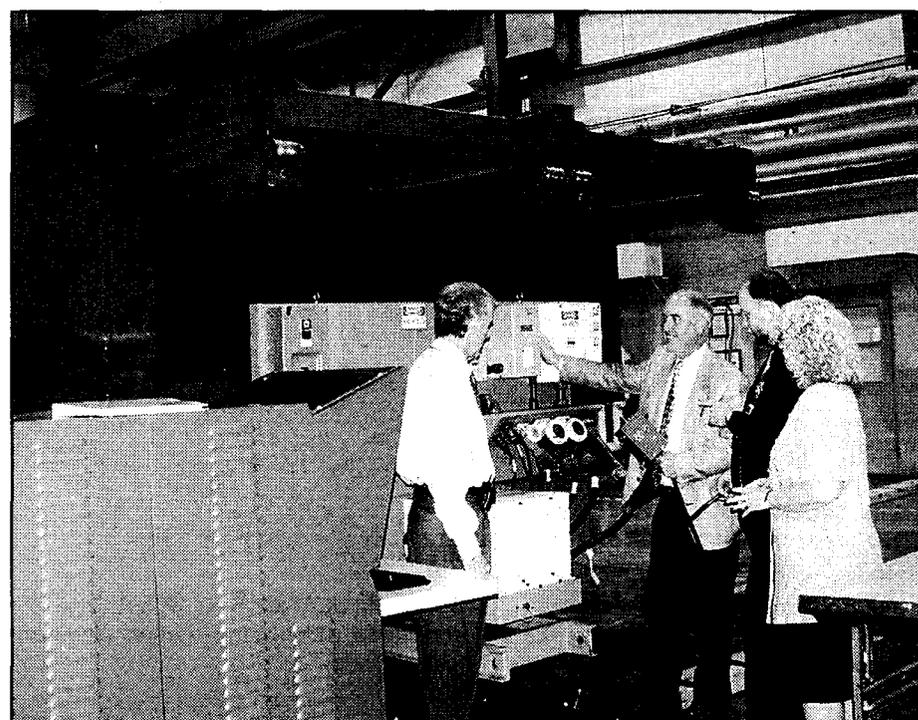


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**TRAINING TOOL—** Looking at one of the two new MLRS mockups are, from left, Wayne Burke, deputy project manager for Multiple Launch Rocket System; George Benzenhafer, assistant commandant of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School; Billy Blount, MLRS training division chief at the missile school; and Jimmie Pittman, integrated logistics support lead for MLRS Project Office.

## Engineering associate director makes annual Top 10 list

*Higher headquarters announces outstanding personnel of year*

Tom Reynolds of the Research Development and Engineering Center has been chosen as one of AMC's "Ten Outstanding Personnel of the Year" for 2000.

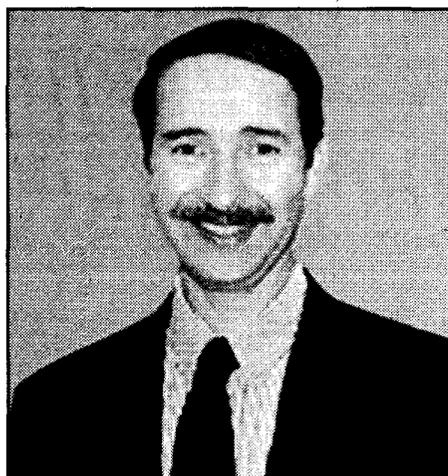
Each year, Army Materiel Command selects 10 employees based on how their initiatives measurably improve their work environment and AMC's mission, as well as how they motivate and inspire fellow employees to improve or increase the quality of their work, and how well they are viewed by peers, subordinates and superiors.

Reynolds' Life Cycle Cost Reduction efforts are the best in AMC. All told, Reynolds' managerial abilities have resulted in saving more than \$130 million, while producing a number of substantial benefits to soldiers in the field.

"I guess that I'm particularly proud of our successful efforts on the CH-47 Low-Maintenance Rotor Hub," Reynolds, acting associate director in the Engineering Directorate, said. "This technology inser-

tion not only results in better performance and easier maintenance, but also saves a lot of money. The Low-Maintenance Rotor Hub serves as a prime example of how value engineering makes life better for soldiers."

A 14-year veteran, Reynolds holds a University of Tennessee bachelor's degree in industrial engineering.



Courtesy photo

TOM REYNOLDS

## Radar project office workers receive individual recognition

The following members of X-Band Radar Project Office received On-the-Spot awards July 23:

Hazel Bearden, Marlene Benoit, Joyce

Campbell, Leslie Duncan, Jenny Glazner, Katrina Harrison, Lisa Messer, Sherry McCreary, Rodney Phillips, Tammy Still and Dennis Boyd.

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# Hard work pays off for Post NCO and Soldier of Year

Winners announced in annual luncheon

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor

A lone figure warmed up and stretched in the early morning darkness outside Pagano Gym.

Spec. Tracie Steed was the first candidate to arrive for the Army Physical Fitness Test portion of the Redstone Arsenal NCO/Soldier of the Year competition that June weekday. Her discipline paid off.

Steed was named Soldier of the Year and SSgt. Robert McNeely won NCO of the Year during the annual luncheon July 23 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

"I'm very honored, very relieved," Steed, 31, of B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said.

"It just means that to me if you have the determination, the willpower, it doesn't matter your age or where you are in life," the Hot Springs, Ark., native added. "That you can accomplish something great if you put your mind to it. And I hope to be a role model for all those who are out there with the soldiers, anybody thinking about joining the Army, and people already here."

There were four candidates apiece for NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year. They were all winners, or runners-up,

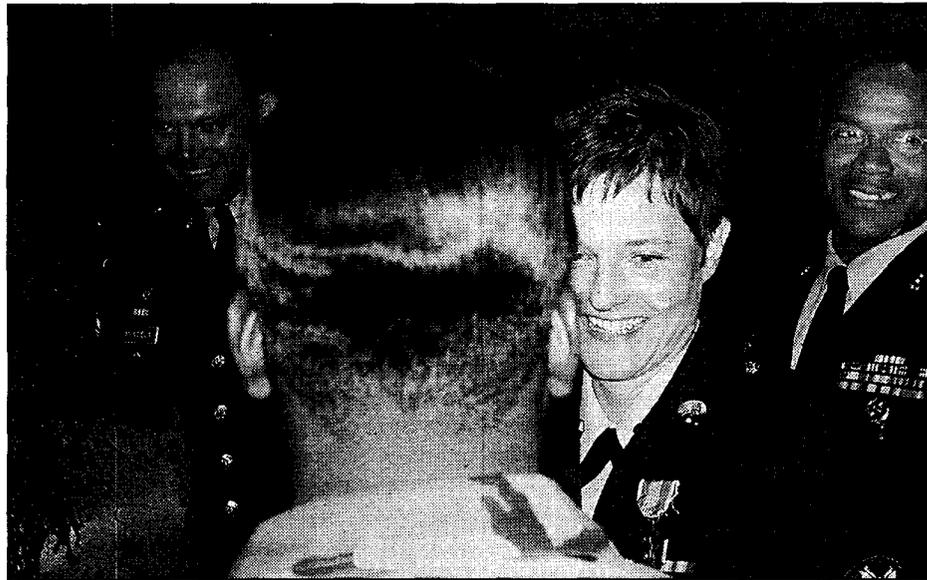


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**CONGRATULATIONS**— SSgt. Robert McNeely, left, and Spec. Tracie Steed are congratulated after being named Redstone Arsenal NCO and Soldier of the Year, respectively.

from soldier of the month or NCO of the quarter competitions during the past year.

"It feels good to win," McNeely, 33, of the NCO Academy, said. "It feels good to exceed. But better than that, it feels good to win for the Academy because of the hard work and dedication you put into it. All this is stuff we teach in the Academy; and it's the stuff it takes to win NCO of the Year.

"It tells me if you work hard and try your best that you can succeed, that you can make it to the top," the Asbury Park, N.J., native added.

Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, reminded the 215 attendees that soldiers are defending the American way of life throughout the world. "These are uncommon men and

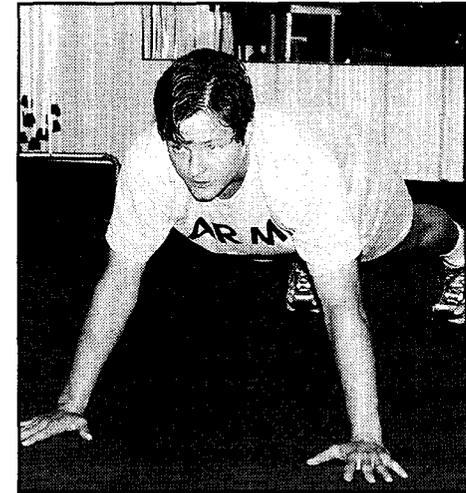


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**DETERMINED TO WIN**— Spec. Tracie Steed, the eventual winner of Soldier of the Year, does push-ups in June during the Army Physical Fitness Test portion of the competition.

women," he said.

The Soldier of the Year candidates included Steed, Spec. Richard Charles of HHC AMCOM, Pvt. Travis Hueter of B Company and Spec. Chuck Griffin of MEDDAC.

Candidates for NCO of the Year included McNeely, Sgt. Antavia Striveson of HHC AMCOM, SSgt. Edward Sasan of NCO Academy and Sgt. Jennette Randall of D Company.

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■ Community celebrates Redstone's 60th year

## Birthday

continued from page 1

also appeared on the big screen as narrator for the three-part video highlighting Redstone's history.

There was a birthday cake, of course, with fireworks serving as candles. Brenda "BJ" Reed, vocalist, and the Soldier Show singers provided musical entertainment.

Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, related how he and his

wife, Kathy, arrived two years ago and decided to stay in this community after he retires in September.

"Let me say thank you on behalf of all of Team Redstone for the tremendous support you provide to us every day. It truly does make a difference," Sullivan said.

Lee Greenwood's patriotic song "God Bless the U.S.A.," performed by Reed, served as a fitting finale.

"Happy birthday, Redstone," retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, co-master of ceremonies, said. "Good night."

■ Modernization said key for today's Army

## Future

continued from page 1

he said there are no plans to move AMC headquarters from Washington, D.C.

There are discussions for a new round

of base realignment and closure, but nothing official yet. Beauchamp did say such efforts would probably impact AMC because the command touches so much of the Army. "So I would not be surprised if AMC is affected one way or another," he said.

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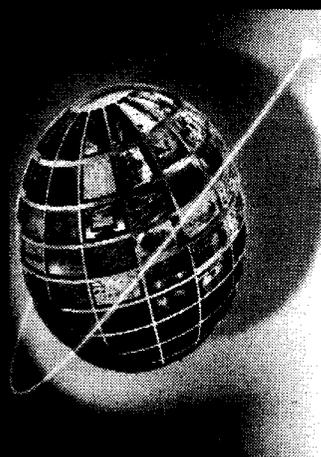
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# PAC-3 missile program gets upper level results

## Patriot Advanced Capability on target in testing phase

By PAM ROGERS  
For the Rocket

As the Patriot PAC-3 program nears the end of its developmental testing phase, it is being described as a phenomenal success by senior Army leaders.

The latest test included the spectacular destruction of a QF4 drone aircraft, and a near miss of a Hera ballistic missile target. Even so, the system performed exceptionally well and the program's success rate is 92 percent, according to Col. Tom Newberry, Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense project manager. This was the 10th test of the system and the first time PAC-3 has failed to intercept a target. In a tactical scenario two PAC-3 missiles would have been fired at a ballistic missile, but because there are a limited number of PAC-3s available for testing, a decision was made to fire only one at the target missile. This was the sixth test against a ballistic missile target and the only one to miss.

"This program is just a phenomenal success," Dr. Shelba Proffitt, program executive officer for Air and Missile Defense, said. "Having a miss means we are pushing the envelope and that is why we test. If we had no misses, it would mean we're not stressing the system enough."

Firsts included in the test, conducted July 9 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., included the first time there were two PAC-3 missiles simultaneously fired at two different classes of targets; the first full-up battalion configuration using soldiers from the 2nd of the 43rd Air Defense Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas; and the first time a PAC-3 was fired at a full-scale aircraft.

So what caused the miss of the Hera target? Project engineers are still conducting extensive data analysis, but it appears that there was a problem with communications inside the missile.

"What we believe is that we had an anomaly on our communications bus for



Courtesy photo

**SUDDEN IMPACT— A PAC-3 missile slams into a QF4 drone target during a July 9 test at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.**

our guidance processor unit," Lt. Col. Ed Mullin, PAC-3 product manager, said.

"We got a correct detection, we acquired (the targets), got the fire solution, we actually passed the target from the system to the missile correctly, but we had an anomaly on that communication bus that interconnects the subsystems of the missile.

"What we need to understand is why that happened, and that's what we're analyzing," Mullin said.

The fact that this test was conducted in the presence of radar jamming and that the QF4 drone was destroyed in that environment was a demonstration that a system-wide upgrade to hardware is effective — something that had to be proved before the PAC-3 system can be handed off to soldiers in the field, according to Mullin.

"It was basically a test of the entire system, not just the PAC-3 missile segment, but also the PAC-3 ground equipment," Newberry said.

The next and the final system test of the developmental test series will involve a "stealthy" cruise missile target,

Mullin said. "We will also have soldier involvement to begin our transition to operational testing. It will be a stressing, full-up system test."

Mullin pointed out that although soldiers have been working with the PAC-3 equipment for a while, these last two tests of the developmental program bring them into the flight test environment before the system is handed off to them for operational testing.

With developmental testing coming to an end, the system is one step closer to being in the hands of the soldiers. The first unit equipped date, at which time the first 16 production missiles will be delivered to a depot, is scheduled for September. In the event they are needed for combat, they

would be shipped to coincide with the arrival in theater of the unit that would use them, Newberry said.

The next step in the acquisition cycle for the system, which is now in low rate initial production, will be a full rate production decision. That decision is expected in about a year.

In other good news for the Lower Tier Project Office, Mullin has been named product manager of the year by the office of the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology. He will receive the award during a ceremony in August at a Program Executive Officer-Project Manager conference in Atlanta.

The final developmental test for PAC-3 is scheduled for October.

## Transformation and growth Part 5 of series

## Test & Evaluation event deemed major success

An annual conference on Army test and evaluation got good reviews from its sponsor.

The Army Test and Evaluation Days 2001 Conference, July 11-12 was held at the Von Braun Center, North Hall with exhibits in the East Hall.

"I was pleased to see such a large turnout for this annual conference," Dr. John Foulkes, director of Test and Evaluation Management Agency, Washington, D.C., and conference sponsor, said. "The conference afforded panelists and atten-

dees alike to learn about Army transformation and how it will affect the T&E community. The speakers and panels were brought together for this conference were outstanding in their presentations, and the exhibits this year were exceptional. It was by far the most impressive exhibit we've had, and the best conference we've sponsored."

The briefings, presentations and papers are available on CD upon request. Host organization is the Test and Evaluation Management Office, phone 842-6715.

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# Learning resource center provides virtual assistance

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING RELEASE

The Army Learning Resource Center has expanded beyond its resource center walls with its new web site location on the AMCOM Intranet. Now you can research the library for a video, audio or book from your own desk. The library database allows you the option to search by title, author/vendor or subject.

The ALRC web site also has a variety of other features. From the ALRC menu, one can access the Quality Institute services. The Quality Institute offers a range of services from facilitation to customized work force and

leadership development training. Current courses and descriptions are listed in this location. From the automation-training icon, one can preview current courses and learn how to receive one-on-one help for a specific software application question or problem. From these locations, one can link to the Training Information Program to schedule a specific class.

The Training Help Desk section addresses services available through the Training Help Desk and contains information specifically related to the Training Information Program and a link to TIP. The Room Scheduling icon is a link to the information on classrooms as well as a point

of contact for scheduling a classroom in building 5304. If you have a question or comment about the ALRC services or resources, you can complete the online customer survey.

So the next time you're looking for training or organizational development resources, go to the AMCOM homepage subject matter index and click on the A. Scroll down and click on the Army Learning Resource Center link. One can also link to the ALRC web site from the Personnel and Training Directorate web site. The Army Learning Resource Center is now able to serve its customers virtually and face-to-face. A wealth of information is waiting for you and is just a mouse click away.

# Corporation Information Center seeks customer feedback online

## CORPORATE INFORMATION CENTER RELEASE

Customers' perceptions of how well they are treated and the quality of the services and products they receive are important to the Corporation Information Center managers and employees. CIC is searching for better ways to provide first class services and products to all its customers and has developed a new, online CIC Customer Satisfaction Survey that is easy to access and use. It can be reached through the CIC home page or by going directly to <http://survey.redstone.army.mil> on the Internet or Intranet.

This new survey will enable customers to tell CIC what they like and dislike about

any service or product CIC furnishes.

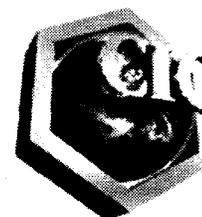
Personal customer information is optional; however, by completing the Customer Information portion of the survey, CIC can more efficiently identify and correct problems, provide employee training where needed, and give customers effective feedback. Customers are encouraged to give their office symbol and will be contacted only if they check the appropriate box.

The survey allows customers to rate CIC as a whole or by individual areas within CIC. A separate set of questions is provided for each area the customer rates. The questions, modeled after the questions used on the Command's Quarterly

Evaluation Report, are general questions that address the customer's perception of the responsiveness, professionalism and quality of service they receive. After each question, there is a box for comments. The lines in the comment box scroll so there is plenty of room to make comments. The customer can make additional comments and suggestions at the end of each set of questions.

CIC managers and supervisors review the comments and ratings of the surveys. Statistical information from the surveys will be used in the Review and Analysis process for organization improvement. Tracking successful areas within CIC will provide examples for modeling improvements in other areas. Tracking problem areas will help identify what is needed to

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make improvements.

The Redstone community is invited to check out the CIC-CSS online at <http://survey.redstone.army.mil> and let CIC know what you think. You may use the "Rate CIC as a whole" box to make comments about the survey itself. Customers are encouraged to use this survey as a method to give both positive and negative feedback as they see fit. CIC is looking forward to receiving the comments and suggestions of its customers.

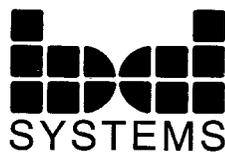
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Photo by Sandy Riebeling

## Wider is better

A ground breaking ceremony July 24 officially kicked off the Martin Road widening project. Preliminary work has already begun on the state-funded project, scheduled to be completed in two phases. APAC-Alabama Inc., Ashburn and Gray Division, is the contractor on the first phase, a \$6 million project to widen Martin Road to a four-lane road from Redstone Arsenal's Gate 1 to Memorial Parkway. A contract is expected to be awarded by the first of the year to begin construction on the second phase of widening Martin Road from Gate 1 to Patton Road on Arsenal property. Officials expect the entire project to be completed in about two years. Attending the ground breaking are, from left, State Sen. Jeff Enfinger, D-Madison County; Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer, Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, and Alabama Department of Transportation director Paul Bowlin.



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# Heroic pilot to work on Comanche program

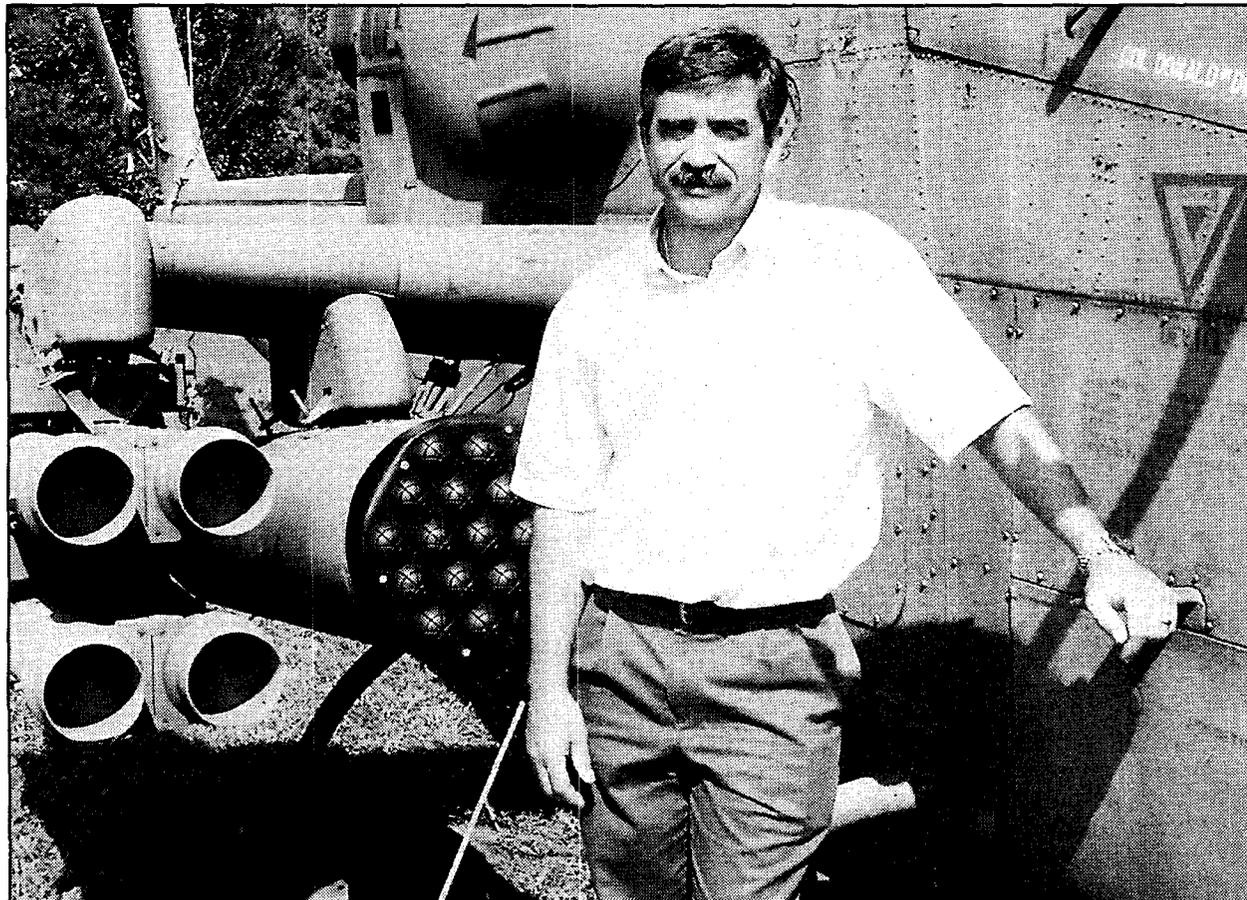


Photo by Beth Skarupa

**DUTY CALLS**— Michael Durant became a national hero when he survived capture during a deadly firefight in Somalia. The retired Army helicopter pilot moved here last month to take a job with Veridian Engineering. He supports simulation and training for the Comanche helicopter program at Redstone Arsenal.

*Harrowing experience in Somalia provides insight into soldiers' needs*

By **BETH SKARUPA**  
Staff writer

We can only imagine what Michael Durant went through emotionally as an angry mob rushed toward him after his helicopter was shot down in Somalia. He has just one word for it – fear.

His Black Hawk was shot down during what was supposed to be a short, midday raid on a gathering of warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid's clan leaders in Mogadishu Oct. 3, 1993. His situation quickly became desperate. He couldn't move because his right leg had been broken in the crash. Somalis had shot and killed his surviving crewmembers as well as two Delta Force commandos who had roped in to rescue them. The ground force was nowhere in sight.

Durant knew what gruesome things angry Somalis had done to soldiers in the past. He thought his life was over. A rag was tied over his head and the mob dragged him through the streets, beating him. But instead of torturing and killing him, the neighborhood militia group took him prisoner.

"It was a very chaotic situation. I don't think they had any intentions of taking any prisoners. They were fighting over what to do with me. According to the story – I didn't know any of this until later, but from what others told me – there was a transfer of control from one rival gang to another. I was with the first gang one night, then Aidid

See Pilot on page 11

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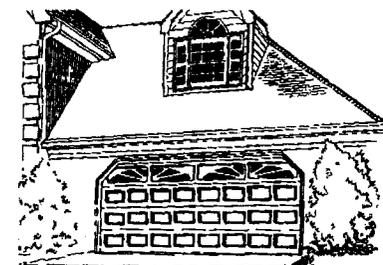
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## ■ Pilot survives capture in Somalia

### Pilot

continued from page 10

paid a ransom for me the next day," Durant said.

Aidid's gang forced him to make a video during his second night in captivity. The incident, which took several hours, ended up as approximately 20 seconds of video that was spliced together and aired on CNN. When Durant was finally released after 11 days of captivity, he had become a national hero.

Eight years later Durant doesn't mind being called a hero for his part in the battle of Mogadishu, although he said it's not in his personality to play on that.

"I'm only as much a hero as everyone else that was there. I'm not uncomfortable being a hero, but it's not a role I would seek," he said. "I'm proud of everyone that was there and if I represent them, then you can call me a hero if you want because there was definitely heroism that day."

He pointed out that SFC Randy Shughart and MSgt. Gary Gordon, the men who were killed while trying to rescue him and his crew at the crash site, were awarded congressional Medals of Honor for their heroism.

Durant was a member of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, also known as the Night Stalkers, considered one of the finest helicopter aviation units in the Army.

"The unit I was in, we did get involved in pretty much everything, although that was by far the most extreme situation any of us had been in," he said. He had been on other dangerous missions including Desert Storm, Just Cause and the Panama Invasion of 1989. "But again, it wasn't anything like that particular day. Anyone who was there would agree, it was the worst experience they ever lived through.

"It was awful for everybody. We lost a lot of soldiers and had a lot of injuries," he said. "There's an entire array of emotions you go through after the fact, kind of like when you lose a loved one - there's sorrow and loss for all the people who didn't return. It's hard to be happy to be alive when you've lost a lot of close friends. We were a small unit and we lost 17 people. That was hard. People lost limbs and had much worse injuries than I had."

His most serious injury, crushed vertebrae, almost put him on grounded status permanently. Even when his flight status was returned after he fought for two years to get it back, he kept his staff position within his unit because his back was in no condition to fly every day.

Despite having nightmares in captivity and while recovering in the hospital, Durant said he hasn't had problems with post-traumatic stress syndrome. He credits that to the dedicated survival psychologist who worked with him in the weeks after the ordeal. However, the experience did

give him a different perspective on life.

"I don't think I've changed personality-wise and if you talk to people who have known me, I think they'd say that, too. But the most significant aspect of surviving an ordeal like that is putting things in perspective," he said. "Some people get upset about some things and you don't. You 'don't sweat the small stuff' and it's all small stuff. You realize all these little things aren't important."

**'I think it gives you an added appreciation of how important it is to deliver a quality product. If you've been a user and actually seen it, if you've had the right equipment and the right training like I think I did, you know how important it is,'**

— Michael Durant  
Retired helicopter pilot

Durant now supports simulation and training for the Comanche helicopter program with Veridian Engineering at Redstone Arsenal. He moved here from Clarksville, Tenn., last month after retiring from the Army in February. After 21 years of service, he said his first goal is adjusting to life as a civilian contractor.

He and his wife Lisa, formerly a ROTC instructor at Middle Tennessee State University, have what he called a "blended family" with their children Joe, 13, Joey, 8, Christopher, 8, Dena, 5, and Taylor, 4. A native of New Hampshire, Durant coached youth soccer and played hockey in Clarksville. He describes his life as "definitely normal with a few minor exceptions" - the attention he receives when people realize that he was a national hero.

He thinks his experience in Somalia has given him insight into his work with weapon systems, as well as an understanding of what soldiers need to do when faced with a similar situation.

"I think it gives you an added appreciation of how important it is to deliver a quality product. If you've been a user and actually seen it, if you've had the right equipment and the right training like I think I did, you know how important it is," he said.

He gives "pretty basic" advice to soldiers.

"We're all counted on to know how to do our jobs the best we can, to be as well trained as we can possibly be," he said. "Know your job. Know how to do it and do it the best you can because it will not only help you survive but it will help your unit survive. It's absolutely true about the strength of the ties in your unit and how much you rely on each other."



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Courtesy photo

## Valued achievements

Members of THAAD Project Office received outstanding achievement awards through the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization during the Department of Defense's 2001 Value Engineering Achievement Awards ceremony June 6. Recipients include, from left, Col. Pat O'Reilly, project manager; Nancy Sims, from the AMCOM Command VE Office; Jamie Martin, Patriot Production and Configuration Management Division, Lower Tier Project Office; and Larry Easterwood, director of the THAAD Manufacturing and Product Assurance Directorate.

## Try building a community around you

### Commentary

continued from page 2

many reasons, both good and bad.

First, with more than 91 percent of enlisted wives working outside the home, wives are too busy with their jobs and families to participate in spouse clubs. These same wives may be reluctant to join spouse clubs anyway since some clubs are more oriented toward stay-at-home moms and aggravate the old debate about whether to work or be a homemaker. I don't need to mention that spouse clubs sometimes earn the reputation of harboring gossip-mongers, and spouse club leaders may need to reassess their approach to club management.

One of the worst reasons, however, for the decline of spouse clubs these days is that no one wants to be a "joiner." The cultural phenomenon of everyone stressing their independence and self-sufficiency contrasts directly with the need to build communities of people with common interest.

We as military wives need to ask ourselves: Is this a healthy attitude for me and my family given that we will relocate every three years and given that relocation tops the charts of "most stressful" lists? You will not only benefit personally, but by building a network around yourself you can help your husband and kids become acquainted with new friends. Everyone knows the benefits of

having friends around to support you in difficult times, the question is how to go about it.

Spouse clubs are the most obvious beginning toward building a community around you because they focus on a common interest: women living and/or recently moving to a military base. However, there are many other types of organizations that may peak your interest.

Consider looking into the following opportunities: book clubs; philanthropic organizations such as homeless shelters and educational mentors, or the Junior League; fitness clubs for tennis, golf, hiking, biking and scuba diving; women's networking groups like the local Women's Chamber of Commerce or local professional organizations; kids playgroups (Gymboree has classes for babies as young as 3 months); local government recreational offerings such as writing workshops and art classes; investment and finance clubs; or go back to school. Check your post newspaper, library or bookstore for notices of upcoming meetings.

Finally, remember what it is like to move to a new base. Introduce yourself to new neighbors and support community organizations. Your good deed may come back to help you some day.

*Editor's note: CinCHouse.com is a volunteer organization and web portal recognized officially by DoD in the same way as a spouse club. Its web site is [www.cinchouse.com](http://www.cinchouse.com).*

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# Soldier Show brings Hollywood glitz to Von Braun Center



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**HILLBILLY HUMOR**— With a little touch of Hollywood, performers in the 2001 Army Soldier Show portray the Soggy Bottom Boys from the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**OPENING NUMBER**— The Soldier Show performers hit the stage dancing with their first song, "We Are the One," following the theme of this year's show "We Are One," supporting the new Army slogan, An Army of One.

## Energetic musical routines entertain local audience

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer

Witnessing the energetic performance of the 2001 Army Soldier Show July 25-26, you never would have guessed the tour had been plagued with bus breakdowns, an auto accident and one broken nose. It's been an adventure for the 29-member cast and crew, and they're loving every minute of it.

So was the audience. Soldiers from the 832nd Ordnance Battalion attending the 2 p.m. show July 25 at the Von Braun Center's Concert Hall whooped and yelled their approval as the high-stepping show got under way with the glittery number, "We Are the One."

From the Andrew Sisters to the Beatles to the Back Street Boys, they jazzed their way through musical history. The audience especially loved the Sonny and Cher bit and the soldier and drill sergeant songs. Soldiers went into their tent after a long day of field exercises groaning about

the hard life and came out dressed in silk pajamas crooning about evening dreams.

Dipping into the Hollywood scene, performers wowed the crowd with a "Charlie's Angels" number and later in the show had a little hillbilly fun as the Soggy Bottom Boys from the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

"We're out here doing what we do because we like to perform but what makes it great is the audience," Sgt. Lisa Northey, stage manager, said. "We feed off the audience. The work is grueling but it's worth it because we're entertaining soldiers and families."

The Soldier Show is a production for the soldiers, by the soldiers. Active duty soldiers audition and if selected, take eight months off their regular duty for the Army Soldier Show tour. The group rehearses for six weeks before taking their show on the road to about 50 locations worldwide and perform nearly 115 shows.

"You know, there's a dance and routine you see on stage, but there's also a routine, much like a dance that goes on backstage to see that everyone is in their costumes and in their places. We're about a third of the way into the tour. It takes a while to get everything together but now we know that dance and things are going well, except for the buses."

The crew started the tour with the bus purchased three years ago for the soldier show but June 5 on the way to Fort Eustis, Va., the bus was involved in an accident. Most of the cast received only minor cuts and bruises but Spec. Shaun Adams broke his nose in the crash. Nevertheless, the show must go on, and it did, despite the mishaps. Adams was able to continue on the tour as a performer.

"We're like a big family," Sgt. Carolyn Washington, performer, said. "We fight; we love each other. That's what happens when you live so closely for so long. You become family."

There are no prima donnas in this group. The cast is responsible for the set up and tear down of 20 tons of equipment for every show. Their teamwork is the essence of the theme of the show "We Are



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**FINALE**— Bringing the show to a close, all 16 cast members take the stage to sing the final song. After the curtain closed, cast members stood by the exit doors to the Von Braun Center's Concert Hall and talked with the audience as they departed.

See Show on page 15

## ■ Soldier Show wows audience in Huntsville

### Show

continued from page 14

One" which highlights the Army concepts that "though we are many, we are one; though we are different, we are one... that combined individual strength creates an unbreakable chain. With a common goal or mission, many will become, 'An Army of One.'"

It was a message the audience, soldiers

and civilians alike, understood and appreciated.

"It was more than I expected, to tell you the truth," Pvt. Jeremy Tillman, B Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said. "It was fantastic."

Sponsors of the 2001 tour include United Services Planning Association Inc. and Independent Research Agency for Life Insurance Inc., Maingate.com, and the Army National Guard.

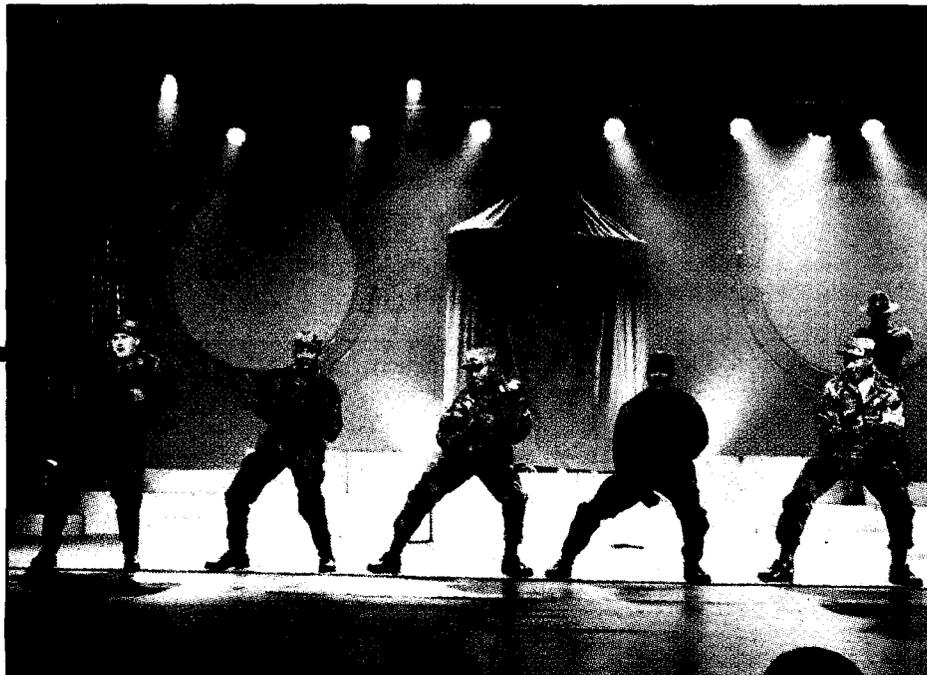


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**WORKING HARD**— In a rewrite of Michael Jackson's song "Working Day and Night," soldiers go from a field exercise into a tent on stage and come out dressed in silk pajama's, singing "Evening Dreams."

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# Party in the park

*Thousands attend Army concert during Armed Forces Week*

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer

Not even the sweltering temperatures could wilt the enthusiasm of the crowd attending the concert in the park with the 100th Division Army Reserve Band July 23. Thousands gathered with picnic suppers, lawn chairs and blankets, settling across the lawn at Big Spring Park to enjoy the music, military equipment displays and fireworks finale.

The military theme of the evening was one of several events in the community to support Armed Forces Week. Military displays included helicopters, robotics equipment, Multiple Launch Rocket System, howitzer and other hardware. Members of the 2001 Army Soldier Show tour entertained the crowd with a little preview of their show before the Army band took the stage.

The 100th Division Army Band out of

Fort Knox, Ky., offered something for everyone, young and old alike, but it was obvious that they were performing for a Southern crowd. During a medley of Confederate era songs, several people stood up and applauded when the "Dixie" tune began.

"I know where I am tonight," bandmaster CWO 4 Larry Barton said, after the medley was finished. "This is the only place we get applause right in the middle for this music. I'm a Southern boy too, though, so I know what it's all about."

"There's more variety tonight than at the other concerts," said Lynn Burbach, who brought her daughter Maddie, 11 months old, to hear the band. "We loved the girls in the costume (soldier's show). All we need now is for someone to turn the fans on."

Others in the crowd brought handheld fans; some like Carolyn Purser, had one decorated with the American flag. "It (the concert) was wonderful," she said. "It makes you feel good; proud to be an American."



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN**— This was the first time Bob and Carolyn Purser have made it out to Big Spring Park to hear an Army band. "It was wonderful," Carolyn said. "It made me feel good— very patriotic."

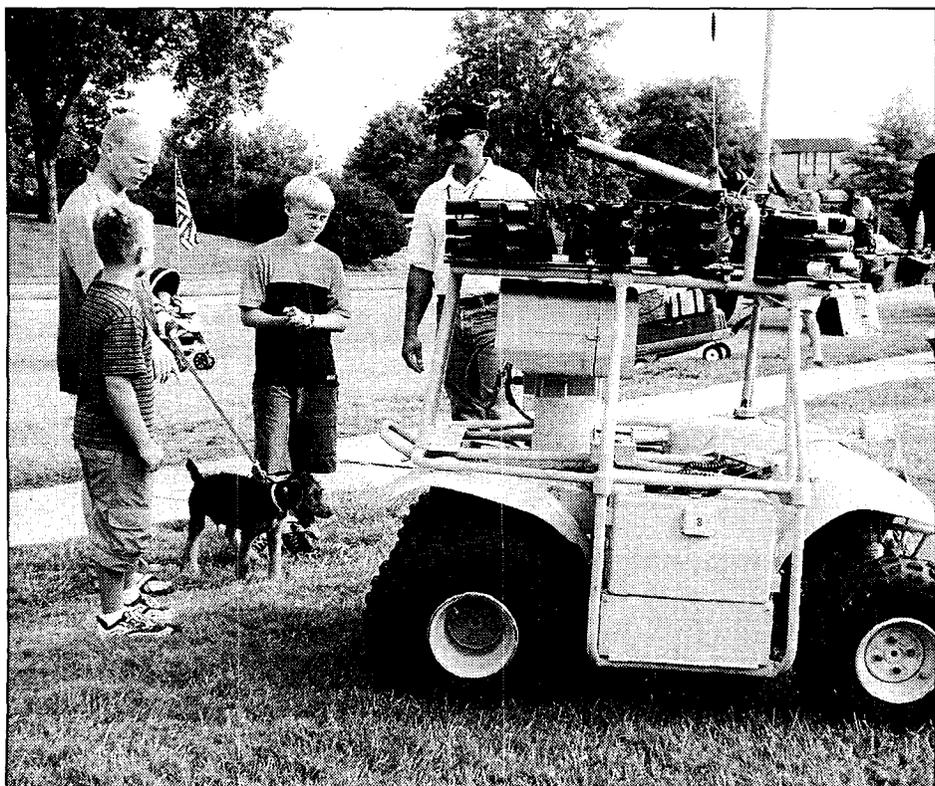


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**REMOTE CONTROL**— Several pieces of Army equipment were on public display at the concert in the park July 23 for Armed Forces Week. Contractors supporting the Unmanned Ground Vehicle/Systems Joint Project Office gave the public an up-close look at some of their robotics systems, including "Sarge."



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**PLAYING IN A TRAVELING BAND**— The 100th Division Army Reserve Band played for a crowd of thousands at Big Spring Park in Huntsville July 23 as part of the celebration of Armed Forces Week. Band members Spec. Amanda Garrett and Spec. Jason Travis perform with the band about 25 times a year during their one-weekend a month and two weeks a year training.



Courtesy photo

## Lynyrd Skynyrd

The rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd, along with .38 Special, will perform Aug. 25 at the Redstone Arsenal Activity Field. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 8. Tickets cost \$25 in advance or \$30 at the gate. Tickets are on sale at Sparkman Cafeteria, building 5302; Post Exchange cashiers window; RSA Information, Ticket & Registration Office, building 3711 on Patton Road at 876-4531 (from 4-9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; or charge by phone at 830-CLUB (from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). The Morale Welfare and Recreation web site can be reached as follows: [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).



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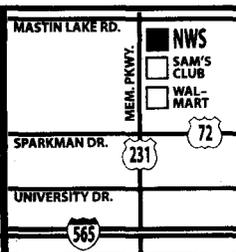
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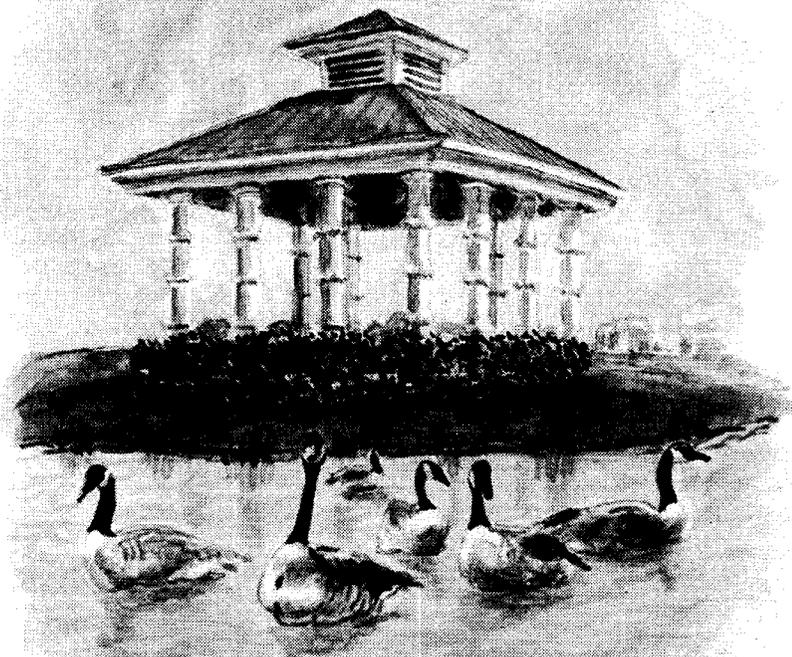
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# Club volleyball sets girls up for success

*Redstone families committed to nurturing interest in sport*

By BETH SKARUPA  
Staff writer

Although NASA volleyball players may want to shoot for the moon, the young girls playing in this club have no affiliation with the organization that puts rockets into orbit — unless their parents happen to work at Redstone Arsenal.

In this case the acronym stands for the North Alabama Spiker's Association, a club formed in 1990 to introduce Junior Olympic volleyball to the Huntsville community. And the more than 150 players, ages 10-19, from schools within a 100-mile radius of Huntsville are shooting for high performance when they decide to participate in club volleyball. They compete at a higher level than their high school or recreational teams, especially if they're members of a power team like NASA 131 that goes to the bigger tournaments.

While most of us were celebrating the Fourth of July weekend, NASA 131 was hard at work playing at the Junior Olympics volleyball tournament July 1-4. They placed 27 out of 64, quite an achievement, according to head coach Tanya Wigley. The team qualified for

nationals last year as a 12-and-under team and this year it went in the 13-and-under category. The players are all rising eighth-graders at area middle schools.

"It's a huge difference between 12- and 13-year-olds. The younger teams don't block, they don't transition," Wigley said. "Once they're in the 13-and-under category, they begin to play how they play in the varsity level teams. The game is much, much faster paced, so I thought they did a great job transitioning from 12 to 13."

She praised the players for being hard working and dedicated and stressed how important it was that their families were committed to the team as well. "The whole family has to be committed to being here and understanding what they're doing. And these girls have really improved over the two years I've been with them," she said.

Al Carreon, who works with PEO Aviation at Redstone, served as the team's manager this year as well as secretary on the NASA board of directors. His daughter Sarah is a member of NASA 131, so he has intimate knowledge of the amount of time and energy that is involved in being a team parent. He thinks it's important for parents to nurture their daughter's interest in volleyball.

"I guess one of the main reasons is that they form a bond, not only on the court

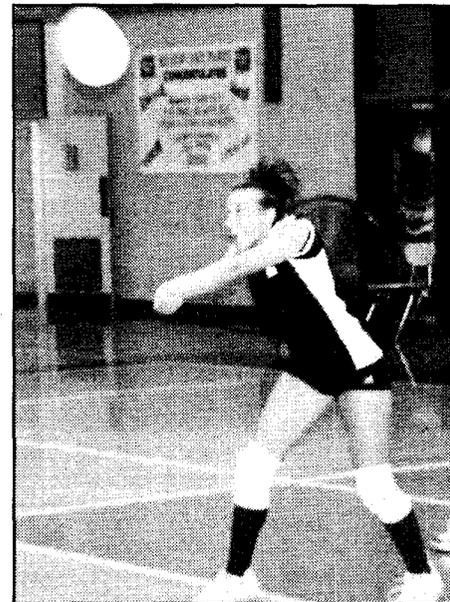


Photo by Beth Skarupa

**HEADS UP—** Justine Antoine, an upcoming eighth-grader and member of the North Alabama Spiker's Association volleyball team 131, gets ready to make a return during practice.

but I see them go to movies together, they go to parties together and they have each other to do things with," he said.

Wigley agrees that volleyball offers young girls more than just the confidence of being able to play well. "The main thing is, I think they only have a short time in their lives to enjoy the kind of camaraderie, teamwork and commitment that you find in volleyball, or really in all team sports. They only have 8-10 years and that's if they get to play college volleyball," she said. "It teaches them life lessons and life skills — how to cooperate

as a team, following instructions, picking each other up when they're feeling down. That can happen with any extracurricular activity but I like team sports especially because it teaches them to work together and they have to know how to work together with others their whole lives."

NASA 131 team members include Justine Antoine, Sarah Carreon, Emily Foreman, Caitlin Chalk, Sarah Brewster, Jenny Grannan, Kristy Grannan, Judi Lockett, Kaitlyn McDaniel, Jordan Scott, Nickie Perkins and Blair Stapp.

Chalk, an upcoming eighth-grader at Challenger Middle School, has played on the team two years. She said she started playing with NASA because she thought it would be fun. She especially enjoyed competing at the Junior Olympics again this year.

"Some of the teams were really tough and then some of them, they're like — I don't know, but most of them came from tournaments we've been to, like the ones in Kentucky and Indiana, so we've known them," she said. "That helped when we were playing against them."

This was the first year that Grannan — an upcoming eighth-grader at Whitesburg Middle School whose father is a deputy manager for JLENS Project Office — played on the team. She said she learned a lot and "got more into the groove of the game."

"I had played once at Whitesburg for my seventh-grade year but NASA was my first year playing club volleyball," she said. "There's a lot more practices and you get to go out of the county, out of Alabama and to overnight tournaments. It's more fun than school volleyball I think."

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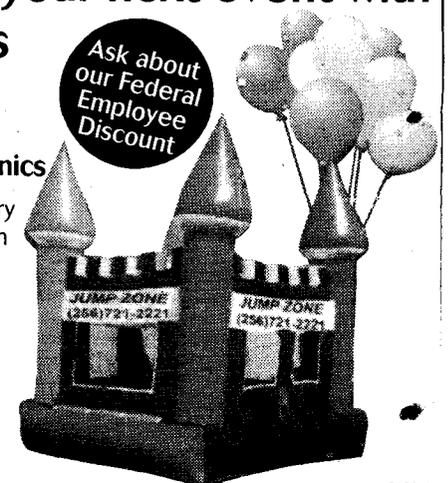
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B O U N D L E S S

# Vietnam veteran goes from battlefield to mission field



Courtesy photo

**DRAFTED**— Wade Franks served 18 months in Vietnam during 1969-70. Thirty years later he returned to find peace.

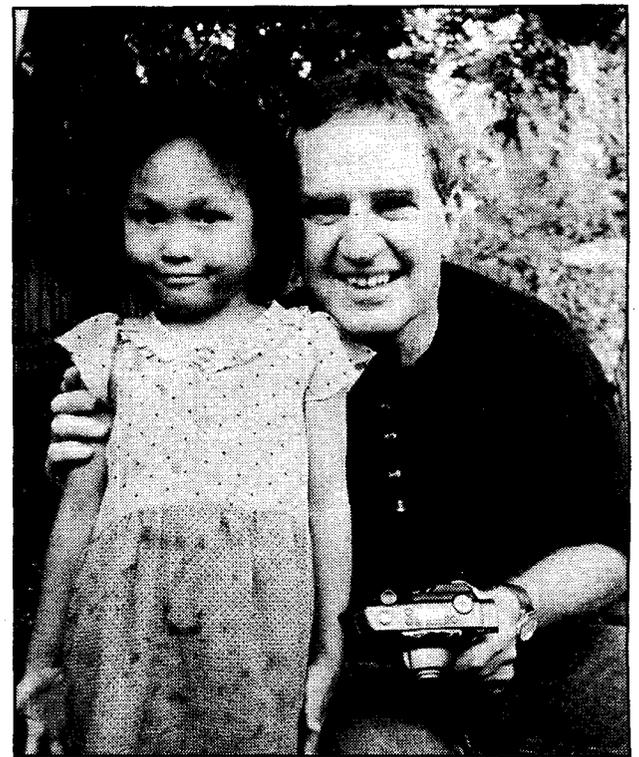
*Franks shares war stories, celebrates newfound peace*

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer

Stumbling into the bar, Wade Franks settles himself on a barstool swiping at the matted hair hanging in his eyes. Already stoned on pot, Franks bangs a fist on the bar, demanding a beer; commencing his nightly ritual. Drugs are only the appetizer. It's the liquor that will finally transport him to a more peaceful place, where the horrors of war and guilt of living no longer plague his thoughts. Oblivion is the only place he has to call home.

In a weak moment, Franks lets his thoughts wander to what life was like before his days as a ground-pounder in the jungles of Vietnam. Will he ever again inhale the sweet aroma of homemade cornbread baking in his mother's kitchen or know the feel of clean sheets? Chugging his beer, the thoughts vanish. This is his life — no home, no family, no career — only the guilt of surviving.

"Life was so bad when I came home in September 1970, I didn't tell anybody I was coming. Not my parents; no one," Franks, Vietnam veteran and Huntsville native, said. "I grabbed a taxi and hit the first beverage store. For the next four years I stayed high, in a drunken stupor. I lived on the road; slept under bridges, at the Salvation Army, hitch-hiking across the country going from



Courtesy photo

**COMING IN PEACE**— Wade Franks, Vietnam veteran and missionary, poses with a child of a country he's grown to love.

rock festival to rock festival."

No matter how Franks tried to rid himself of the war, Vietnam had become a part of him. He was drafted in 1968 and in January 1969 he served with the 101st Airborne Division in Ashau Valley, Vietnam. One cold

See Mission on page 21

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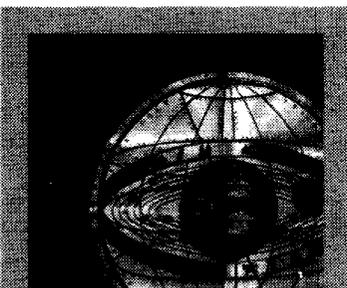
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## Veteran returns to Vietnam to find peace

### Mission

continued from page 20

rainy night in May 1969, on the ground later named Hamburger Hill, Franks' life was changed.

"Rain was pouring down in sheets, fog had settled down on the mountains," Franks said. "My squad was 'on ambush' about a hundred yards from the rest of the company when the enemy began the worst attack on us I'd ever been involved in. I'd lost my weapon — it had been blown away from me. We were wallowing in the mud. I could hear Watt and Simeone crying and screaming about 50 feet away from me, wounded by enemy fire. Me and Bobby George tried to crawl over and get them but Sgt. Testerman got us by the legs and drug us back up the hill.

"They were 50 feet away and I couldn't help them," he said, his voice quivering. "These were my close friends, we shared food, mail, families— our lives. These men wanted to live as much as I did."

Several men in his squad died that night. Franks suffered a shrapnel wound to the hip but it wasn't bad enough to "catch that freedom bird home." After a month recovery, it was time to go back out in the boonies.

"Getting hit (in the hip) hurt, but something inside me was crushed after losing my friends," he said. "I didn't want to go

back to the field without them. Us grunts, we were a close-knit bunch. Many cold nights up in the mountains we had to scrunch up together and share body heat. Losing them was too much. I would have gone AWOL but there was no place to go. Jungle was everywhere. I thought, I'd rather go to jail than back out to the boonies."

Shortly after that, Franks hooked up



Courtesy photo

**LITTLE JOE LOST**— After serving with the 101st. Airborne Division, Wade Franks finished out his Vietnam tour with the Scout Dog soldiers. He is posing with his first dog, Little Joe, who was killed while alerting soldiers of the approaching enemy.

with an old Huntsville friend, Ronnie McCrary, serving with the 47th Infantry Platoon Scout Dogs. Although it cost him an extra six months in country, Franks transferred to the Scout Dogs. He and his German shepherd, Little Joe, walked out in front of the soldiers to alert the squad of enemy presence. In February 1970, Little Joe "died in an ambush, in the place of the squad he was walking point for."

Franks survived the war, returning to Huntsville in 1970 but he couldn't find his life again. Too many pieces were missing. While criss-crossing the country, Franks ran into a friend that gave him a message from his old high school sweetheart, Gail.

"It was a napkin with her telephone number and address here in Huntsville," Franks said. "When I got back here, I went to her apartment — hair down to my shoulders, wearing a dirty old cutoff T-shirt and worn out blue jeans. I wasn't even wearing shoes."

"Love is blind," said Gail Franks, about that first encounter in 1974. "I was very happy to see him. We took up right where we left off in high school."

To the dismay of her parents, she and Franks were married two months later. The couple began to build a life together. They had a daughter, Carmen, in 1975. Wade had gotten a job with TVA in Scottsboro. "We felt like millionaires," Gail said.

But there was still the drinking, and the drugs and the nightmares.

"Wade didn't talk about Vietnam

much," Gail said. "When he would get drunk he would pull all his pictures out and start calling all over the country trying to find the guys he served with but he never had any luck."

**'I thought, if I die here, I'd hate it because nobody will ever know what we went through... and if I live, they still won't know.'**

— Wade Franks  
Vietnam veteran

A few years later, Franks came home to find his wife sitting in a chair, looking at him as never before. He knew something was different but at the time; he had no idea how it would change his life. Gail had given her heart to Jesus. She shared God's love with Franks, telling him for the first time since he was a child how much Jesus loved him, no matter where he'd been or what he'd done.

"It touched something in me but I rebelled for a few weeks against the call of God," Franks said. "Then one morning on the way to work, still dark outside, I pulled my car over on the side of Highway 431, got out, knelt down beside the door and talked to the Lord."

Things began to change after that. Franks put down the drugs and alcohol and picked up the Bible. As he grew in his

See Mission on page 22



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# Common currency for common market: Euro arrives overseas

## Nations making change to promote stability

By Lt. Col. MANFRED MERTES  
MLRS Project Office

Travelers and businessmen frequently going to Europe most certainly have heard about the euro. What is the euro? Is it a new acronym for a European citizen, or is it simply a new car in the European marketplace? None of the above.

Without spectacular headlines, 12 European nations started to prepare the transition from their individual national currencies to a single monetary policy by defining a new common currency, called "the euro."

In the early '90s, with the Maastricht Treaty, the countries of the European community with the exception of the United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden, agreed to introduce a common currency policy as one

of the most significant milestones on the way to unite the people and countries in Europe. The main goal was to promote stability of the currency in a region where approximately 300 million people live and work. This industrial area is probably comparable to the United States of America

The euro is the logic and consequent answer to Globalization of Economies, and establishes a powerful currency in Europe, comparable to the U.S. dollar and the Japanese yen.

In December 1996, in course of the consultations in Dublin, the newly designed bills were presented to the political leadership; and since 1999 the euro is the official common currency, for bank transaction, cash-less payments, and trade of shares. Bank accounts and existing contracts were changed to euro early in the transition phase. Because of the unavailability of bills and coins for direct payments, the importance of this change is not seen in the public opinion to the extent that it should have been.

To avoid price manipulation during the introduction of the new currency, governments agreed to freeze the relationship between the national currency and the euro in 1999. The introduction of fixed exchange rates between national currencies and the euro during the period from 1999 to 2001 provided the means to calculate prices during the transition by all people involved.

For example, 1 euro equals 1.95583 DEM or 1 euro equals 6.55957 FRF. Other than that procedure, the exchange rate to foreign currencies was more dynamic. The initial ratio between euro and the U.S. dollar was 1:1.18; presently it has gone down to 1: 0.85.

To complete the process, bills and coins are going to be distributed from Dec. 15 onwards. Starting on Jan. 1, 2002, everybody can use the money for payments besides the national currency. Cash-less payments will be executed in euro only. March 1, 2002 will be the historical date, when national currencies disappear from the European scene.

## Use of Christian symbols forbidden in Vietnam

### Mission

continued from page 21

Christian walk, he began to minister to others, becoming the unofficial chaplain for the TVA Browns Ferry plant in Athens where he now works. Though he had experienced a life renewal, memories of Vietnam still haunted him.

In 1998, through the ministry of another Vietnam veteran, Dave Roever, Franks

was given the chance to return to Vietnam. The program, called "Journey Back," enables American veterans to make peace with their war experiences and to represent the United States in a rally with Vietnamese veterans to promote reconciliation between the two nations.

"I didn't know what to expect that first time back," Franks said. "I knew it was ordained of God, that's why I went. It was the beginning of the healing for me. But there was something more

there. There was a country full of people who needed to see the love of Christ. I felt as if God told me that even though I couldn't help those soldiers crying out on the battlefield, there's a country that is crying out for help — more than 85 million, and I was going to be part of caring for them."

Franks returned to Vietnam a year later, this time with Gail, through the "Journey Forward" program. The couple have been back several times since then. Wade was selected to serve on a special missions team called Roever Educational Assistance Projects, International, which is an outreach program to the Vietnamese people.

The use of Christian symbols is forbidden in Vietnam. REAP sends the message of the love of Christ through their community programs which include a street children program in Ho Chi Minh City; a scholarship program for children in all 61 provinces; clothing; medical supplies and equipment, emergency relief supplies, building village schools; sponsoring cataract surgeries; donating bicycles and wheelchairs through the veterans' outreach; and a Cardiac Care Unit in Nguyen Trai Hospital dedicated to treating poor patients.

"During the war, I remember sitting in

the mountains at night in constant fear — 24-hour-a-day fear — fear like you've never known, knowing that you could be gone any minute," Franks said. "I thought, if I die here, I'd hate it because nobody will ever know what we went through... and if I live, they still won't know.

"I owe it to the 59,000 men and women who sacrificed to be the very best person I can be because I lived. I realized that I can make a difference through Jesus," Franks said. "We all can. I'm grateful for the support we get for our ministry work. I'm thinking big. I believe God will give us the opportunity to have the first Christian crusade in Vietnam. If we can win this country...we win big."

Since his initial trip back to Vietnam, Franks has begun to speak publicly about his experiences during the war and his reconciliation. On Aug. 5, Dave Roever will be a guest speaker at Pulaski Pike Church of God, 3912 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, at 6 p.m. Roever, while serving as a riverboat gunner in Vietnam in 1969, was burned beyond recognition when a phosphorous grenade he was poised to throw exploded in his hand, six inches from his face.

For more information about REAP, International, call Franks at (256) 725-4773.

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**QA Inspector:** Perform receipt inspection, test and examination of materials, supplies and products and services received from subcontractors to ensure compliance. AA in engineering, science or mathematics and two years of relevant experience or equivalent combination of education, training and experience required. Should have documented training in quality control procedures.

**Aircraft Mechanic:** Repairs aircraft structures and performs final operational testing and troubleshooting. High School Diploma or GED and five years UH-60 BlackHawk experience required.

**Sheet Metal Mechanics (3):** Plans, lays out, fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal parts, equipment and products. High School Diploma or GED and five years sheet metal experience required.

**Electrical Engineer:** BS Electrical Engineering and 3-5 years electrical integration experience or 6-8 years equivalent experience proficiency in MS Office, CAD (AutoCAD preferred), SolidWorks and MS Office required.

**Mechanical Engineer:** BS Electrical Engineering and 3-5 years aviation structural design experience or 6-8 years equivalent experience. Proficiency in MS Office, CAD (AutoCAD preferred), SolidWorks and MS Office required.

**Parts Clerk:** High School Diploma or GED and kitting skills are required. Experience with MS office and/or Visual Manufacturing would be a plus.

**Manufacturing Safety Coordinator:** High School Diploma or GED and 3 years plus experience in managing all aspects of OSHA regulatory compliance, EPA compliance, and employee safety training.

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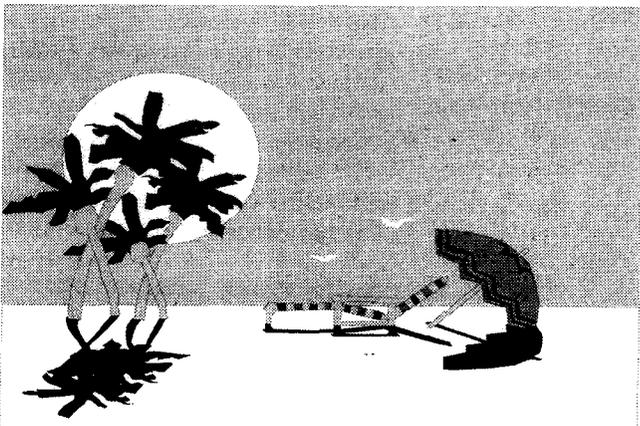
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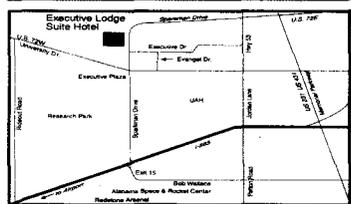
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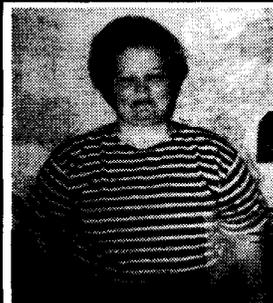
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# Announcements



## Sports & Recreation

### Ten-Miler tryouts

A tryout for Redstone Arsenal's team in the annual Army Ten-Miler will be held 7 a.m. Saturday 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.

### 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.

### Outdoor recreation volunteers

Outdoor Recreation will accept applications for volunteers Aug. 1-15 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eligible persons interested should pick up and turn in their applications at Outdoor Recreation, building 5132 during those hours. Bring proper identification (driver's license and RSA civilian or contractor badge, or military ID). For more information, call Potter or Glass 876-4868/6854.

### Youth soccer

Registration for soccer will continue through Friday at the Challenger, building 1500. Eligible youth ages 5-13 — active and retired military, DoD, DA, contractors and NASA employee dependents — may register. The cost is \$35 per child for soccer and \$15 per child or \$35 per family for Central Registration Enrollment (if not already enrolled with Central Registration). You may register M-F from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. You must have with you at the time of registration, a copy of the child's birth certificate and a current physical (if not already on file at Central Enrollment). Practice will begin in August and league play will be September through October. For more information, call 876-3704, 876-5437 or page 720-9204.

### Auburn party

The Huntsville Madison County Auburn Club will hold its Annual Party, Aug. 8 at the Von Braun Center. The featured speaker is Coach Tommy Tuberville. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. The cost is \$55 per couple prepaid (\$60 at the door) and \$32.50 prepaid (\$37.50 at the door) for adult singles. Cost includes dinner and club dues. The cost for children is

\$17.50 for ages 13 to 18, \$12 for age 4 to 12, and free for children under 3. For more information, call Gary Abernathy 520-8449.

### Triathlon

Registration is under way for the eighth annual Rocketman Triathlon, Aug. 26 at 7:30 a.m. at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area. For more information, call Bob Mulkey 883-7399 (evenings).

### Golf scramble

The Huntsville Chapter of the Executive Women's Golf Association invites everyone (male and female) to play in a four-person Golf Scramble, Aug. 18 at 8 a.m. at Huntsville Municipal Course. Proceeds from the sale of mulligans will benefit the "Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Foundation." Registration is \$55. For more information, call Pam Ledgerwood 955-5137 (work) or 772-6788 (home).

### Scholarship golf tourney

The third annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, sponsored by Huntsville Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., will be held Saturday with a shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. Tournament fees are as follows: individual \$55, team \$220 and hole sponsor \$100. Fees include golf cart, greens fees, gift package, soft drinks and lunch. Make check or money order payable to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Register by Friday at the House of Alpha. For information call Dwayne Sanders 961-2206 (day) or 837-0595 (evening), Calvin Lawhorn 539-0555 (day) or 837-9476 (evening), Mace Neal 355-4515 (day) or 852-2227 (evening), or James Mitchell 895-7413 (day) or 859-9979 (evening).



## Conferences & Meetings

### AMCOM town hall

The last Town Hall meeting with Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, will be held 9-11 a.m. Thursday in the Bob Jones Auditorium. The meeting will feature updates on QDR (Quadrennial Defense Review) Reshape, the Personnel Management Processes Campaign Plan, People Process Initiatives, Organizational Success and infrastructure improvements. Badges must be worn by all attending. The town hall will be broadcast on Team Redstone television channel 42. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7 of the auditorium.

### Systems acquisition course

On Aug. 4-9, the Tennessee Valley Chapter of National Defense Industrial Association will again provide the community with the course "Overview of Systems Acquisition and Management." For more information and to sign up, go to the NDIA Tennessee Valley Chapter web site

as follows: [www.ndia-tvc.org](http://www.ndia-tvc.org).

### 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.

### 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. 20 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](http://www.ndia-tvc.org/smdc2001). You may also call 533-5923 or fax 534-9899.

### 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.

### Newcomers orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation to be held Aug. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at building 3447. The orientation features speakers, information booths, and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Participants receive Morale, Welfare and Recreation bucks that can be spent at any MWR activity. Attendance is mandatory for permanently assigned military personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Child care is provided at the Child Development Center by signing up and bringing the child's shot records. For more information, call Mary Breeden or Kristi Foster 876-5397.

### Toastmasters

Michael Jordan once said, "I've missed over 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost over 300 games. Twenty-six times I took the game winning shot and missed... and because of these failures, I'm a success." If you are ready to march past your fear of public speaking, visit Toastmasters. Sure you will make mistakes, but you learn from them in a positive, supportive atmosphere that will ensure future victory. Stop by and see how it works. The Communicator Toastmaster Club meets Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Sparkman Center building 5304. For more information, call Ron Legowik 876-5619 or Jae Steele 955-1705.

### Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Aug. 16 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at Redstone

Golf Course. For information call Sgt. Maj. Bob Furia 842-9770.

### Motorcycle riders

The Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Chapter B meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, 10017 South Memorial Parkway. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Roy Fosnight, assistant chapter director, 721-9151 (home).

### Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Detachment of the Marine Corps League meets the second Tuesday of each month. Its next meeting is 6:30 p.m. Aug. 14 at the American Legion, Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave.



## Miscellaneous

### Fire training

The rookie school for Huntsville Fire and Rescue will do live burns in the 1400 area Aug. 8 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An excess four-plex will be burned for training. The lower area of Nike Street intersecting Spartan Drive will be congested with fire apparatus during the exercise. 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. Redstone fire officials ask that people not tour this area while the exercise is under way.

### Career workshop

Attention, military spouses: Are you interested in working, but not quite sure what job is right for you? Are you dissatisfied with your present job? Looking for alternatives? If so, call 876-5397 and register for a free workshop to help you understand the relationship between your personality type and career satisfaction. This workshop will be held Aug. 16 at 10 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3491. Free childcare is available. For more information, call Debra Jefferson 876-5397.

### 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 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.

## Mr. Man Premiere

SB Productions will present the 11th annual Mr. Man Premiere, Aug. 18 at the Von Braun Center north hall. Sponsors include the Men's Wearhouse, CACH'E, and The Equine Lady. Selected men will compete in the areas of style, composure of manner, personality and performance for the honorable title of Mr. Man. Contestants will be escorted and assisted by female models. Organizers promise an evening of dining, unpredictable drama, enchantment, entertainment, dance and more. Ticket locations include CACH'E (Madison Square Mall) and the Men's Wearhouse (Huntsville). Proceeds will benefit the Madison Community Action Team in its efforts to build a center for teen-agers of northern Alabama. The theme for this year's event is, "If we treat each other better as adults, they will treat each other better as children." For more information, call Samuel Brown (256) 233-4702 or 650-7736 pager.

## 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.

## Lynyrd Skynyrd

Don't miss the hottest concert of the summer. MWR is selling tickets for the Lynyrd Skynyrd/.38 Special concert, open to the public, Aug. 25 at the Redstone Activity Field. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 8. All tickets are general admission; and ticket prices are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the gate. Tickets are on sale at Sparkman Cafeteria building 5302; PX cashiers window; all Papa John's pizza locations in North Alabama; CD Warehouse locations in Huntsville and Decatur; 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.). The Morale Welfare and Recreation

web site is as follows: [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

## 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.

## Arts and crafts

The arts and crafts shop at building 3615 offers classes in oil painting, watercolor and other skills. For more information, call 876-7951.

## Enlisted spouses

The Enlisted Spouses Club is seeking new members. This club offers a fun way to meet new people and help support the community. Meetings are held once a month. All active duty as well as retired enlisted spouses are welcome. For more information, call Sonya 726-9394.

## Property sale

The Directorate of Community and Family Activities will hold a NAF property Tag Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today through Friday. All items will be pre-priced with a two-part price tag attached. One part will be carried to the cashier for payment of that item. With your receipt, you may immediately pick up your purchased items from the sale site. Items for sale include boat motors, aluminum boats, computers, hotel/motel furniture, restaurant furniture and equipment, washers, dryers, stoves, dining tables, padded chairs, desks, night stands, four-drawer chests, desk dressers, davenport dressers, and wall mounted mirrors. Type of payment: for non-military, personal checks accepted up to a limit of \$100, cash, or credit card (MasterCard and Visa). To get to the site: Enter Redstone Arsenal on Pat-

ton Road, follow Patton Road south to Redstone Road, turn left, go about two miles to Warehouse Road and turn right. Go a half-mile to Dogwood Road, turn left, follow to building 7436. For more information call 876-1418 or visit the web site at the following address: [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

## Family team building

Soldiers receive training that will enable them to meet the many challenges of military service. They will be well trained and prepared for the next assignment — what about you, the family member? How will you learn to cope with the challenges of a military lifestyle? How will you learn about military benefits and about facilities available to you? These questions, and more, will be answered in Army Family Team Building classes. AFTB is a program developed just for you. It is Basic Training for family members — without the drill sergeants! The program serves the families and soldiers of Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding communities. AFTB Level 1 courses will be offered Sept. 4-6, from 6-9 p.m., at Army Community Service (building 3491, Honest John Road). Free, on-post childcare. Space is limited, so call 876-5397 by Aug. 31 if you would like to attend.

## Team success seminar

The Army Family Team Building staff will hold a Team Success Seminar at 6-9 p.m. Sept. 18 at Army Community Service, building 3491. The seminar and childcare are free. The program includes 30-minute blocks of training, information for the success of any team. To enroll call 876-5397.

## Virus screening program

The Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center is cooperating with Auburn University in a screening program to detect the presence of West Nile Virus in local populations of crows, pigeons, and blue jays. If you find sick or dead birds from these species on Redstone Arsenal, with no apparent trauma, call

PHEC at 876-8837 for assistance.

## Army health center

Fox Army Health Center will hold its annual Organizational Day celebration Friday. Minimal staffing will be instituted and clinics will curtail regular services as of 11 that morning to allow maximum participation at this event. Same day urgent appointments will be available through the Advice Nurse from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Primary Care Extended Hours Clinic. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to schedule urgent appointments. The pharmacy, laboratory and radiology will be open with limited staffing. The Family Practice Combined Clinic will be open from 6:30-11 a.m. After 11 a.m., urgent active duty patients can be seen by calling the Advice Nurse for an urgent appointment.

## Troop sick call

Due to the Troop Medical Clinic closure and move to Fox Army Health Center in May, the TMC phone numbers are no longer in service. Appointments may be made by calling 955-8888. For urgent problems, sick call is conducted at Fox Army Health Center from 6:30-7:30 a.m. in the Primary Care Clinic, Team 2. For sick call information, call 955-8612.

## Astronomical society

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

## Academy applications

The Janice Mitchell Isbell Academy is accepting applications for teachers and students. Interested applicants for teaching positions may call Augustus Smith, principal/administrator, 852-7572. Parents/guardians may call Patricia Hill, executive director, 851-6354 for student enrollment applications.

See Announcements on page 26

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Biology	Music
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Computer Science	Political Science
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Consult a UAH Timetable for a complete schedule of courses, or visit the UAH website at [www.uah.edu](http://www.uah.edu).

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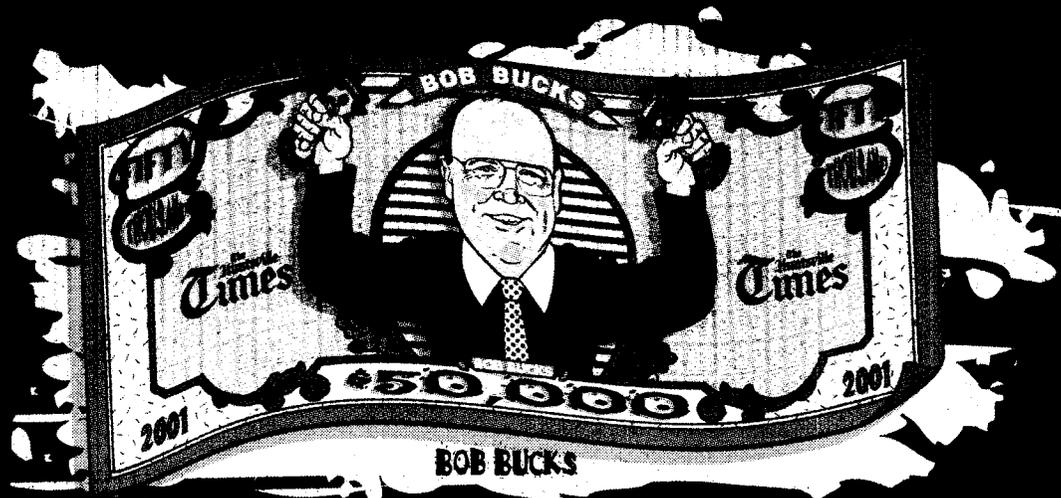




# The Huntsville Times

and Publisher, Bob Ludwig,  
want to make you a

# MEGA MILLIONAIRE



with our Mega-Million Bob Bucks Give-Away

Here's how the Mega Millions Give-A-Way works:

## BOB BUCKS PUBLISHED DAILY

Beginning July 1, each day for 3 months we'll publish three Bob Bucks in The Times.

Cut them out and start saving. You'll be able to use these throughout the promotion just like cash!

## WEEKLY AUCTIONS

Each week, July 8 - September 25, you will be able to use your Bob Bucks to bid on merchandise from various businesses throughout the area. Bid forms will run in The Times each Monday and Tuesday, you'll write your bid down and drop off at participating business.

## BONUS DAYS

Some days there will be \$3,000 in Bob Bucks in the paper. On bonus days there can be as much as \$70,000 Bob Bucks in the paper. You won't know which days are Bonus Days so you need to check each and every day!

## MEGA-MILLIONS AUCTION

At the end of the give-away you could have over \$1,000,000 collected. We'll have a Mega-Millions Auction on October 4th where you can join in on the fun and bid your Bob Bucks on great merchandise! **No CASH needed - just your Bob Bucks!**

Collect your Bob Bucks every day! Only in  
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