

Redstone Rocket

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Personnel system adopts new rules

Performance based pay
among future features

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Local Army officials are getting ready for a massive overhaul in the civilian personnel system.

This is the system that governs how civilians are hired, compensated and promoted in the Department of Defense. The rules will change within the next two years under the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

"It's a new human resources management program which is currently being planned for implementation within the DoD work force," Phyllis Conner, a human resources specialist in the Personnel and Training Directorate which will soon



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SHARING IDEAS— From left are Jackie Bennett, acting director of Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; Don Eiermann, president of AFGE Local 1858; Phyllis Conner of Personnel and Training Directorate; and Brooks Woerner of CPAC.

become the Human Resources Directorate, said. She is the command's project officer for the upcoming National Security

Personnel System.

There aren't specifics yet but the new system is to basically adopt the best practices from various personnel demonstration projects. The Defense Department determined that the current rules are outdated and hinder its ability to carry out its national security mission.

"It's going to eliminate the current General Service personnel system," Brooks Woerner, human resources specialist (labor relations) in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said. And GS workers aren't the only ones affected; it'll also include wage grade and Senior Executive Service folks.

The system will compensate workers for their performance. Rather than being a GS-9, for example, you'll be assigned to a career path which includes GS-11 and GS-12 employees in your field. You can progress to those higher salary levels based on your job performance. This should mean opportunities to advance in your career quicker than if you had remained under the GS system.

"We're anticipating that it'll be a paybanding system currently under some of the demonstration projects," Don Eiermann, president of the

See Rules on page 9

Defense authorization act makes widespread change

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 has already left its mark.

Here are some changes that have already happened from that legislation signed by President Bush last Nov. 24:

The Defense Department has permanent authority to offer voluntary early retirement and voluntary separation incentive pay for up to 25,000 workers annually. The Army's share is 7,722 for fiscal '04; and the Aviation and Missile Command has asked higher headquarters for around 200.

"Restructuring buyouts are an excellent tool to help us in revitalizing our work force," Lori Reynolds, deputy human resources officer, said.

The student loan repayment program's limit was raised from \$6,000 per year to \$10,000 annually. "That's

something that management can offer their employees, the best and the brightest, as a recruitment incentive," Reynolds said.

Overtime pay was revised. This change affects overtime calculations for people whose rate of basic pay exceeds the rate for GS-10, step 1. They can now earn either their regular hourly rate of basic pay or the GS-10, step 1 rate, whichever is greater. This ensures that these workers will get no less than their regular rate of basic pay for overtime work.

The law also gave authority to eliminate the pay offset rule for re-employed annuitants. When implemented this should mean retirees who return to the federal work force can draw their full salary plus their full annuity in one-year increments for up to five years.

Employees' union still in business

You know the old quip, "Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." Well, that applies to the employees' union.

A rumor has circulated that the union went out of business with the recent passage of legislation at the national level. This is not true.

"The union is not going away and management is going to continue to work with us in the same fashion until specifi-

cally directed to do otherwise," Don Eiermann, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858, said.

AFGE represents all the non-supervisory and non-confidential employees, he said.

The union meets every second Monday of the month at 5 p.m. at its office in building 3202 on Mauler Road. For more information, call 876-4880.

Getting to know you

By **KIM MASON**
Staff writer
kimberly.mason@redstone.army.mil

Name: Carolyn Allyn

Job: Auditor, Internal Revenue and Audit Compliance

Where do you call home?
Stevenson, Ala.

What do you like about your job?
The challenge. The fact that we get to interact with all the different activities within the command. The fact that we are making a positive contribution to the Army's mission.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I love plants, I have a lot at home. I also enjoy walking and reading.



What are your goals?
To be a better, healthier person. To be as positive as I can be.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

The Provost Marshal Office provided the following list of reported incidents:

Jan. 11: An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

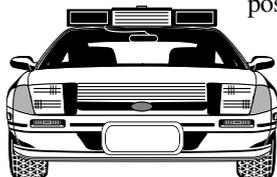
Jan. 11: A soldier reported that someone had thrown several eggs which struck his government owned quarters and his personal vehicle. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 12: Two soldiers reported as being in desertion status from their unit turned themselves in to the Provost Marshal Office where they were processed and returned to their unit.

Jan. 12: An individual reported that someone removed a tire from his personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended at the Auto Skills Center storage lot at building 3617. Investigation contin-

ues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Jan. 13: An individual was apprehended in a parking lot on Mauler Road after an inspection revealed that he had several outstanding arrest warrants issued by the Huntsville Police Department and was in possession of drug paraphernalia.



He was issued a violation notice and released to HPD.

Jan. 15: An individual was detained at the Post Exchange after he was observed concealing items and then exiting without rendering proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Traffic accidents reported: housing areas, none; roadways, 8.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 39; parking violation, 3; failure to obey a traffic control device, 1; failure to maintain liability insurance, 2; driving with a suspended driver's license, 1; and larceny, 1.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for your help

I would like to thank the following people for their help on my 508th Military Police Battalion project: 59th Ordnance Brigade commander Col. Joyce Napier, 59th Ordnance S-3 NCO-in-charge SFC Richard Troendle, 59th Ordnance S-4 officer Tom Self and

832nd Ordnance Battalion S-4 NCO-in-charge SFC Charles Blessie.

I would just like to say thanks a million for your help and assistance.

Ronald E. Sheaffer
retired staff sergeant

An open lane random survey

Should Pete Rose be allowed back into baseball?

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

SSgt. Harry Chambers

"Sure. He got caught gambling, but what's the difference between him gambling on his ball team and going down to Las Vegas and gambling at the craps table? There's none, not to me. Gambling is gambling. So what? He really didn't do anything illegal. His skills and expertise in the ball game are there. He's not going to lose that. So yeah, why not?"



Darce Simpson
DoD civilian
"Yes, he's paid his dues."

CWO 4 BJ Roberts

"He should be allowed in the hall of fame. You really shouldn't hold his past history and what he accomplished hostage over what he's done, because what he's done is for baseball. But you shouldn't allow him the luxury of getting a job back in baseball because he did violate the rules in that respect."



Harlie Clark Jr.
contractor

"Yes, he should. I guess enough time has passed. He's admitted to his wrongdoing to his sport. He has not continued to do it. He's served his time."

Ed Johnson
NASA

"Actually, I don't. I think he violated the number one taboo in baseball, which is you don't bet if you are involved in the sport. So I don't think he should. I think you compromise the whole game if you allow him back in."



Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to the following: skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.

Quote of the week

'Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects.'
— Will Rogers

Redstone Rocket

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Industry reps get pep talk on wartime support

Demand exceeds supply for aircraft and parts

By **BOB HUNT**
For the Rocket

AMCOM commander Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury briefed a group of prime contractors last week during Industry Days meetings at the Huntsville Hilton.

The Acquisition Center set up the conference so AMCOM representatives and the command's major suppliers could share concerns and develop ideas for maintaining the worldwide readiness of supported aviation and missile systems.

In his opening remarks, Pillsbury set the tone and established common ground for all involved in the meetings. "People tell me your bottom line and my bottom line are different. I disagree," he said. "I'm not naïve enough to think that you don't need to worry about a bottom line, net and gross, but you also know that we are at war. As a nation, we are at war. Not just Raytheon. Not just Honeywell. Not just AMCOM. But as a nation we are under attack right now.

"I'm focusing these next few days on RESET," Pillsbury told the audience of more than 100 AMCOM and contractor representatives. "When I wake up in the morning, after I finish my prayers, my number one priority is support to OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom). My number two priority is RESET."

RESET is an Armywide effort to return all major systems used in OEF and OIF to pre-deployment condition. AMCOM, in coordination with its related program executive offices, plans to inspect and repair all major aviation and missile systems and aviation ground support equipment to return them to fully mission capable standards, eliminate desert-induced damage, repair crash and battle damaged systems, apply approved and funded maintenance work orders, and conduct phase maintenance for applicable aviation systems.

"We are now operating at three to five times the tempo we were operating at just 18 months ago, and we're doing it in an extreme desert environment," Pillsbury said. "So, demand far exceeds supply for aircraft and parts to support flying hours.

"I think most of you know that we are going to be RESETING a good portion of our force," Pillsbury said. "But that doesn't mean there won't be some other contingency in other places around the world where that spike in OPTEMPO will go up again. So we've got to be ready for a myriad of things."

Pillsbury confessed to the contractors that part of the problem of maintaining



Shawn Harris/Photo Lab

UNSETTLING TONE— "As a nation we are under attack right now," Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, AMCOM commander, says.

readiness lies with the Aviation and Missile Command. "Most of you would say one of our biggest problems is our inability to forecast (the need for parts) properly. And I pledge to you that I will work hard to fix that. We'll be getting a new software program sometime this summer called LMP that will help us improve. If you can tell me how I could do it better, I sure would listen," he said.

Yet, Pillsbury also challenged the contract community. "From FY '02 to present, only 10 percent of the dollar investment in spares and maintenance has been delivered. We've got to accelerate our return on investment, reduce lead time and increase rates of deliveries," he said.

Pillsbury later put the challenges in a perspective that would appeal to comedian George Carlin. "I met with Gen. Schoomaker in a session right before I took over for Maj. Gen. Dodgen, and he said to me, 'We don't have enough stuff. When you prosecute a war, you use stuff.'"

He told the contract audience, "You have the stuff we need to buy. And that stuff is parts and services. But the chief said, 'I've gotta have more stuff, but that doesn't mean I got to have a bigger footprint.'"

"I want to take my stuff and put it at Corpus Christi or Letterkenny," Pillsbury said. "And I want to fix the equipment for the soldiers back there and keep the footprint in the theater down. That way less people get killed."

Following Pillsbury's remarks, the Industry Days conferees broke into separate sessions at the weapon system level to identify progress on items that are critical to support OIF, OEF or RESET and to develop innovative solutions for continued support.

Conference puts community needs in clear focus

Eyeglass coverage is top issue among the 100 submitted

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer

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Nearly 100 issues were submitted to the Army Family Action Plan conference last week and it took about the same number of volunteers to wrestle the pile down to the top five.

At the end of the two-day meeting, the decision was clear, ranking the need for eyeglass coverage under the Tricare plan as the top issue of Redstone's 2004 conference.

The remaining top issues are needs that could be met at the local level. They are, in descending order: extended hours at Gate 10, a franchised taxi service, establishing an honor team detachment, and improving the quality and hours of the dry cleaners on post.

"We're finding out what's working and what's not," Larry Leggett, Quality of Life program manager and AFAP conference coordinator, said. "That's the wonderful thing about AFAP. This is a grassroots thing. It's here so that every person can have a say, no matter how small or how big the issue."

Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone, drove that point home during his welcoming remarks at the conference, taking the microphone and speaking so softly the audience couldn't hear him.

"He went on quietly for several minutes," Leggett said. "Then he spoke up, telling them that the purpose of the AFAP is to be heard - if we can't hear you, we can't fix it."

Community participation was good, according to Leggett, not only in getting issues submitted to the conference but in volunteer participation to serve as delegates, facilitators, recorders, subject matter experts and conference planning staff.

The 100 issues were divided among the seven working groups according to subject matter: medical/dental, commissary/exchange, youth group, civilian employment, Morale Welfare and Recreation, traffic/transportation/personnel/finance, and family housing/facilities maintenance. Every issue was discussed and then the group selected its three most important.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HOT TOPICS— Two of the three top issues from the Traffic/Transportation/Personnel/Finance work group made the installation's top five. Group members from left include Spec. Marlon Alvarado, Headquarters & Alpha Company; Spec. Earnest Williams, Garrison; and George Moore, military retiree and post volunteer.

Those were further discussed, defined and a recommendation offered on how to fix the problem.

"We've had some stimulating conversations this morning," George Moore, delegate for the TTPF group, said. Moore is retired Army and serves as a volunteer at Army Community Service. "I wanted to do this because I see some of these issues come up day after day. The reserve parking issue got very heated (too many reserved parking spaces on post) but it didn't make it to the top three. Now we're ready to set a course of defining our top three."

By the afternoon on the second day, groups were ready to brief command and community leaders on the top three from each group. Leggett stressed that although only 20 were briefed, every issue submitted to the conference would be addressed and answered.

The command will now task out these issues for further study and meet back with the community March 18 at the Diane Gilliam Recreation Center to discuss the outcome. What can't be resolved by local action will be elevated up the chain of command as appropriate. A detailed list of issues and resolutions will be posted on the MWR web site as the process progresses.

"I'm so proud to be a part of this conference, working with these great volunteers and staff," Leggett said. "They make it what it is and they've done an outstanding job this year. I expect we'll see some changes from this."

The top 20 issues briefed to the commanders included: Chiropractic care for active duty family members; court-ordered treatment for active duty family members; family member eyeglass coverage; summer hire application process; post-deployment program for civilians; civilian employment post-selection matrix sheets; soldier waiting area outside PX/commissary; fast food choices on post; quality and hours of dry cleaners; extended hours for Gate 10; compensation for involuntary extended service; franchised taxi service; summer curfew; inadequate shuttle stops and posted schedules; insufficient summer employment opportunities for youth; emergency work orders for new quarters; lack of housing inspectors; Redstone Honor Team (funeral detail and color guard); civilian intramural participation; and awareness and enforcement of DoD fee policy for Child and Youth Services.

Here are the top five issues:

• No. 1 — Family member eyeglass coverage. There is no coverage under Tri-

care for family members of active duty or retirees. One pair of eyeglasses can range from \$100 to \$400. Often, several members of a family require glasses, thus increasing the cost to several hundred dollars. Eyeglasses are not an optional expense and must be incurred. Recommendation: Implement co-pay coverage of eyeglasses for family members under Tricare.

• No. 2 — Extended hours for Gate 10. Hours of operation at Gate 10 do not meet the requirements of servicemembers. Presently, only Gate 9 is open 24 hours. It is located at some distance from family housing and the training areas. Servicemembers need Gate 10 to open earlier to accommodate training schedules and to stay open later for off-post quality of life activities. Recommendations: Open Gate 10 one hour earlier - 4 a.m.; and extend Gate 10 hours on Fridays and Saturdays by one hour, to 1 a.m.

• No. 3 — Franchised taxi service. Cab drivers are charging inflated rates for services on post. Currently, the on-post taxi service cannot support unofficial or off-post travel. This creates financial hardship for those on Redstone who require taxi service. Recommendation: Establish an exclusive post commercial taxi service.

• No. 4 — Redstone Honor Team (funeral detail and color guard). Currently the Redstone Honor Team is inadequately staffed and funded to carry out its detail mission. Also, soldiers are required to perform daily duties, as well as handling funeral detail. This leads to excessive stress, financial hardship and destroys morale. Recommendations: Establish an honor team detachment with adequate personnel; and provide funding for additional uniform and food allocations.

• No. 5 — Quality and hours of dry cleaners. Quality and service of the dry cleaners on post is inferior. Military/civilian clothing is returned often in wrinkled or damaged condition. Some are lost. Initial Entry Training soldiers cannot get to the dry cleaners during current operating hours, due to the training schedule. Authorized customers are taking their dry cleaning off post, which results in inconvenience, increased cost, and loss of revenue to the PX. Recommendations: Expand evening hours to correspond with PX; and increase quality assurance inspections by the exchange oversight manager.

Community council welcomes international students

Soldiers training on and off post

By **SCOTT HUTHER**
International military student officer

The International Services Council of Huntsville hosted a welcome luncheon at Fern Bell Recreation Center in Huntsville on Jan. 11 to welcome the many new international soldiers that have recently arrived for training.

The event was a huge success and let the 23 soldiers and their families in attendance know that the Huntsville community really cares about them and is glad they are here.

This council has provided excellent support to Redstone Arsenal and the international soldiers training in this area since 1965. The primary reason for establishment of the council in 1965 was to provide host families in the local community for the students and to this day still is their primary mission. For those students who receive host families, it is a great opportunity to learn more about Americans and how they live. Host families do not house these soldiers but instead become a support mechanism for them while they are here. For the many soldiers that receive host families this is the highlight of their visit to America.

Soldiers and civilians from many countries receive training in the Huntsville area. The majority of international soldiers and civilians that come to Huntsville are trained at the Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School with our American soldiers. Recent arrivals for this OMEMS training include soldiers from Pakistan,

Guyana, Jamaica, Korea, Kuwait, Greece, Taiwan and Egypt. Many people do not realize that there are so many international soldiers trained in the Huntsville area.

Recently we have received many soldiers who are attending courses not conducted by OMEMS. Twelve soldiers just arrived from Egypt and will receive 11 weeks of Instructor Key Personnel training from Northrop Grumman at its location in Huntsville. The training will be on Forward Area Defense Command and Control Systems. This is the first time the United States has provided training on this system to a foreign government. Upon completion of this training they will return to their country and train their fellow soldiers. We have also recently received four Koreans — three officers and a civilian — who will train with the Army Logistics Management College in Huntsville.

The International Military Student Office, assigned to Headquarters & Alpha Company, works closely with the International Services Council to ensure these soldiers are taken care of during their time in America. The support starts the day these soldiers are met at the airport until the day they depart for their home country. One of the goals of the training program is to give these soldiers a chance to learn more about America while they are here. One of the other functions provided by the office is monthly Informational Program trips to learn more about America's educational, political and economical systems. Recently the office took 14 soldiers to Atlanta for the weekend where they visited CNN, Centennial Olympic Park, World of Coke and received a tour of the Georgia state capital.



Courtesy photo

SOCIAL TIME— 1st Lt. Mohamed Anwar Rabi Ebrahim, an Egyptian soldier training with Northrop Grumman, talks with other luncheon guests.

These boots are made for flying

Army helicopter rotor blades
get new protective shields

By JIM BOWNE
For the Rocket

It's known as the "corona effect," the distinctive glowing rings along metal or fiberglass rotor blades operating in the desert.

"The corona effect has been seen from about a half mile away on a CH-47 Chinook hovering at about 1,700 feet. And that's without the aid of night vision goggles," said Mike Hoffman, manager of special projects in the Aviation Engineering Directorate at the Research Development and Engineering Center.

The glow may be interesting to see but the cause of the glow is devastating to rotor blades.

Not anymore.

The Army is installing protective molded boots on its helicopter blades to prevent the corona effect and resist erosion in desert conditions.

Corona effect is only visible at night because the glowing rings consist of many small sparks resulting from grains of sand striking a rotor blade.

"Actually, the intensity of the illumination of the individual sparks varies with the number and size of particles passing through the rotor system," Hoffman said. "The corona glows brighter as the numbers and sizes of the particles in the air increase."

After Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the 1990s, and Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in the early part of the 21st century, the degradation of rotor blades has become one of the largest logistics and maintenance burdens experienced by Army aviation, according to Hoffman.

More than 10 years before Desert Storm, Hoffman first saw the damage that sand was causing to rotor blades. "What



Courtesy photo

HAZY DAY— A CH-47 Chinook operates in desert brownout conditions.

we saw were huge rings of white fire above the rotor head. At the time, I didn't know what it was, but I knew we had to fix it. Subsequently, in 1981, at Fort Rucker, Ala., the first tests were conducted using a polyurethane material to protect the blades from the grinding sand.

"The tests were successful but back then our focus was on Europe and the Cold War. So, problems about sand erosion actually didn't come up again until about 1990," he said.

Largely because of Hoffman's efforts, the sand erosion issue has resurfaced in a

big way. Molded-boot technology has been tested and approved on several helicopter types.

The current Task-L101 polyurethane molded form of the boot is better than its predecessor, the Task-L100, which required a brush application. "The material, processes, application and service are proven and approved," Hoffman said.

The newer molded boots prevent the corona effect and resist rotor blade erosion. One of the biggest advantages is the decrease in repair time and maintenance costs.

"Before we had these new boots it took about 26 man hours to remove the rotor blade system, repair the blades, and replace the blade system," Hoffman said. "Now, we just put the boots on the blades and repair them without removing them, and the helicopter is ready for flying again in the time it takes for the polyurethane to cure."

Not only has the requirement for the boots been approved but the funding has been approved, too.

"We're really happy about receiving the funding from Department of Army," Hoffman said. "We received funding in both fiscal years '03 and '04. We're currently planning to install the boots on the Black Hawk, Chinook and the Apache. The Kiowa is already protected by the polyurethane coating."

The cost of protecting the blades of an Apache with boots, including the main and tail blades, is about \$6,900 in material and labor. By comparison, the cost of a new rotor blade system is about \$500,000 per aircraft.

Rotor blade engineering goals remain at the forefront of emerging technologies that will help protect soldiers, according to Hoffman. "I'm proud of all our folks who are on the front lines, whether here at the AMRDEC, or in Iraq and elsewhere," he said. "We feel good about what we are able to achieve, working together as a team, to ensure that our soldiers have the best equipment, the best service, and the best technology in the world."

Redstone Girl Scouts smart cookies

Troop members learn through fun, service

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Everyone knows Girl Scouts sell cookies. But do you know what else they do? The organization promotes self-esteem and community service values in a fun environment. Girl Scout Troop 467, based on post, is a place for girls to develop their character and sense of self with a smile on their faces.

Troop 467 is a Brownie troop, comprised of girls in grades one through three. The troop has eight members, two of whom live on post. Four have parents either in the military who live off post or who work on the Arsenal. Two are from the surrounding community.

Diversity of membership is a part of the Girl Scout experience. Girls learn to understand and accept others whose background or lifestyle differs from theirs.

"We have talked about the difference between the girls in our troop and how we

all have several things in common, like being a Brownie Girl Scout," Mary Potter, Brownie troop leader, said. "And that having differences is what is wonderful about people and how exciting it is to find out about people that are different than you."

As part of their celebration of individual and cultural differences, Troop 467 participates in Thinking Day. "Every troop on our service unit decides on a country and then we learn about that country — things like food, culture, statistics, and what Girl Scouts do in that country," Potter said. They then share what they have learned with other troops at the celebration. Each troop sets up a booth with information about its country to share with other troops. It is a large event, with many troops sharing food and small tokens in keeping with the tradition of their nation. This year Troop 467 will represent Korea at the Thinking Day celebration Feb. 21 at the Diane Gilliam Recreation Center. They are making paper fans for the event.

The girls earn patches through activities. While they are rewarded for completing a task or activity, the things learned through the activities themselves are the



Photo by Mary Potter

CRAFT WORK— Regina Sullivan, center, troop leader and service unit manager, joins members of Troop 467 in a craft project.

greater reward, lasting into their adult lives. The rewards inherent in learning about things such as first aid, computers, health and careers are obvious, even

things such as bowling have their own lessons in sportsmanship and taking turns.

See **Scouts** on page 11

Troops returning from Iraq get sweet shipment

Local patriots deliver cookies to Fort Campbell soldiers

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
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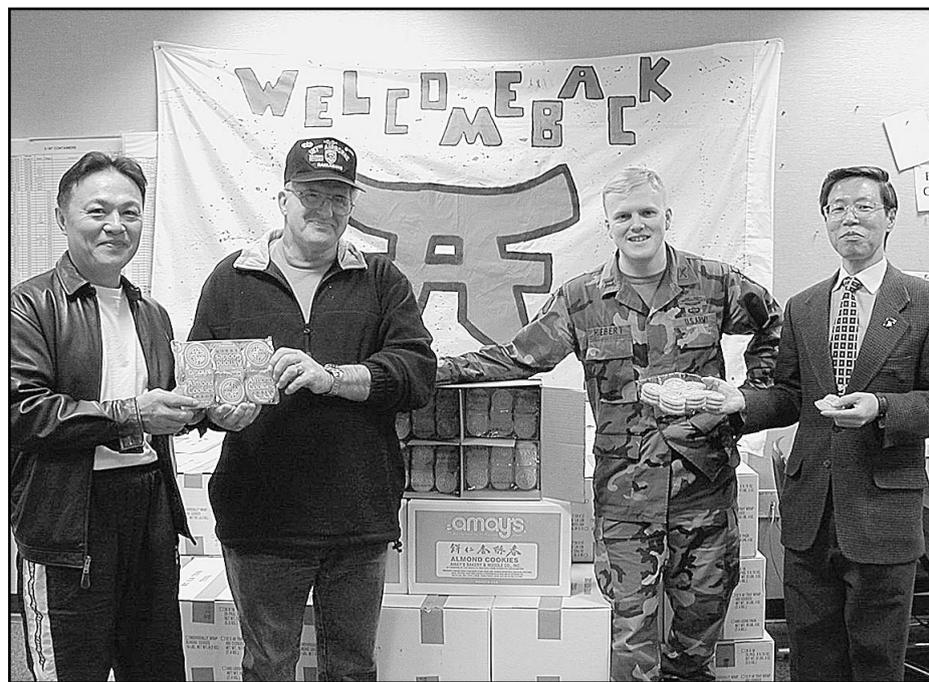
When the \$1,600 cookie bill came, it was split between three local Huntsville men and paid with gladness of heart. It's a small price to pay for soldiers who do so much.

"It's the least we can do," said John Yim, general engineer with the Space and Missile Defense Command, who organized the delivery of nearly 25,000 almond cookies to Parkway Place Mall last week. "We're going to load most of them in Regi's truck and drive them to Fort Campbell (Ky.) today. It's to welcome home soldiers of 'Task Force Rakkasans' and to show our appreciation."

More than a decade ago, Yim served two years as an infantryman with the 3rd Brigade, 187th Infantry, Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He was within four hours of deployment to Somalia after the notorious downing of a Black Hawk helicopter.

"I never went," Yim said. "Higher headquarters canceled the mission but I am still proud to have served with them. I wanted to do something to show my appreciation for what they're doing now. I talked to a couple of friends of mine and we decided to send cookies."

The original plan between Yim and his friends Regi Law, who owns the Cajun Grill franchise at Parkway Place Mall and Gaston Law, proprietor of China Master restaurant, a stone's throw from his brother, was birthed the day after Thanksgiving and was intended as a Christmas present



Courtesy photo

DELIVERY COMPLETE— More than 20,000 cookies were purchased and delivered by local men to soldiers of the 187th Infantry, 3rd Battalion, 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, returning from Iraq. From left are Huntsville Cajun Grill proprietor Regi Law, Frank Arias and Capt. Jared Hiebert from battalion headquarters, and John Yim, engineer at Space and Missile Defense Command and former infantryman with 187th.

for the deployed troops.

"But with the delivery times between California and here and then shipping to Iraq, we knew it wouldn't get there in time and they were starting to come home after Christmas. So we decided to have them here waiting for them. They'll be served at the welcome ceremonies as the troops come home," Yim said.

About 3,000 Rakkasans (the Japanese word for paratroopers adopted by the reg-

iment years ago) are expected to return to Fort Campbell over the course of several weeks. Refreshments served to soldiers and their families will include the almond cookies purchased and delivered by Yim and the Law brothers.

The cookies were shipped from the Amay's Bakery & Noodle Company in California to Atlanta and then to Huntsville through Regi Law's food distributor.

"Because of Regi, we saved hundreds of dollars on shipping," Yim said. "To ship the cookies by Federal Express or some of those other companies was going to cost well over \$1,000. It wasn't nearly that expensive to get them delivered here through the distributor. Now we're going to jump in the truck and take them today. We have good weather to make the trip."

After leaving the Mall Jan. 12, Regi, his wife Hyeok Pak, and Yim made a quick stop at Redstone Arsenal to let K-9 Pitjo, with the help of his handler, Officer Mike Nelson, check the cookies for safety. As expected, all was fine and the trio was on the road to Fort Campbell.

Several thousand cookies were left behind, however, to be shipped to deployed soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (who captured Saddam Hussein), deployed soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I'm sure it'll be a morale booster for the deployed soldiers to receive those cookies," Yim said. "It's a small token of our appreciation."

"I'm glad I have the chance to do something for the soldiers," Regi said.

Yim hopes what he calls "corporate citizens" will follow his lead.

"What we do is small in comparison to what some of these big businesses can do. I want to challenge them to outdo what individuals are doing. Outdo me," he said.

"Automobile manufacturers, airlines, phone companies, hotels, restaurants, rental car agencies. I know some have military discounts but I hope they'll reach a little deeper for the deployed soldiers. Make sure they can see their families when they come home. If their parents can't come to them, give them an airline ticket, a rental car. Show them you appreciate what they are doing."



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

Under cover inspection

Vehicle shelters at Martin Road Gate 1 are nearly operational. Most of the truck traffic is routed through Gate 1 for thorough inspection before entering the Arsenal. The structures will provide some protection for gate personnel in inclement weather.

Units add 10 soldiers during December

Ten soldiers, including three officers, joined Redstone units in December.

The Garrison provided the following in-process list: 2nd Lt. William Griffith of Headquarters & Alpha, 2nd Lt. Jonathan McDougal of Headquarters & Alpha, Capt. Allen Stewart of Staff Judge Advocate, Pvt. Michael

Wohanisk of MEDDAC, SFC Michael Harper of Logistics Support Activity, SSgt. Michael Carns of Delta Company, Sgt. Gertrude Brown of 95th TMDE, SSgt. Kim Ferguson of MEDDAC, SFC Anita Williams of Logistics Support Activity and PFC Tokovia Sanda of Headquarters & Alpha.

■ Defense Department revising personnel operations

Rules

continued from page 1

American Federation of Government Employees Local 1858, said. "Performance based pay is what they're aiming toward."

The employees' union has an obvious stake in what's going to happen. Eiermann said the union's role in implementing the system has yet to be determined but he has an opinion on the initiative's intent. "The union's view is this is one step to further outsourcing government jobs," he said.

The Defense Department has a task force working to develop operating procedures and employee training on the new rules. "The NSPS gives us the framework,"

Jackie Bennett, acting director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said. "It's a massive change from our paradigm."

Defense officials stress that the new rules will adhere to current merit system principles and continue the banning of prohibited personnel practices such as discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status or political affiliation.

Everybody won't be brought into the system at the same time but rather in phases. The first 300,000 or so workers are to see the changes within two years. More information is available at the web site: <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>. The union's web site is www.afge.org.

"We will keep the work force informed with the latest information as we get it," Conner said.

Health physicist gets his feet wet in music

Tincher offers inspiration through country gospel

By KIM MASON
Staff writer
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Not many would make the connection between a physicist and a musician. One Redstone employee is both.

John Tincher, a health physicist for the Radiation, Standards and Dosimetry Laboratory, is a self-taught musician who recently composed, arranged and produced his own CD.

"It is one thing to play music, but it is challenging to capture sound," he said. "It comes through a lot of experimentation. I am technically minded anyway so I didn't mind the challenge."

Tincher's CD, "Step in the Water," features the piano, dobro, banjo, acoustic guitar, acoustic mandolin and acoustic bass. Tincher played all instruments on the "country gospel" CD.

Some co-workers were surprised by his musical creation.

"I knew John had bought a lot of instruments but I didn't know he developed his own CD," Bill Harris, dosimetry lab chief, said. "One of the other technicians brought it to me and I really liked it."

Tincher grew up in a family of musicians. The Kentucky native, along with his two brothers and two sisters, put out a vinyl album in 1975.

During the 1995 base closings, Tincher and his wife, Joyce, made the move from Lexington Bluegrass Army Depot to Redstone. After spending time in Huntsville, Tincher decided to return to his musical mode that he shared with family members.

His wife was the one who suggested that he record his many songs.

"My wife jokingly mentioned to me, 'You know I sure hope you record your music before you pass away.'" Tincher said. "So I bought some equipment and learned about sound and digital recording. The entire endeavor took a little over two years to put together."

To create each of the 12 songs on "Step in the Water," Tincher had to play and record a song with one instrument, then add another and another. Later he would simulate the sound of a band by positioning each sound in stereo.

"I set them in stereo field to give the impression of a full band," he said. "If you didn't know it was all me, then you wouldn't know."

It took Tincher from seven to nine hours to create some of his more assorted songs, the ones with more instruments. Once the tracks were finished, Tincher sent them to Disc Makers in New Jersey for mastering and production.

Tincher said he didn't set out to make the CDs for money reasons but wanted to share the gospel of music.

"If you like what you're doing then you want to share it with others," he said.

Co-worker Fannie David, an engineering technician, called the CD inspirational. "John is a very low key person. He is spiritual though and the CD displays that," she said. "Once you hear it you just have to let others know about it."

To purchase Tincher's CD, "Step in the Water," contact him at LGMusic@earthlink.net, 508-7340 or P.O. Box 5485, Huntsville, AL 35814. CDs can also be purchased locally for \$9.99 at Shaver's Book Store, James Records and Tapes, Harvest Fields in Athens and through William Hampton at LifeWay Christian Store.

To hear demos of "Step in the Water," visit any of the aforementioned retailers or go to www.livingcountrygospelmusic.com.

Courtesy photo
SPECIAL PRESENCE—
"Step in the Water," a CD by John Tincher, is available at local retailers.

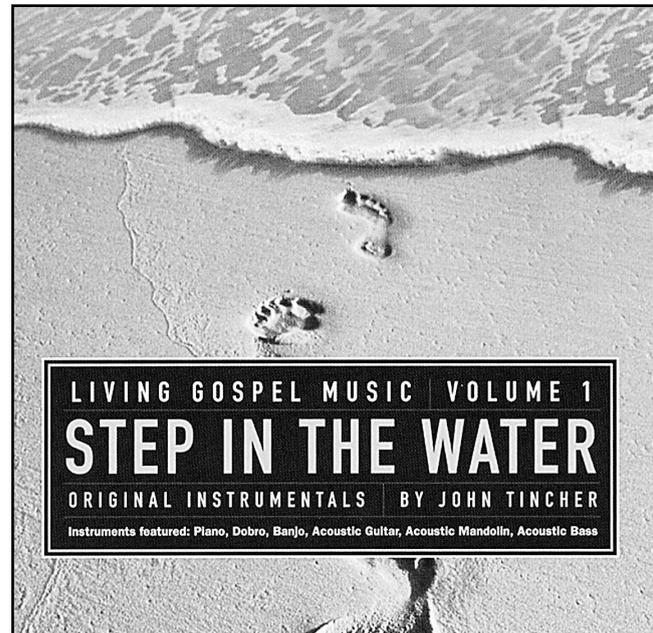


Photo by Kim Mason

MUSIC MAN— Health physicist John Tincher displays his talents on the mandolin.

'Geronimos' foil threat along highway in Afghanistan

Paratroopers out-shoot four assassins in attack

By SSgt. JEFF TROTH
Army News Service

KHOWST, Afghanistan — Soldiers of Task Force 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment were victorious in their first armed contact in Afghanistan.

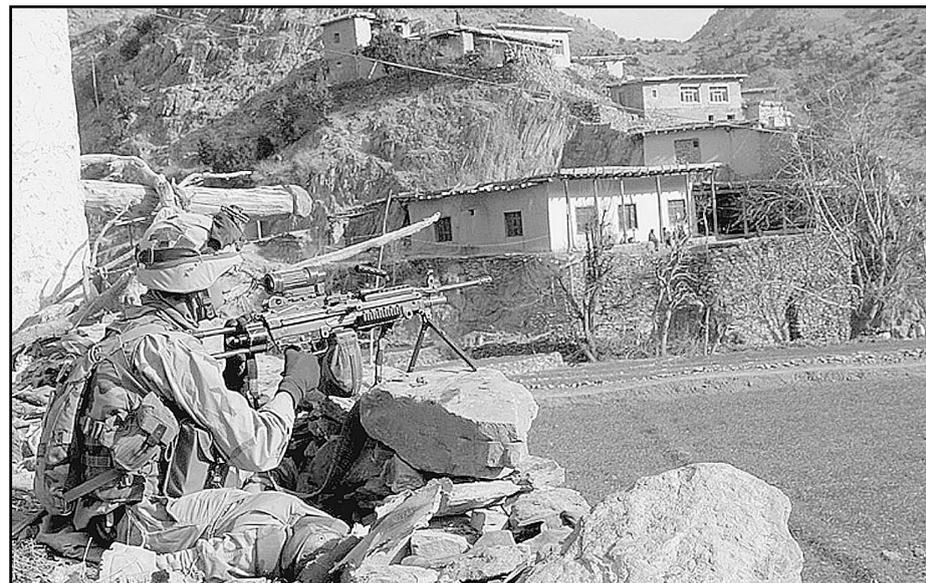
While on their way to conduct a village assessment, paratroopers from Fort Richardson, Alaska, shot and killed four individuals along the highway west of Khowst.

The soldiers were heading west on the highway and passing some buildings when 2nd Lt. Douglas Peterson, a platoon leader, noticed Afghans on the side of the road signaling. When the five-vehicle convoy came to a halt, the lieutenant noticed a car across from the wadi position. Outside the car were two men, one on the ground apparently hurt.

"My first thought was that it was an ambush, the old person-injured trick," Peterson said. "When you stop to assist, they open fire from the side of the road."

The rest of the convoy thought the same thing and quickly scanned the area for any possible threat. Four armed males were spotted lying on the north side of the road. The Afghanistan Militia Forces' soldier, who was with Company C for their mission, opened fire.

When the four men fired back, the "Geronimos" returned fire with devastat-



Arnews photo

ALL SECURE— PFC Tommy Daw, Company C, pulls security for other task force members as they search an Afghanistan village.

ing results. All four of the opposition soon lay motionless on the ground.

As the paratroopers moved in to secure the area, one of their attackers threw a hand grenade. As the task force members quickly got out of the blast radius, a well-placed shot ensured that the man was no longer a threat.

According to SSgt. Christopher Clark, 3rd squad leader, his guys reacted to the situation just like they should have.

"They did everything right," Clark said. "If we could have rehearsed a contact situation like this, I would have wanted them to do it just like they did on the side of that highway."

"The reason they responded the way they did is because of the training that SSgt. Clark has given them," Peterson said.

That training not only helped to keep the Geronimos unhurt in the attack, but it also helped save lives of Afghans. What

had looked like a possible ambush was actually an assassination.

Minutes prior to the convoy reaching the wadi, the four assailants had opened fire on the car that Peterson earlier noticed. Their bullets had ripped through the door and passed through the driver and his seat. The driver who died was the assistant of police security for the area.

The other man who was kneeling near the dead police officer when the convoy arrived worked for an Afghanistan government official. Peterson said that he had no "doubt that he would have died if we hadn't rolled up when we did."

The assassins just picked the wrong time and place to carry out their mission.

The Afghans in the area said that they did not recognize the four attackers, but thought they might have come from one of the villages to the north of the assassination site.

To ensure that there was no other threat in the area, the task force sent elements of Companies B and C out the following day to saturate the area with U.S. presence. The companies started at opposite ends of the valley where the attackers might have come from and searched the villages for weapons of war and information on al Qaeda.

"The people in the villages were cooperative for the most part," said 2nd Lt. Huck Finn, 1st platoon leader for Company C. "They told us that we were making their town safe."

See Paratroopers on page 17

■ Girl Scouting promotes self-esteem, friendships

Scouts

continued from page 8

"Through participation in Girl Scout activities, the girls learn empathy and self-esteem. We have also talked about taking care of yourself and your body," Potter said. "Also, we have done a project on doing a good turn and not expecting any recognition from it. Just doing it because it feels good to help people."

Of course Troop 467 also sells cookies. Money earned from cookie sales helps fund the many activities and trips the girls take during the rest of the year. The troop has big plans for its cookie money.

"At the beginning of the cookie sale activity our troop decided on a goal of what we wanted to do with any money we make," Potter said. "The girls came up with several fun activities like EarlyWorks Museum, roller skating, going to the movies, Monte Sano Burritt Museum and the Museum of Art." The girls also have something else in mind for part of the proceeds. "The girls also decided to take a portion of our earnings and donate that money to a domestic violence shelter in Huntsville," Potter said. "The girls were very excited about helping out someone that needs a little something to get them started."

In keeping with that idea, the troop is also giving cookie buyers a chance to contribute. The troop has scheduled booth cookie sales at the Post Exchange and Commissary on each Saturday, Jan. 24 through Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Besides getting some of the baked goodies for themselves, buyers will also have the opportunity to buy boxes to donate back to the troop, which will then pass them on to the same shelter they are donating cookie money to.

Potter sees Girl Scouts as a positive experience for any girl.

"It really opens up so many wonderful opportunities. The girls have fun, they learn to work well with large groups, to make decisions that affect fellow Girl Scouts, and they also make wonderful friendships that will continue for years," she said.

The benefits are especially important for military children, according to Potter. "Last year my husband was in Afghanistan and I decided to be a troop leader so that my daughter and I would have something special to do together while we waited for his return," she said.

Parents interested in getting their daughter involved in Girl Scouts should call Jennifer Slaton at 883-1020. In addition to Troop 467, Redstone also hosts one other Brownie troop at the Girl Scout Hut on Snooper Road, as well as a Daisy troop for preschool and kindergarteners, and a Junior troop for grades three through five.

"The girls get the chance to interact with positive female role models. There are so many other wonderful things that come out of the Girl Scout experience, I could sit here all day and talk about them," Potter said. "But most important is I think the girls come to understand that they matter and that they can make a significant difference in others' lives."

Practice proves perfect for National Guardsmen

*Guard unit does training
with live ammunition*

By KIM MASON
Staff writer
kimberly.mason@redstone.army.mil

A suspicious vehicle parked outside a building starts to open fire on the Quick Reaction Force. What should they do?

The 2117th Ordnance Company, based in Athens, trained using possible terrorist threat scenarios that could occur at the gates and across the Arsenal. The guards, deployed for security duty here, practiced with live rounds.

"This is more or less an insight in what you would do to handle certain situations," CWO 2 Joe Sims said. "Live fire training lets them get a more real experience."

The exercise included live firing of an M-60 machine gun, mounted on a Humvee. This is the first time the guardsmen have participated in live-fire scenario training.

Every member of the 2117th Ordnance Company practiced the scenario Jan. 13-15 at Shields Range. They underwent classroom lessons before entering the field to ensure safety.

Several members of the unit had a safety role. Their job was to make sure that weapons weren't loaded until needed and were on safety when not in use. They also ensured each soldier followed the proper procedure for handling weapons.

Soldiers said they found the training useful. "It feels great," Spec. Matthew Hood said. "A lot of people don't get a chance to fire a weapon like this."

Photos by Kim Mason



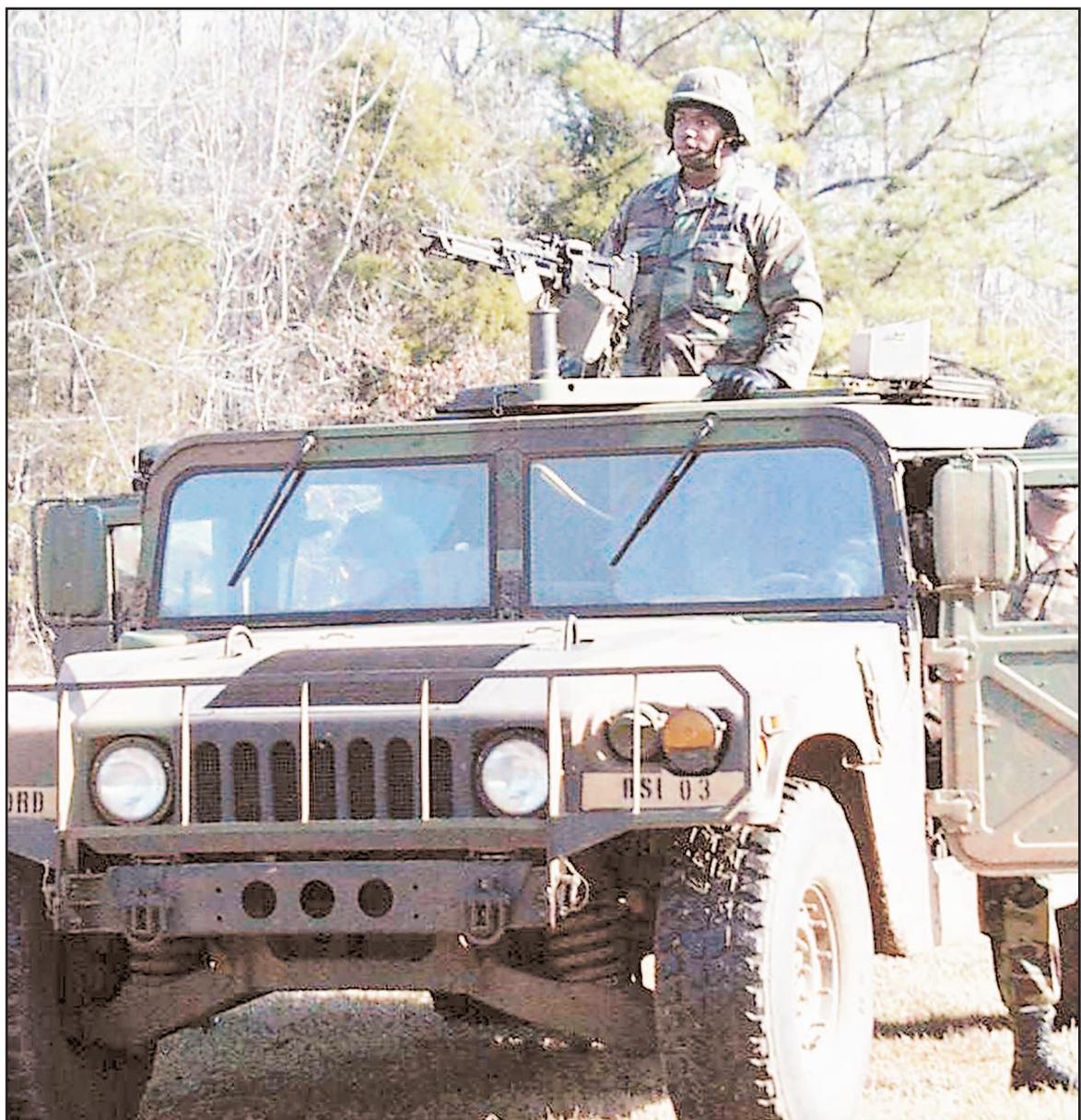
TARGET IDENTIFIED— Quick Reaction Force soldiers prepare to engage the target during training exercises at Shields Range.



SAFETY FIRST— Soldiers from the 2117th Ordnance Company attend a pre-exercise briefing where they are urged to go slow to ensure safety.



LIVE AMMO— CWO 2 Joe Sims shows a belt of M-60 machine gun bullets. The ammunition was used in Jan. 14 live fire exercises.



WAITING IN THE WINGS— Sgt. Fred Allen looks on as the second rotation of Jan. 14 training begins.

Packaging Lab tests bags to improve rifle storage

Current wrapping system deemed labor intensive

By ANTHONY RICCHIAZZI
For the Rocket

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — The M-16 series of combat rifles has a remarkable record of service and longevity, but it can be ruined if not stored properly.

The Army Materiel Command Logistics Support Activity Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center Laboratory is helping to ensure proper storage of the weapon.

Laboratory personnel recently subjected commercially-designed storage bags to a series of rugged tests to see if they could protect rifles as well as the current bags, while making it easier to check rifles for auditing purposes. PSCC is the Defense Department's lead activity responsible for testing and evaluating barriers and preservatives.

Charlotte Lent, an industrial engineer in the PSCC Laboratory, said the rifles are currently stored by wrapping them in volatile corrosion inhibiting paper, then heat-sealing them in foil bags. That system protects the rifle from corrosion.

"The system is very labor intensive," she said. "Whenever a rifle is checked, it has to be removed from the bag, then repackaged, every time. The VCI paper has a strong odor and can sometimes,



Photo by Charlie Cardimona

CHECKUP— Marine Gunnery Sgt. Edward Pender inspects an M-16 rifle to see if a storage bag protected it from corrosion during a salt fog test in the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center Laboratory.

depending on the chemicals used, be a hazardous substance."

The Marine Corps wanted a more user-friendly bag.

"Their idea was a system with a window so the serial number can be checked easily without removing the rifle from the bag," Lent said. "Two suppliers asked the

Marines to consider their designs." When PSCC received the request from the USMC to evaluate the two commercial designs, they surveyed the market for other ideas.

"Six commercial designs were originally submitted for testing and evaluation against the current package," Lent said. "We decided to include actual M-16s inside the test bags due to the unique combination of materials. M-16s have aluminum, chrome, steel, plastic and residues from firing. Lackland Air Force Base (Texas) provided the rifles because the Air Force is interested in this, too."

Lent and Distribution Facilities Specialist Mike Burns conducted a number of tests, from ease of use, to rough handling and environmental tests. Marine Gunnery Sgt. Edward Pender, USMC Logistics Base, Albany, Ga., assisted by providing the user's perspective of the bags, as well as an expert inspection of the rifles.

"The environmental tests would show how the materials behaved in salt air, cold, heat and temperature shock," Lent said. "If the bags worked, there would be no rifle corrosion, no condensation inside, no softening of plastic parts, and no failures of seams and closures, such as zippers."

After the first series of tests, none of the six designs had clearly demonstrated

performance equal to or better than the current military specification design.

"Three of the six bags offered corrosion prevention equal to that of the current system," Lent said. "The other three were unacceptable. All six needed some changes to become fully acceptable, such as wider heat seals, more durable material and more reliable closures."

The suppliers were invited to submit redesigned systems for further testing.

Four of the suppliers offered a redesigned storage system or bag. The second round of testing was more severe, because the environmental tests were conducted sequentially. The test sequence started with rough handling, drop and vibration tests, followed by 24 hours at minus 40 F, then 24 hours of high heat (91 F to 160 F) cycles, then 10 days of high humidity cycles (86 F and 140 F, 95 percent relative humidity).

"The four bags came through the testing in good shape," Lent said. "The rifles in two of the bags showed an unacceptable level of rust, while the other two had no signs of rust at all."

"When putting the rifle in the bag and securing the closure, it takes about 10 seconds for one bag design and on average 30 seconds for the other bag design. This is compared to about 20 minutes for wrapping the rifle and sealing the bag in the current design."

The test results are being provided to the Marine Corps which will make a final determination for use.

Sites spread word whenever weather closes post

Web, hotline, media
among info sources

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

Your local television weather forecaster has been predicting snow and ice for the following day. One Redstone Arsenal employee awakes to find no snow on the ground in Huntsville. However, another employee that lives in the mountainous area of eastern Alabama awakes to find the roads adjacent to his home covered with snow and ice. What should these employees do?

Garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin said all employees should check the installation's official inclement weather notification sites, which include the weather alert hotline at 955-8445 and the Team Redstone Intranet web site (https://intranet3.redstone.army.mil:7443/pls/aprtl/aprtl_amcom_site.amcom_page) under the key site button "Adverse Weather," and the Team Redstone Internet web site (www.redstone.army.mil) under the "Weather Alert" button, to verify the open/closed/delayed status of Redstone Arsenal.

Employees can also check local radio and television stations for official closings. If adverse weather conditions occur during the normal business hours, notifications are posted on the same sites, but employees will also be notified through their chain of command and supervisors of any closure.



Photo by Kim Gillespie

TAKING MEASURE— Leo Lachapelle, weather forecaster for the Redstone Technical Test Center, checks a Surface Atmospheric Measuring System, one of 10 located on Redstone Arsenal for monitoring weather conditions.

But what about the employee who has verified the installation is open that morning but faces a potentially risky drive into work? In those cases, employees should use their best judgment regarding personal safety, call their supervisor, and request leave if needed.

"We make our decisions on road and weather conditions near the installation but not everyone lives near the installation. In those cases, employees should be in direct contact with their supervisors about their personal situation," Devlin said.

Employees should never rely on rumors or weather predictions from the night before and assume that Redstone Arsenal is closed or has delayed opening the next morning. All employees are responsible for verifying the status of the installation.

When threatening weather is predicted to move into the area overnight, the garrison commander begins consulting his sources around 4 a.m.

"We get our weather information from a number of sources including the National Weather Service, coordination with the Huntsville-Madison County Emergency Management Agency, Marshall Space Flight Center, and our Military Police and Department of Public Works," Devlin said. "The Huntsville-Madison County EMA provides spotter information from across the local area, and Marshall gathers information from employees that make standard drives from Tennessee. Our own MPs and DPW check 10 different points on the Arsenal for existing conditions, and like everyone else, we also watch the local news."

Once information from the key weather sources is evaluated, a conference call is established with key representatives from Marshall Space Flight Center.

"Based on that, we come to a consensus on what we want to do (remain open/delay/close) and any specific instructions for time and attendance," Devlin said. Then the AMCOM commanding general is consulted and the decision is disseminated to the standard notification roster that includes the Public Affairs Office and the AMCOM Operations Center.

Devlin wants employees and the public to have closing and delay information by 5 a.m. so his goal for making a decision is around 4:30. The Public Affairs Office is responsible for posting the official weather messages on the telephone and web locations.

Al Schwartz, public affairs officer, said his goal is to have notifications made by the Public Affairs Office in less than 30 minutes. "The first call we make is to the weather alert hotline, so if you are looking for the earliest official information, you should try that phone line first," he said. "Next, the web pages are updated on the Intranet and Internet sites while calls are also being made to the local media."

Television stations that are notified of Redstone's inclement weather status include WAAY, WAFF and WHNT in Huntsville. Radio stations include Huntsville's WJAB/90.9 FM, WLRH/89.3 FM, WTKI/1450 AM, WEUP/1600 AM; Arab's WRAB/1380 AM; Athen's WZYP/104.3 FM; Decatur's WDMR/102 FM; Guntersville's WGSV 1270 AM; Scottsboro's WWIC 1050 AM and Fayetteville's WEKR 1240 AM.

Stone cold facts about preventing frostbite

Cold weather injuries have chilling results

By PFC JENNIFER LIDDLE
Public Health and Education Center

The typical cold-weather victim is a young male. He's an inexperienced private or specialist. He either isn't wearing the proper protective equipment or didn't bring it with him on his mission.

When the body is subjected to severely cold temperatures, the blood vessels constrict and body heat is gradually lost. As the body temperature drops, tissues are easily damaged or destroyed. All cold weather injuries are similar, varying only in the degree of injury to tissues. The extent of injury depends on such factors as wind speed, temperature, type and duration of exposure, and humidity. Freezing of tissue accelerates with wind, humidity or a combination of the two. Fatigue, smoking, drugs, alcoholic beverages, emotional stress, dehydration, and the presence of other injuries intensify the harmful effects of the cold.

The most common types of cold weather injuries are:

● **Hypothermia** - prolonged cold exposure and body-heat loss. This may occur at temperatures above freezing, especially when a person is wet. Signs and symptoms include shivering, the body's attempt to generate heat by repeated contractions of surface muscles. This is followed by a feeling of listlessness, indifference and drowsiness. Unconsciousness can quickly follow. Shock becomes evident as the casualty's eyes assume a glassy stare, respiration becomes slow and shallow, and the pulse is weak or absent. As body temperature drops even lower, peripheral circulation decreases, and the extremities become susceptible to freezing. Finally, death results as the core temperature of the body approaches 80 F.

Transport the casualty as soon as possible to a medical facility as a litter

patient. First aid measures include warming the casualty as soon as possible. Severe bleeding must be controlled and fractures splinted over clothing before the casualty is moved. Replace wet or frozen clothing and remove anything that constricts the casualty's arms, legs or fingers, interfering with blood circulation.

If the casualty is conscious, give warm liquids to drink. Never give alcoholic beverages, or allow the casualty to smoke.

● **Immersion foot** - This condition, which also may occur in the hands, results from prolonged exposure to wet/cold at temperatures ranging from 32 or 60 F. Signs and symptoms include tingling and numbness of the affected areas; swelling of the legs, feet or hands; bluish discoloration of the skin; and painful blisters — gangrene may occur. First-aid measures include: Get the casualty off his or her feet as soon as possible; remove wet shoes, socks and gloves to improve circulation; expose the affected area to warm, dry air; keep the casualty warm; do not rupture blisters or apply salves and ointments; and transport the casualty as soon as possible to a medical facility as a litter patient.

● **Frostbite** - This occurs when ice crystals form in the skin or deeper tissues after exposure to a cold temperature, high altitude or high-wind speed. The exposure time necessary to produce frostbite varies from a few minutes to several hours. The areas commonly affected are the face and extremities. The symptoms are progressive. Casualties generally incur this injury without being acutely aware of it. Initially, the affected skin reddens and there is an uncomfortable coldness. With continued heat loss, there is a numbness of the affected area because of reduced circulation. As ice crystals form, the frozen extremity appears white, yellow-white, or mottled blue-white, and is cold, hard, and insensitive to touch or pressure.

In superficial frostbite, the surface of the skin will feel hard, but the underlying tissue will be soft, allowing it to move

over bony ridges. This is evidence that only the skin and the region just below it are involved. First aid includes: Take the casualty indoors; rewarm hands by placing them under the armpit, against the abdomen, or between the legs; rewarm feet by placing them in the armpit or against the abdomen of a buddy; gradually rewarm the affected area by warm water immersion, skin to skin contact, or hot water bottles. Never rub a frostbite area.

In deep frostbite, the freezing reaches into the deep tissue layers. There are ice crystals in the entire thickness or the extremity. The skin will not move over bony ridges and feels hard and solid. The objectives of treatment are to protect the frozen areas from further injury, to rapidly thaw the affected area, and to be prepared to respond to circulatory or respiratory difficulties. First aid includes: Carefully assess and treat any other injuries first. Constantly monitor the casualty's pulse and breathing since respiratory and heart problems can develop rapidly. Administer CPR if necessary. Make no attempt to thaw the frostbitten area if there is a possibility of refreezing. Treat all casualties with injuries to feet or legs as litter patients. When adequate protection from further cold exposure is available, prepare the casualty for rewarming by removing all constricting clothing such as gloves, boots and socks. Boots and clothing frozen on the body

should be thawed by warm water immersion before removal. Transfer the casualty to a medical facility as soon as possible. During transportation, slightly elevate the frostbitten area and keep the casualty and the injured area warm. Do not allow the injured area to be exposed to the cold.

● **Chilblains** - This is repeated exposure of bare skin for prolonged periods from 20-60 F. Symptoms are characterized by redness, swelling, tingling and pain of the skin area. Injuries of this nature require no specific treatment except warming of the affected part, keeping it dry and preventing further exposure.

Preventing cold injuries is basic risk management — identifying hazards and implementing controls. The process of risk management does not change with the calendar, but risk factors do. A thorough risk assessment before the mission will ensure that leaders identify cold-weather risks and implement controls so weather doesn't become a mission stopper.

For more information on cold injuries and cold injury prevention, visit chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/coldinjury or call the Public Health and Education Center, Fox Army Health Center at 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Editor's note: PFC Jennifer Liddle is a preventive medicine specialist at the Public Health and Education Center.

■ Task force soldiers prevail in Afghan firefight

Paratroopers

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The two days netted the task force several thousand rounds of ammo, hand grenades, pistols and an RPG. The information garnered from the two days was priceless.

"The information we got will help us to track down where the enemy is," said Capt. William Kilgore, task force intelligence officer. "It tells us a lot about what

the enemy is thinking, planning and doing."

"On the way back to Salerno we got more waves and thumbs up than we normally do," Clark said.

"For 30 years these people have seen people being killed and nothing being done about it," Peterson said. "This time there was immediate justice for them."

Editor's note: SSgt. Jeff Troth is a staff writer for Task Force 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.

MEDDAC has remedy for Bravo's youth

Third-ranked medics beat Bulldogs 67-39

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

This wasn't a young man's game. The scoreboard would attest to that.

MEDDAC had more years and a leader named Bush on their side against the young students of Bravo Company in a basketball season opener Jan. 13 at Pagano Gym.

The medics fell behind 2-0 but never trailed again. Final score: MEDDAC 67, Bravo 39. Chalk one up for the older guys.

Detrick Bush had a game-high 29 points, 11 rebounds and three steals for MEDDAC, ranked No. 3 by the *Redstone Rocket* entering the season. Thomas Oates added 13 points and point guard Ray Lee had 12 points, six rebounds and two steals.

"Experience was there," MEDDAC coach/guard Michael Copeland, age 37, said. "And we're too strong in the paint."

"They were too young, we just jelled," said Oates, a power forward.

MEDDAC mounted a 20-6 lead midway through the first half but the Bulldogs fought back. They closed within 24-19 with five minutes left. The medics scored the last five points for a 29-19 halftime lead and were never threatened in the second half.

"I think experience paid off for us," MEDDAC center Frederick McCallum said. "Those guys were kind of young and

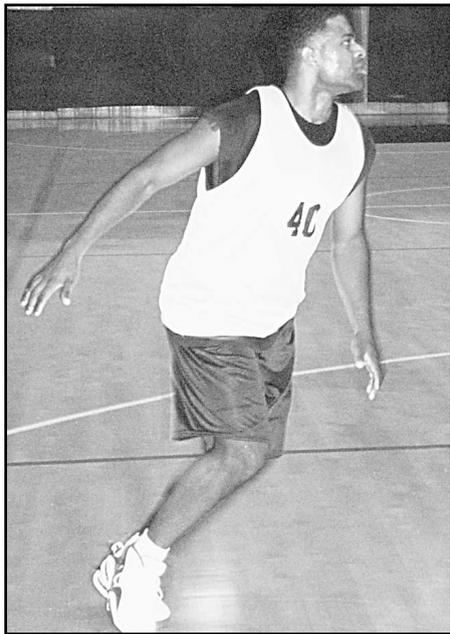


Photo by Skip Vaughn

SMOOTH OPERATOR— Detrick Bush runs toward the basket for MEDDAC.

I think our patience and experience paid off for us."

"They're young and they wanted to run," Copeland said. "And we just took our time."

Eugene Williams scored 12 points and Keyon Copeland grabbed nine rebounds for Bravo.

"In short, I have a bunch of young players and I haven't had much time to work with them," Bulldogs coach James Crawford said. "They'll get better."

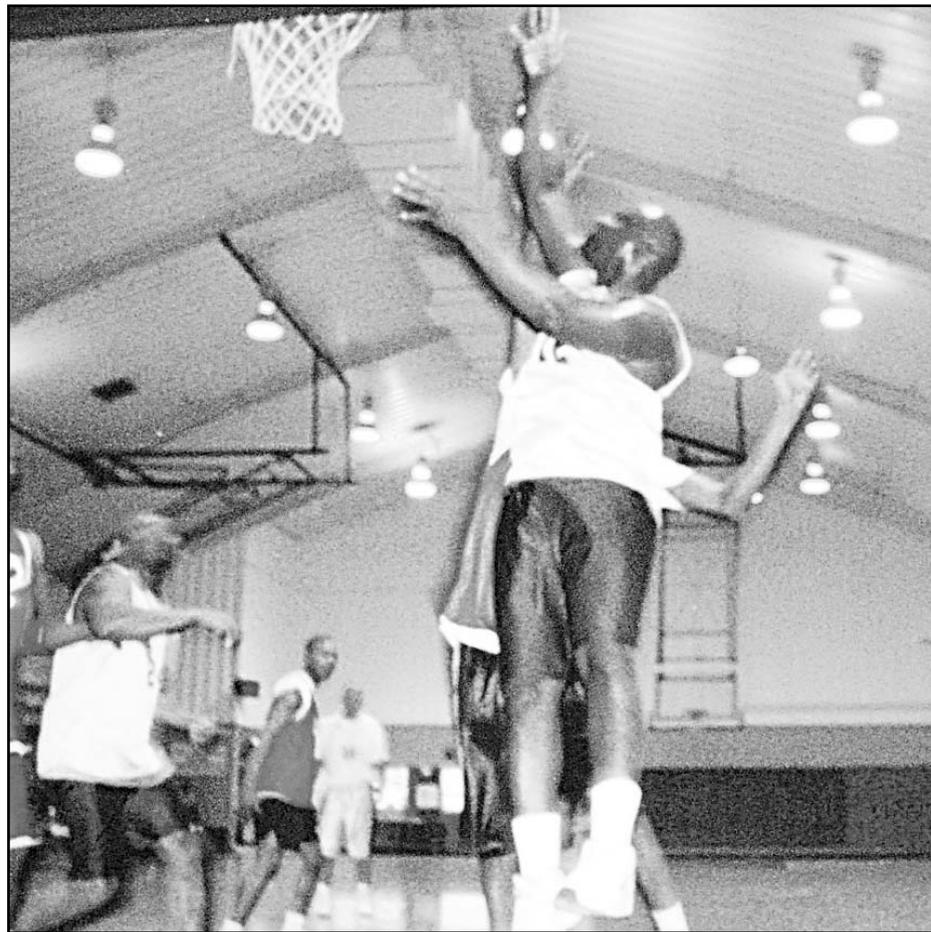


Photo by Skip Vaughn

COUNT IT— MEDDAC forward Torreon Scott makes a layup in the first half against Bravo.

MEDDAC didn't have such worries on this night. Copeland and Bush, a forward, played together last year for HHC 59th. When Copeland learned at the start of pre-season that the 59th had too many people who wanted to play, he formed the MEDDAC team.

"We could be better if we practiced," he said. "I think we're up there in the highest level of competition. And I think we're actually an underestimated team."

Oates had a message for the NCO Academy, the preseason tournament champion and ranked No. 1 by the *Rocket*. "We want the NCO Academy anytime,

anyplace," he said.

On opening night Jan. 12, the NCO Academy defeated Delta 52-44, Charlie beat 2117th 45-39 and the Marines routed Headquarters & Alpha 73-34. On Jan. 13, MEDDAC beat Bravo 67-39, second-ranked HHC 59th edged AMCOM 66-65 and NCO Academy defeated Headquarters & Alpha 57-39. On Jan. 14, AMCOM d. Delta 48-13, Charlie d. Bravo 46-32 and HHC 59th d. MEDDAC 68-60. On Jan. 15, Charlie d. HHC 59th 71-58, 2117th d. Marines 66-62 and Delta d. Headquarters & Alpha 44-37.

Olympic trio highlights year of Army sports



Photo by Tim Hipps

OVERWHELMING— Sgt. Dremiel Byers throws All-Army teammate Spec. Paul Devlin in the semifinals of the 2003 U.S. National Wrestling Championships.

Several soldiers can still qualify for next year's Games in Athens

By TIM HIPPS
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — SSgt. Basheer Abdullah was selected to coach Team USA's boxers in the 2004 Olympic Games, SSgt. Shon Lewis will coach the Greco-Roman wrestlers, and Capt. Anita Allen clinched a modern pentathlon spot to highlight a productive year of Army sports.

Several soldiers, most members of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, still have opportunities to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Trials and join them in Athens, Greece.

"I couldn't ask for a better way to go out, and I thank the Army dearly for providing this opportunity for me to be a soldier-athlete," said Abdullah, who plans to retire from the military this year. "I've reached the highest level in amateur boxing. What greater opportunity can an individual amateur athlete have than to take part in the Olympic Games? It's an honor."

Lewis, a four-time national champion and 13-time

Armed Forces champion on the mats, echoed that sentiment.

"It is a great honor to be recommended to be on the staff to take our nation's best athletes to the Athens Games," said Lewis, who evolved as a soldier-athlete into head coach of the Army's WCAP wrestlers and led them to three consecutive national team titles. "It is with pride that we work to help develop young athletes to win medals and pursue their goals."

Allen secured an Olympic berth in August by winning the women's modern pentathlon in Pan American Games XIV at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

"I can't thank WCAP enough," said Allen, a member of the medical service corps. "They're the ones who found me and introduced me to the sport. They made my dreams come true."

Seven soldiers have qualified for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team Trials, scheduled for Feb. 16-21 at Tunica, Miss. SSgt. DeAndrey Abron (178 pounds) and Spec. Clarence Joseph (165 pounds) qualified by winning gold medals May 31 in the 2003 Golden Gloves National

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Highlights

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Tournament of Champions at Las Vegas. Spec. Edward Joseph earned a berth by winning the 152-pound division of the 29th annual National Police Athletic League Boxing Championships Sept. 27 at Toledo, Ohio.

SSgt. Torrence Daniels (119 pounds), Spec. Keith Mason (141 pounds), 2nd Lt. Boyd Melson (152 pounds) and SSgt. Charles Leverette (201 pounds) qualified by winning their divisions Dec. 11 in the 2004 Armed Forces Boxing Championships at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

First Lt. Chad Senior, who finished sixth in the men's modern pentathlon in the 2000 Summer Olympics, won silver medals in the 2003 U.S. National Modern Pentathlon Championships and the Pan Am Games. Senior is among the favorites to make Team USA for his second Olympic appearance.

Spec. Michelle "Mickey" Kelly relied on running expertise June 8 to win the women's U.S. National Modern Pentathlon Championship at Colorado Springs, Colo.

Kelly also won the women's division of the Armed Forces Cross Country Championships at Houston, where male and female soldiers combined to win their second consecutive overall crown in February.

In the men's 12-kilometer race, Capt. Scott Goff, Spec. Shawn Found, Spec. Chris England, Sgt. Phillip Castillo and SSgt. Shannon Swords swept the top five Armed Forces spots. Sgt. Sandu Rebenciuc won the men's 4,000-meter race and was followed by Capt. Ryan Kirkpatrick.

PFC Tina George made significant marks for soldiers and women by winning a gold medal in the Pan American Games and silver medal in the World Championships of Freestyle Wrestling at Madison Square Garden in New York, where she qualified U.S. women for a 55-kilogram spot in the Athens Games, where women's Olympic wrestling will be contested for the first time.

"Hopefully, next year I'll have everything put together in the right place to receive the gold medal in the Olympics," George said.

That sentiment is shared by Sgt. Dremiel Byers, a 2002 heavyweight world champion in Greco-Roman wrestling who lost his No. 1 national ranking in 2003 to Rulon Gardner, America's darling of the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Byers lost to Gardner in the U.S. World Team Trials at Indianapolis in May, setting the stage for a series of anticipated rematches between the two big men of USA wrestling to determine who will go to Athens in 2004.

Several other Army wrestlers fared well last year and will be grappling for Olympic berths.

Sgt. Keith Sieracki, an alternate for the 2000 Olympics, won his fourth national championship and was elated to match Lewis' mark of four titles as soldiers won their third consecutive national team crown at Las Vegas.

Sgt. John Nunn led 13 soldiers in the 2003 USA Outdoor Track & Field Cham-

pionships June 19-22 by finishing third in the 20,000-meter racewalk at Palo Alto, Calif. Spec. Bevan Hart provided the Army's greatest exposure by finishing seventh in the men's decathlon.

Sgt. David Bartlett rejoined the military to pursue his Olympic dream and led 11 All-Army martial artists May 24-25 by winning the men's featherweight division of the 2003 U.S. Senior National Taekwondo Championships at New Orleans. Sgt. Yelena Pisarenko and Sgt. Petra Kau finished third in the women's lightweight and heavyweight divisions.

Two soldiers ran to individual victories Oct. 26 in the 2003 Armed Forces Marathon contested in conjunction with the 28th Marine Corps Marathon at Arlington, Va. SSgt. Gerardo Avila of Fort Lewis, Wash., finished 10th overall and was the first U.S. military runner across the finish line in a personal-best time of two hours, 32 minutes, 59 seconds. Maj. Jacqueline Chen a podiatrist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, finished seventh among women to win the female Armed Forces crown in three hours, seven minutes, 36 seconds.

All-Army teams won 2003 Armed Forces Championships in rugby and triathlon.

Capt. Kevin Inglin of Fort Monroe, Va., converted with a strong kick that lifted Army to a 22-20 come-from-behind victory over defending champion Air Force in the rugby finale Oct. 24 at Naval Station Everett, Wash. The conversion followed Capt. Robert Snow's game-tying try in the final two minutes.

"You dream of these situations," said Inglin, whose winning boot gave soldiers their only lead of the scrum and secured Army's ninth championship in the past 11 Armed Forces Rugby Championships.

For the second consecutive year, All-Army men and women combined to win the overall title in the 2003 Armed Forces Triathlon Championships June 21 at Naval Base Ventura County Point Mugu, Calif. Maj. Heidi Grimm of Camp Red Cloud, Korea, and 1st Lt. Jessica Jones of Fort Hood, Texas, won women's gold and silver medals while 1st Lt. Keith Walters of U.S. Army Reserves, Ariz., finished second in the men's run, bike and swim.

Soldiers also fared well in the 2003 Armed Forces Golf Championships Oct. 7-10 at Navy MWR Headquarters in Millington, Tenn., and the inaugural World Military Golf Championships Oct. 14-16 at Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Fla.

Spec. Chad Saladin of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, set course records of 66 to win both individual men's titles. His first round at Millington included two eagles and a hole-in-one. Saladin and Lt. Col. Mark Johnson of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, waged a one-hole playoff for the top spot at Jacksonville, where Saladin prevailed with a birdie. Johnson also finished runner-up to Saladin in the Armed Forces Championships.

Editor's note: Tim Hipps is a senior information specialist in the Public Affairs Office of the Army Community and Family Support Center. CFSC provides more than 50 morale, welfare and recreation programs for soldiers and families worldwide.

Sports & Recreation

Trivia sweepstakes

Redstone Arsenal Morale, Welfare and Recreation will run the "Online MWR Trivia Sweepstakes" Jan. 26-30 on the www.redstonemwr.com web site. Throughout that week, participants will log on to the web site and answer 10 daily trivia questions on MWR facilities and topics. You can get the correct answers to play by looking on the MWR web site, calling the MWR facility, or visiting the MWR facility. New questions will be posted each day and expire at the end of that day. All answers must be received through the web page only and the most number of questions answered correctly will determine the winners. Go to www.redstonemwr.com for "Online MWR Trivia Sweepstakes" details, prizes and more information.

Youth soccer

The Madison Soccer Club Shockers is forming teams for spring play in the North Alabama Soccer League. Practices will begin in February and games in March. "Specifically, we are seeking boys and girls ages 7-10 with a strong desire to play soccer," a prepared release said. For more information, call Jo Countess (256) 771-0530.

Golf course

Because of reduced staffing, the Golf Course will have the following hours from Jan. 24 through Feb. 2: Pro Shop, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; tee times, 9 a.m. to noon; and office, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 883-7977.

Conferences & Meetings

Protestant women

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Thursdays from 9:30 to noon at Bicentennial Chapel. Four studies are offered. "Come for fellowship, worship, prayer and Bible study," a prepared release said. Child care is available. Other classes are held Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and in the evening. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646 or Jennifer Devlin 716-0107.

Sunday school

Adults are invited to study the book of James at Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel, room 13. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646.

Communicators club

Learn the art of speaking, listening and thinking through the Communications Club which meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Sparkman building 5300, room 5140 on the first floor. For information call Dan Cutshall 876-4547 or Ron Legowik 876-5619.

Health center team

Fox Army Health Center officials say they are dedicated to providing the best service possible to all of their beneficiaries. In

support of that they have a Consumers Health Advocate Team which meets quarterly, the first Monday — January, April, July and October — at 11 a.m. at the Sky-light Conference Room, Fox Army Health Center. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, etc., on how they can better serve the community, you are invited to attend and participate.

AMCOM town hall

The AMCOM Town Hall, with Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, is Feb. 4 from 9-11 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. It will be broadcast on Team Redstone Television Channel 42, and via Internet Portal TV to computer desktops equipped with the IPTV application. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7 of the auditorium. Badges must be worn by all attending.

Contracting conference

Defense Acquisition University, South Region, will have its second annual Conference and Expo Feb. 18-19 at the Huntsville Marriott. "Contracting: Smart Business for Mission Support" is this year's theme. The registration fee is \$60 for attendees and exhibitors. Register for the conference online at this address: www.mssi-online.com by Feb. 9. Continuous Learning Points will be awarded to attendees.

Project management group

North Alabama chapter, Project Management Institute will hold its monthly meeting Jan. 27 at 11:30 a.m. at Green Hills Grille, 5100 Sanderson St. northwest. Cost is \$20. For reservations call Bill Kessinger 776-0026.

Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its informal monthly breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at Victoria's Café, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. The monthly luncheon meeting is Jan. 28 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club; and the annual budget and changes to the chapter constitution will be discussed. All active, retired and former officers; their spouses and widows, are invited. For more information, call retired CWO 4 Aniceto Bagley 852-7973.

Parents committee

The Parent Advisory Committee will meet Jan. 27 at 11 a.m. in the Redstone Room, Challenger Community Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. For information call 876-7952. PAC gives bonus parent points, updated information and an open forum.

Miscellaneous

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club each year presents Merit Awards to qualified applicants based on their scholastic achievements, citizenship and sincere desire to pursue higher education. These awards are designed to help offset the cost of tuition, books and related fees. All applicants must meet the following crite-

ria: be a member, spouse of a member, or the dependent of an OCWC member in good standing as of Oct. 1, 2003 and live within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. Candidates may compete in one of four categories: high school senior, undergraduate, graduate and member/spouse. Previous award winners may compete in succeeding years, but may win only once in each category. Additionally, students receiving full scholarships are not eligible to apply for a Merit Award. The deadline for Merit Award consideration is Feb. 11. For more information call Michelle Archer, the Merit Award chairperson, 534-5783.

Reserve unit

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal is looking for prior active duty soldiers who want to return to duty, or soldiers who wish to transfer from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 74B information systems operators, and 75B/H unit administration. For 74B, the unit will consider reclassification/waiver action to 74B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, PC programming languages, networking/systems administration and telecommunications skills. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the character and personal qualifications to pass a SBI Investigation check to obtain a top secret clearance required by the specialty. Specialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For MOS 75B/H, you must be MOS-Q prior service or transfer from another unit. For information call Charles Vartan 876-0604 (work) or 883-8891 (home).

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Jane Wyatt 876-4106 or Maj. Felicia Carter 313-3867. Contractors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. To bid on this property, go to www.gsaauctions.gov. For more information, call 544-4667.

Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 annual scholarship awards to a local high school and college student majoring in a business

field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information, call Jackie Kenner 876-8131.

Student apprentices

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are United States citizens and 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 7, 2004. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. The points of contact for applications are senior counselors, at all public, private and parochial high school and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at the Aviation and Missile Command include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for postmarking applications is Jan. 31. If the student is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the high school senior counselor or college placement service, call Julie Lumpkins of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center 313-4834.

Closings or delays

If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: radio — WAHR, 99.1FM; WDRM, 102FM; WEKR, 1240AM; WEUP, 1600 AM; WGSV, 1270AM; WJAB, 90.9FM; WLRH, 89.3FM; WRAB, 1380AM; WRSA, 97FM; WTKI, 1450AM; WVNN, 770AM; WWIC, 1050AM; WZYP, 104.3FM; television — WAAY (Channel 31); WAFF (Channel 48); WHNT (Channel 19). Three additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures. You can call 955-8445 to hear a recorded announcement or you can click the button for weather information on either the Team Redstone Internet site (www.redstone.army.mil) or the AMCOM Portal Intranet site (https://intranet3.redstone.army.mil:7443/pls/aprtl/aprtl_amcom_site.amcom_page).

Aerospace scholarship

The Air Force Association, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will present a \$1,000 scholarship to an Air Force Junior ROTC cadet, cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, dependent of active duty or retired Air Force personnel, dependent of Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve personnel, or dependent of an active duty member of another service (Army, Navy, or Marine Corps). Applicants must pursue a full course load toward an aerospace technology associate degree at Calhoun Community College. This scholarship will be for

Rocket Announcements

the 2004-05 school year and will be broken into \$500 awards to the school for each semester attended. Candidates may apply until May 1. For more information, call Terry Roop (256) 230-0396 after 6 p.m. or e-mail at TLRoop@charter.net.

Leadership luncheon

The National Space Club-Huntsville will hold its annual Leadership Luncheon Jan. 28 in the Von Braun Center North Hall. A reception starts at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon is noon to 1:30. Cost is \$25 per person or \$200 for tables of eight. For reservations call Carla Bossard 837-3982 or Jodi Weiner 721-2450 by Jan. 21.

Army family team building

Soldiers receive training that will enable them to meet the many challenges of military service. But what about the family members? How do they learn to cope with the challenges of a military lifestyle? How will they learn about military benefits, and about facilities available to them? These questions, and more, will be answered in Army Family Team Building classes. AFTB is a program developed by family members for family members. AFTB Level I classes will be offered Jan. 27-29 from 6-9 p.m. at building 3338 on Redeye Road. These classes are free. Level I is designed to enhance basic knowledge of Army life. It includes the following topics: Military Terms, Acronyms, Customs & Courtesies; the Chain of Command and the Chain of Concern; Intro to Military

and Civilian Resources; Family and Military Expectations; and the Impact of Unit Mission and Family Life. Call 876-5397 by Jan. 16 January to reserve your seat and arrange for free child care. Space is limited.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Tuesdays from 9-5, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-12:30. Appointments are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. The shop is a collection site for New Futures, so bring your cell phones that are in working order (Audiovox, Ericsson, Kyocera 3035, Motorola and Nokia). The shop can recycle your inkjet, fax, printer, copier and laser jet cartridges. For more information, call 881-6992.

Resource manager scholarships

The American Society of Military Comptrollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. The national scholarship is open only to high school seniors, but the local scholarship is also open to undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found at <http://www.asmconline>. Deadline is March 1; and applications may be mailed to Jan Howard, PEO, Air,

Space and Missile Defense, Attn: SFAE-AMD-BD-SF, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35807-3801. Applications may also be faxed to 313-3446 or e-mailed to Jan.Howard@amd.army.mil. For more information, call Howard 313-3447.

Prenatal education

Expectant parents (military beneficiaries) are invited to a free prenatal educational program sponsored by Fox Army Health Center. Registered nurses provide information on nutrition, exercise, labor and delivery, and newborn care so parents can make informed choices about their health during and after pregnancy. The program is fun and informative. Family members and labor coaches are welcome. Free "What to Expect When You are Expecting" books will be available for all who attend. The program will be held Jan. 28 from 8 a.m. to noon at Fox Army Health Center. Call Public Health and Education Center 955-8888, extension 1026, for information and to register.

Benefit cookbook

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is still selling "Cooking with Comptrollers." This is a collection of recipes from some of the Redstone community's best cooks. The cost is \$10 and all proceeds go toward local charities and ASMC's community projects program. If you would like a copy while supplies last, call Becky Lake 955-0053.

Engineers week banquet

The annual National Engineers Week award banquet is Feb. 26 at the Von Braun Center North Hall. Cocktails and registration begin at 6 p.m., and dinner at 7. Tickets are \$25 with advanced reservations or \$38 after Feb. 18. For more information, call the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies 882-1227.

Technical writing contest

The Huntsville Association of Technical Societies and the Huntsville/North Alabama Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication announce TechWords, a North Alabama High School Technical Writing Competition. High schools students are encouraged to submit non-fiction entries related to a technical field such as science or engineering. Essays should be limited to 10 pages. A panel of professional scientists, educators and writers will judge essays; and feedback will be provided. Winners will receive cash awards of up to \$250. No entry fee is required. Call the HATS Office 882-1234 or e-mail STEDTRAIN@hats.org for competition guidelines and accompanying CD. Entry deadline is Feb. 10. Winners will be notified by mail. Awards will be presented March 30 during TEAMS Week 2004 activities.

Defensive driving course

Child and Youth Services will hold a Defensive Driving Course from 9:30 a.m.

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to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Youth Center, building 3148. Youths whose parents are active/retired/reserve military, DoD, Army, NASA and Redstone/NASA contractors may participate. Class is for ages 15-18 and registration costs \$18. Enroll at CYS Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Participants will receive a certificate that may be used to receive a discount off automobile insurance. For more information, call Pam Berry 955-6309 or Sheryl Scott 876-5437.

Combined fund organization

The Local Federal Coordinating Committee for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications for a Principle Combined Fund Organization to administer the 2004 campaign. The primary responsibility of the PCFO is to support the federal government in managing a comprehensive local workplace fund-raising campaign while ensuring the fiscal integrity, accountability and transparency of the process in accordance with regulations. A primary goal of the PCFO is to conduct an effective and efficient campaign in a fair and even-handed manner. Only federations, charitable organizations, or a combination thereof are eligible to apply. More information may be downloaded from the Office of Personnel Management web site at www.opm.gov/cfc. All applications must be mailed to CFC chairperson, AMSAM-CFC, building 3708, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5795 by Feb. 16.

Drill sergeant luncheon

The Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School and 59th Ordnance Brigade will hold its Drill Sergeant of the Year Luncheon Jan. 30 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Cost is \$8 per person and tickets can be purchased at the Brigade S-3 in building 3301. For more information, call SFC Hays 876-5431.

Community service award

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign received recognition in December from United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley for its continual community support. The Community Service Award is given to an organization or civic group that has given significant time, service, or financial support to UCP and individuals with disabilities. This year's winner not only helped UCP, but many other agencies in the community and beyond. Through its campaign efforts, it has helped more than 1,600 organizations on a local and international basis. Funds collected through this year's campaign amount to \$1.86 million in contributions to the North Alabama community, with thousands earmarked specifically to UCP. The drive also assisted UCP's awareness activities through agency fairs, center tours, web site, speaking opportu-

nities and annual campaign video presentations. Melinda Seigler, CFC director for United Way of Madison County, accepted the award on behalf of the campaign's board members and federal donors.

EEO office move

The Garrison EEO Office has moved to building 111, first floor, off Goss Road. Equal Employment Opportunity staff employees can be reached at the following phone and room numbers: Georgia Stroud, room 112-B, 876-8890; EEO assistant, room 112-A, 876-3591; SFC Vasquez (equal opportunity adviser), room 114, 876-8648; Bernard Collier, room 115, 876-9223; Robert Hambrick, room 117, 876-3436; Gladys Lee, room 118, 876-5844; Jackie White, room 120, 876-9259; Clarenza Clark, room 121, 313-2825; Becky Miller, room 125, 876-8946; sexual harassment hotline, 876-6461; and EEO fax number, 876-8947.

Astronomical society

Dr. Sandy Patel, NASA astronomer, will discuss the Chandra X-ray Observatory at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Wernher Von Braun Planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. This event is sponsored by the Von Braun Astronomical Society. For non-members, admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under.

Newcomers' orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation from 8:30 a.m. to noon Feb. 3 at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The event features speakers, information booths, and a bus tour of Redstone Arsenal. Participants receive Morale, Welfare and Recreation bucks that can be used at any MWR activity. Attendance is mandatory for permanently assigned military personnel. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care for the orientation is available at the Child Development Center. The children's shot records are required. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

Office manager job

The Redstone Thrift Shop is looking for an office manager for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays approximately three hours each day. Pay is \$7.50 per hour. Good computer skills are a must. For more information, call Isabel 881-6992.

Valentines play

The Madison Theatre Guild will present "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney at 7 p.m. Feb. 13-14 and 1:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at Clay House Museum, 16 Main St. in downtown Madison. "Join us for Valentines with a romantic candlelight dinner and play," a prepared release said. Cost is \$50 each.

For tickets call the Madison Theatre Guild 772-1963 or Clay House 325-1018.

Excellence seminar

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its ninth Pathways to Professional Excellence seminar Feb. 10 all day at the Huntsville Hilton. Dr. Amanda Goodson is scheduled keynote speaker. Steinmart will be doing the luncheon fashion show again, and the afternoon holds a host of workshop speakers, including Jim Flinn, deputy to the commanding general. Both government and industry admin professionals are invited to this seminar. Call June Pockrus 842-9888 or e-mail june.pockrus@redstone.army.mil for a registration package and submit it to Rob Archer, chapter treasurer. Contact information is in the registration package. The seminar is in TIPS.

Contracting careerists

The Army Acquisition Support Center, Contracting Career Program Office, at Fort Belvoir, Va., invites you to find out how CP-14 programs benefit contracting and acquisition professionals at all stages of career development. CP-14 Office personnel will address the Huntsville community Jan. 28 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. in Rocket Auditorium, building 7120 to assist contracting and acquisition personnel with career planning. CP-14 personnel will be available after each session to address individual concerns. The target audience is the CP-14 professional (1102, 1103, 1105 and 1150 series) including local and Department of Army interns. Continuous learning points will be provided for attendance. If you have any questions that you would like addressed, e-mail them to asc.cp-14@asc.belvoir.army.mil.

Identification cards

The ID Card Section is no longer using the appointment system and now issues all cards on a first come, first serve basis. Operating hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for retiree and dependent ID cards. Common Access Card operations are from 7:30-3. ALL CAC operations must be started before 3. The ID Card Sections will be closed on all national holidays and on most training holidays. Call 842-2413/2415/2416 to

confirm hours on training holidays. Contractors must bring a new DD Form 1172-2 (October 2002) to replace their CAC at anytime. The 1172-2 must have all three signatures and the end date of the contract. All new hires must have a 1172-2 to obtain their CAC. Your 1172-2 must be signed by your human resources specialist from CPAC. It must have the date of hire; and if you are "emergency essential/contingency operations," that must written in the remarks block.

Parent education

Child and Youth Services will have a parent education class on "Emotional Intelligence," Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Redstone Room of the Challenger Community Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. The instructor is Brenda Knox, a Learning Center trainer. For information or to register for this free class, call 313-3609.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is accepting scholarship applications for dependent children of active duty and retired soldiers for the 2004-05 school year. Scholarship applications can be found at the AER web site www.aerhq.org. For more information, call Kristi Foster of Army Community Service 876-5397.

Tax assistance center

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center will be open Feb. 2 to April 15. The center will be located in building 3489 at the corner of Ajax Road and Zeus Road. It will provide free tax preparation and electronic filing services to active duty and retired military and their dependents. It will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7 for walk-in services. Beginning Jan. 26, you may call 842-1040 to make an appointment.

Job search workshop

An Employment Readiness Workshop will be held Jan. 28 at 10 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. This workshop is to assist you with an effective job search. Topics will cover self appraisals, resume and cover letter writing, and interview tips. To register call 876-0446.

