

# Redstone Rocket

VOL. 53 No. 21

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

May 26, 2004

## Survey says

Who you model yourself after  
Page 2



## Hail and farewell

Independence Day brings retirement  
Page 4



## Over there



Tactical aerostat deploys to Iraq  
Page 6

## Getting technical



Cargo helicopters conference topic  
Page 12

## Win or lose

Senior women aim for crown  
Page 19



# Gasoline prices stay pumped up

Post Exchange surveys for lowest cost locally

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Gasoline prices are like balloons these days. They keep going up.

And the unstable trend will continue as long as demand exceeds supply, according to Roger Overcast, store manager of the One Stop Shoppette/Class VI.

The shoppette, part of the Post Exchange, sells gasoline to authorized patrons based on a survey of off-post prices.

"We survey the local competition within a five-mile radius at least weekly and set our price equal to the lowest surveyed price," Overcast said. "We are surveying daily at this time. With the market being so unstable, we are surveying daily."

The prices May 19 were \$1.879 for regular unleaded, \$1.979 for mid-grade and \$2.079 for premium. These were up two cents each from the day before. "With the market as it is, the prices could change daily," Overcast said.

The shoppette doesn't sell a brand name but is currently buying Shell gasoline in three grades of octane: 87, 89 and 93. "They all have detergent additives for keeping the fuel system and combustion system clean," Overcast said.

Authorized patrons include active duty or retired military or Reserve component and their spouses or dependents. The store also sells beer, wine and spirits, grocery items, snacks and includes a video rental.

The gas pumps have five dual-product units for a total of 10 unleaded fueling lanes. They pump 71 percent regular, 16 percent mid-grade and 13 percent super.

See **Prices** on page 5



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**GETTING FULL**— Jay Jagers, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, buys gas at the Shoppette weekly.

## Gas saving scams often driven by price increases

Agency offers tips for summer travel

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU RELEASE

As gasoline prices approach \$2 a gallon, and from all reports will exceed that this summer, many consumers are wondering what they can do to improve their gas mileage.

During the Better Business Bureau of North Alabama's history, we have seen numer-

ous gas savings scams appear as gasoline prices increase, especially during the oil embargo in the 1970s. Typically schemes come in the form of gas saving devices that attach to your engine, special gas caps and fuel additives.

Examples of two gas savings devices whose advertising was monitored and challenged by the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee in Nashville back in the late 1970s were the Fuel Miser and

Gas Miser, sold by a Smyrna, Tenn., company. The company claimed that its devices not only helped the environment by reducing pollution, but also increased your vehicle's horsepower and acceleration.

Advertisements claimed that it was all possible through the amazing technology provided by NASA. Of course, these bogus claims didn't help your vehicle and in many cases actually caused damage to your engine — costing you

money instead of saving you money.

Remember, you should always check with your mechanic before adding any fuel savings device to your vehicle. You may end up with a voided manufacturers warranty and serious engine problems by adding after market devices to your engine.

What you spend at the pump is influenced by how

See **Tips** on page 5

## Rosy day for shoppers

On May 8, Procter & Gamble and the Defense Commissary Agency presented 200 roses to mothers for Mother's Day. The event was very successful and the customers were elated. We strive to make Commissary shopping a wonderful experience by sponsoring special events. P&G and the Redstone Commissary are committed to tak-

ing the routine out of shopping. An insider secret to all patrons: I see great deals and weekend specials in your future.

**Katrina Coleman**  
military customer business development,  
Procter & Gamble

## Singing salute to Soldiers

The patriotic sister group, Dyers Daughters, performed a free concert May 15 at the Post Exchange. Before the show, Elsa, Sonja and Linda did a meet and greet with our customers and employees before performing their first release off their new CD, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," a remake of the classic Andrews Sisters hit during World War II. The sisters not only sing patriotic

music but also country music. They also showed encouragement and support to our troops and their families. The concert was very well received by young and old alike. Ann Mims, services business manager, said, "The girls were fantastic. It was a joy to have them with us."

**Sonya Boyd**  
Post Exchange

## Quote of the week

**'I'm proud of getting it because I've actually gone to war, but I'm not proud, because if I wasn't in the way of that round, I'd still be over there with my guys.'**

— *Pfc. Christopher Tenayuca on receiving a Purple Heart May 4 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, for a wound he received in Iraq Feb. 10.*

## Getting to know you

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

**Name:** Tammy Bratton

**Job:** Administrative assistant to the Garrison command sergeant major

**Where do you call home?**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**What do you like about your job?**

The people. It is very challenging, the work

changes from day-to-day. Also, I have worked for the government for 12 years, but this is my first time to be at the Arsenal and I really like it here.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

Go to church, out to eat with friends and to the movies. I am looking into doing volunteer work as well. I guess you could say that I am a computer buff, I love working on it.



**What are your goals?**

Always to leave a good impression on somebody. Whether in my profession or in my personal life, I want to leave them with a smile.

## Actively pursue your degree

Since I retired in July 2001, I couldn't help but notice all the changes that have taken place in the education department for active duty personnel. The Army educational system has made many positive changes toward a greater future for Soldiers who are afforded the opportunity to go to school. Tuition assistance was between 50 and 75 percent when I was on active duty which was considered great at that time, and caused many Soldiers to attend classes more, but now it's at 100 percent. Wow! What a blessing. Recently the Army came up with a program called EARMYU that offers a free lap top computer to all Soldiers who dedicate themselves to 12 semester hours a year toward their degree.

Redstone Arsenal has many extended site colleges to assist Soldiers so that they don't have to drive the distance to school, i.e., Athens State, Columbia College, Calhoun College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida Tech, and the most recent to arrive on Redstone is Oakwood College. SOCAD agreements are also offered to Soldiers that guarantee degree completion no matter where you're stationed with the same college.

My overall point is this: All active duty servicemembers need to take advantage of such an opportunity as this, to achieve whatever goals that you may have now! If you are sitting around being bored and doing nothing in the barracks, take the time to either sit in class or go online to get your degree. Many of you probably don't have any plans to retire, maybe just do a little traveling or achieve a job skill and move on; that's fine, but at least take what has been offered to you as an active duty servicemember and use it to your advantage.

Even though I went to school while on active duty, I still didn't put as much effort as I should have in finishing my degree as a young Soldier, until I arrived here in May 1999. The director of Columbia College, Mrs. Mary Morgan, along with her staff, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Laser, Ms. Hyacinth James and Mr. Edger Morrison all put forth sincere professionalism, dedication and concern to help me to achieve my goals and they will do the same for you. Take your pick of the colleges available on Redstone and become a college graduate today!

**Gloria D. Dorsey**  
retired sergeant first class

## An open lane random survey

*Who is your role model?*

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

**Pvt. Patrick Phillips**  
Charlie Company

**"My father, because he's the person I want to grow up to be like."**



**Wendell Smith**  
DoD Civilian

**"My father-in-law is my role model because of his moral values, the way he leads his life and takes care of his family. He has even caused me to be a better father and provider for my family as well."**



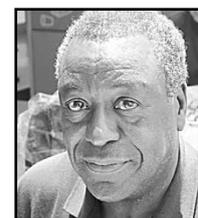
**Pvt. Lenny Montalvo**  
Charlie Company



**"My role model is my Uncle Victor from New York. He took me off the streets and raised me. Now I'm in the Army trying to become a better person than I was before."**

**Joe Lee**  
DoD civilian

**"My mother. She taught me how to be a decent human being and treat people how I want to be treated."**



## Redstone Rocket

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

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

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

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

email: [redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil](mailto:redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil)  
Rocket articles are available online at the following:  
[https://publicaffairs2.redstone.army.mil:7443/pls/pao\\_o/pao\\_home](https://publicaffairs2.redstone.army.mil:7443/pls/pao_o/pao_home)

### Rocket Staff

Public Affairs Officer: *Al Schwartz*

Editor: *Skip Vaughn*

Reporters: *Sandy Riebeling*

*Kelley Lane*

*Kim Mason*

Copy Editor: *Scott Seeley*

Advertising Sales: *Aletha Pardue*

*Petie Sims*

The *Redstone Rocket* is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by *The Huntsville Times* a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for The *Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source.

# Pact gives Garrison workers flexibility for days off

Union, garrison leaders agree on schedule

Garrison workers have more options in their work schedules under a new agreement.

Leaders of the Garrison and AFGE Local 1858 signed the pact May 13 which was negotiated March 8-11. The Garrison's realignment from the Aviation and Missile Command to the Installation Management Agency required the renegotiation of the local union agreement.

The current AMCOM/AFGE agreement was used as a working roadmap and variations applicable to the Garrison were made, according to Harold Lenz of garrison Plans, Analysis and Integration.

"In an effort to allow organizations more flexibility within the compressed work schedule and provide better customer support on Fridays, one of the major negotiated changes was to permit an individual's off day to be scheduled other than Friday," he said.

"The signing of the new labor agreement is but one more facet on the brilliant relationship between labor and management within the Garrison," Don Eiermann, president of AFGE Local 1858, said. "Through the exceptional leadership of the garrison commander Col. (Bob) Devlin and deputy commander Darrell Brewer, labor relations and employee



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

**IT'S OFFICIAL— Don Eiermann, president of AFGE Local 1858, and Col. Bob Devlin, garrison commander, shake hands after signing their agreement. Looking on, from left, are Howard Solis, acting vice president for AFGE; Vickie Fuller, AFGE representative; Darrell Brewer, deputy to the garrison commander; Art Murtha, AFGE vice president; Harold Lenz, garrison management negotiator; Diane Caldwell, garrison management negotiator; and Brooks Woerner, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center labor relations.**

morale have been on the rise. The new contract, while almost identical to the AMCOM labor agreement, has provisions better suited to areas unique to the Garrison (i.e. police/guard shift operations and issues relating to firefighters). Also, under

the Garrison agreement, employees who participate in the 4/10 Compressed Work Schedule will be afforded the opportunity to select any weekday for their day off. AFGE was unable to secure this option for the folks in AMCOM."

# Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

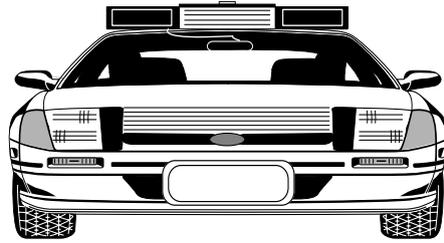
**May 14:** An individual reported that someone damaged his personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended at building 3224. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**May 16:** A Soldier reported for duty in an apparent intoxicated state. He was tested and found to have a blood alcohol level of .07. He was processed and released to his unit. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**May 18:** An individual reported that someone removed a government owned laptop computer from his workstation at building 5301. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**May 18:** An individual was observed at the Post Exchange selecting several packages of cigarettes and then exiting without rendering the proper payment. He was issued a violation notice and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**May 19:** An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol when she attempted to enter Redstone Arsenal at Gate 9. She



was issued a violation notice and detained at the Provost Marshal Office until her blood alcohol level reached an acceptable level.

**May 19:** An individual was observed at the Post Exchange selecting several packages of trading cards and then exiting without rendering the proper payment. He was processed and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

**Lost identification/badge reported:** 49  
**Traffic accidents reported:** 4 without injuries, 2 with injuries.

**Violation notices issued:** 34 speeding, 1 failure to maintain insurance, 1 expired registration, 1 driving under the influence of alcohol, 1 no driver's license in possession, 1 larceny and 3 failure to obey traffic control device.

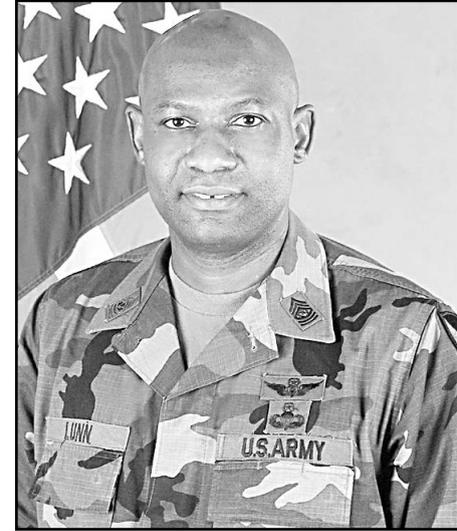
# NCO Call issued by command sergeant major

Calling on all noncommissioned officers – all services, active duty and retired.

Post Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn invites all NCOs to an NCO Call from 4-6 p.m. Thursday at the Firehouse Pub.

"NCO Call is a way for all NCOs to come together to forge new friendships, foster camaraderie and to maintain Army customs and traditions of the NCO Corps," he says. "Now more so than ever before it is important for non-commissioned officers to bond and build on the NCO Corps of the future. NCO Call on Redstone Arsenal is designed to do just that; so come out and support the corps as well as have a great time. The only requirement is to be an NCO: (active duty), retired, National Guard, Reserves, Marines – it does not matter."

Guests are also welcome to this monthly event.



Courtesy photo

**Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn**

## Now the right time to move on to other challenges

Deputy to commanding general ready for retirement in July

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer

sandy@htimes.com

This Fourth of July will have special meaning for Jim Flinn, deputy commander of AMCOM and Redstone. After 35 years of civilian service, the last 20 here, Flinn is retiring.

"It gives Independence Day a little different meaning for me," he said. "But, I guess if you're going to go, you should go when things are good. I love this job. I love Redstone Arsenal. I love this command. The future here is looking very bright. Great initiatives are coming. The BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) is going to be good for us. Budgets are more solid than they've been in a decade. The community reputation for supporting the war and our defense programs is excellent. Good things are happening. If I'm going to pick a time to go, now's the time."

When asked about his future plans, Flinn shrugs lightheartedly. "I don't know long term, except that I'll have to get another job or Nancy will kick me out."

Nancy, his wife of 35 years, works in the South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center at Redstone. For every career move he's made, she's been at his side, relocating from his first job at Red River Army Depot in 1969, through moves in Germany, assignments in Washington, D.C., stints at Rock Island, Ill. and St. Louis, Mo., and back to his native Alabama in 1984.

"Everywhere we went, she worked, and she's had to put up with a lot, going up and down the ladder," Flinn said. "She'd get an Army job, work her way up, then we'd move and she'd have to start back down at the bottom."

Nancy took some time off to raise their children, Josh, an Auburn graduate now in graduate school at the University of Alabama-Huntsville; and Katie, who graduated from Auburn two weeks ago.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**PEOPLE PERSON**— Jim Flinn, deputy to the commanding general of AMCOM and Redstone, talks with members of a logistics group after giving the speech, "Looking Back is Dangerous."

"Katie's going to get married in March and then she'll start law school next fall in Tuscaloosa," Flinn said. "I'm so proud of my family. They've given so much. Been so supportive."

Nancy will continue to work at the CPOC. In fact, while she and Josh are working this summer, he and Katie will be going on a two-week mission trip to northern Venezuela. The trip was organized through his church, Willowbrook Baptist.

"Katie is fluent in Spanish," he said. "She'll be serving as an interpreter. I'll be doing whatever they tell me to do – helping with the summer ministry – and the construction projects. It's a very poor area."

But not to leave anyone out of the vacation spotlight, there is a family trip to Hawaii this month. "Sort of an anniversary/graduation celebration," Flinn said. After the summer ... who knows?

"I'm not talking with anyone about jobs yet," Flinn said. "I didn't decide to retire because I had something in the works. I'm leaving because it's the right thing to do at the right time."

It's a faith move for Flinn, much like the Abraham story in the Bible. Before Abram could become Abraham, father of many nations, he had some faith moves to make. Abram was very successful, had a loving wife, surrounded by extended family. He was at the top of his game.

"But God had bigger things in store," Flinn said.

The command was for Abram to "leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

"Abraham didn't know where he was going or what the journey would take. He just knew it was the thing to do," Flinn said. "That's where I am. There's another

purpose waiting. Something to build on 35 years of experience and knowledge gained. He (God) knows what He's doing. I don't have to know."

Until the plan unfolds, he will contribute in ways that serve his community. Flinn has spent years working with the Association of Retarded Citizens and hopes to continue to support the organization.

"There's a tough need within our community that needs extraordinary care," he said of the ARC mission. "There's also a men's recovery dependency program in Huntsville that needs help. Securing a dormitory, sanctuary, a workshop to build skills to use once they leave."

"I don't know," Flinn said. "The Lord's got something good in mind, though."

Even though he's convinced in his heart that leaving is the right thing to do, it's still not the easiest.

"I'll miss so much the people here," he said. "They are incredible ... incredible ... just incredible. They really shined during Operation Enduring Freedom. People here were working around the clock because it was the right thing to do. There are groups of people around us all the time that get overlooked and don't get the recognition they deserve. We all have challenges of our own to overcome but these people put it aside and come out full force to do the job, from the people who clean the restrooms all the way up the line."

"I will miss June (Pockrus, his secretary) in ways I can't possibly describe," Flinn said. "She kept me out of trouble and almost on schedule. Precious people ... Johnnie Bratt (Flinn's executive assistant) ... working for a boss that gives me far more rope than I deserve ..."

"We've had great commanders," he said. "The commanders have been the right men at the right time. (Then Maj. Gen. Larry) Dodgen, the commander during 9/11 – was the right guy. Now (Brig. Gen. Jim) Pillsbury. We've got major changes coming and he's the right guy to handle what's in store."

And even though Flinn's philosophy is to look ahead, his past 20 years does give him pause.

"When I look around, I see so many friends, so many places I got to go, so many opportunities I was able to realize. I so appreciate the groups of people both professionally and personally that kept me accountable for the decisions I made and actions I took. I am so blessed. It's the people – and the hugs – I'll miss."

"Looking back is nice," he said. "But don't spend too much time doing that. Another purpose is waiting."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Fourth quarter winners

Staff Sgt. Gildardo Calderon of NCO Academy, left, the NCO of the Quarter, and Spc. Ryan McClymont of HHC 59th, far right, the Soldier of the Quarter, pose with post Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn after the fourth quarter awards luncheon Thursday at the Officers and Civilians Club.

### ■ Prices at gas pumps could change daily

## Prices

continued from page 1

“Also we do have pay at the pump available 24 hours a day. That’s something that’s a real nice feature – pay at the pump with credit card. And that’s 24 hours a day,” Overcast said.

The shoppette sells some 275,000 to 300,000 gallons of gas monthly. A percentage of PX revenue is returned to Morale, Welfare and Recreation which benefits military families. Last year the Post Exchange gave \$1,250,950 to this fund, according to PX office assistant Liz Brumm.

Jay Jagers of Madison, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel who works at the Defense Acquisition University, buys gas at the shoppette weekly. “And the way the AAFES (Army and Air Force Exchange Service) management prices gas here it’s a significant savings over what we would save at other AAFES,” he said.

He compared it to gas prices at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he retired two years ago. Usually the prices there weren’t more than a penny cheaper than outside compared to 10 cents cheap-

er here, he said.

“I think it’s one of our better savings and a testament to the AAFES staff locally to serve the customers,” Jagers added. “So I was very impressed with this service. Probably with the service they’ve got here, the service station is one of the bigger benefits and the nicest people. It’s just unfortunate prices of gasoline are rising all around us.

“This is really unique. This is really one place you can shop on base, buy gas and always save money.”

Like Overcast said, the prices represent the lowest surveyed but the “volatile” market prices are constantly changing.

“I’m not really a person that would like to speculate on what the future of the gasoline price will be,” Overcast said. “But until there’s more product made available and the demand is not greater than the supply, then we’ll see this trend continue. Right now we have a problem where there’s more demand than the supply. And that’s what’s driving the price.”

The shoppette, building 3234 at the corner of Vincent and Goss roads, is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

### ■ Drive smart and save money on gasoline

## Tips

continued from page 1

you drive and what type of gasoline you use to fill your tank. With Memorial Day approaching and an anticipated increase in gasoline prices for summer travel, here are some real tips on saving:

- Choose the right octane for your car. Check your owner’s manual to find out what octane your car requires, then buy it.

- Avoid filling up directly after the delivery truck; sediment tends to get kicked up.

- Keep your tires inflated to the proper levels. Properly inflated tires provide less road resistance and can improve fuel efficiency.

- Keep your engine maintained according to manufacturer’s recommendation. Make sure the oil is changed and get tune-ups according to your owner’s manual.

# Tactical aerostat deploys for Soldiers in Iraq

Program managed  
by Redstone office

By PAM ROGERS  
For the Rocket

Two Team Redstone members recently had a firsthand look at conditions in Iraq when they accompanied their latest shipment of Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment equipment from Redstone to Baghdad.

Col. Kurt Heine, Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System project manager, and his Navy deputy, Capt. Kris Biggs, flew over last month with the equipment and landed in the middle of rocket and mortar fire. The shipment included the first aerostat to be deployed to Iraq, along with its crew of 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers recently trained by JLENS Program Office personnel at Redstone Arsenal. Also included were systems upgrades for existing RAID systems to be applied by workers from the Naval Systems Warfare Center in Crane, Ind., who traveled as part of the team.

"The RAID aerostat was made operational very quickly, and started providing situational and force protection immediately, and 1st Cavalry Division units gained an important advantage in situational awareness," Heine said, adding that

the system upgrades on existing tower systems in country provided a significantly enhanced operational perspective.

"For example, the upgrade includes a map overlay of the area and full software control of the sensors," Biggs explained. The goal is to have a central location to control several systems and to eventually go from a fiber optic link to wireless operations.

"The NSWC Crane engineers upgraded the tower systems (already in place) and emplaced new ones, providing enhanced situational awareness in high-threat areas," Biggs said. "It allows us to point the camera at a target, touch a button, and the actual location of the target appears on a map; or by typing in a grid location, the camera will automatically slew to that location; or we can click on a map and the camera automatically goes there, and it can remember where it's been. We had a real-time example of watching someone suspected of placing an IED (improvised explosive device) alongside the roadway, and watching the rapid reaction force deal with the situation."

RAID has been enthusiastically received by commanders in both Afghanistan and Iraq because it's inexpensive, uses proven technology and is easy to transport and set up.

"The system is truly a team effort



Courtesy photo

**RAID IN IRAQ—** The first aerostat for the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment was delivered recently by Col. Kurt Heine, left, the JLENS project manager, and his Navy deputy, Capt. Kris Biggs.

between the JLENS project office, AMCOM, RTTC and CENTCOM," Biggs said. "Our joint Army/Navy team is making improvements to the system every day, in response to Soldiers' needs, and we're looking for better tools and systems to provide commanders the flexibility and mobility they need. For example, our PEO and the NAVAIR are looking at the possibility of providing an airship to do many of the same jobs currently performed by the towers and aerostats. It would be just another tool in the CJTF7 commander's arsenal."

"It's important for leaders and managers — PMs and materiel developers — to not just talk to customers, but to meet

them face-to-face. You have to Soldier with them, walk the ground and get a sense of what they are facing," Heine said. That was the main reason he and Biggs made the trip.

"We've been working with CENTCOM since 2003 in Afghanistan. We've worked closely with AMCOM for urgent materiel release support and with RTTC for testing. It's a Team Redstone effort," Heine said.

Heine said he was glad to have the opportunity to take the system to the user.

"Despite the hostile environment, it's gratifying to be with Soldiers who are fighting the global war on terrorism and to be with people who are professionals."

# State defense force members still serving nation

Training day event  
has 140 participants

By GEORGE DICKERSON  
Alabama State Defense Force

Members of the Alabama State Defense Force 1st Infantry Brigade con-

ducted a day of training May 15 at the Fort Jackson-Balch Armory on Airport Road in Huntsville.

Officially called a command post exercise, the all day training event brought ALSDF members from throughout North Alabama to Huntsville for formations, drills, awards and promotion ceremonies and classroom exercises. There were 140

participants.

Units participating included the 101st, 102nd and 103rd Battalions from the Tri-Cities, Gadsden and Scottsboro along with members of the 1st Brigade headquarters in Huntsville. The 1st Infantry Brigade is commanded by Col. Patrick Meagher of Huntsville.

The Alabama State Defense Force is an official Alabama military organization with the governor serving as commander in chief. ALSDF is an adjunct to the Alabama National Guard; and in the event that National Guard troops are activated, members of the defense force can be called in to man the armories.

Defense force members work closely with the Emergency Management Agency and Red Cross during times of emergency and are assigned to provide family assis-

tance and counseling to family members of National Guard personnel when Guard units are called to active duty.

Many defense force members are retired military personnel and veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Defense force members have served in wars and conflicts including Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Alabama is among 28 states that have state defense force or state guard units under the command of the state governors. Alabama's State Defense Force is headquartered at the Fort George Wallace Armory in Montgomery.

*Editor's note: George Dickerson is public information officer for the 1st Infantry Brigade of the Alabama State Defense Force.*

# Commanding general sees Letterkenny depot

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone, paid his first visit to Letterkenny April 30.

Arriving with AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Lunn, they received an overview from depot commander Col. William Guinn before departing for a full tour of the facility.



Courtesy photo

## Letterkenny visit

Col. William Guinn, Letterkenny Army Depot commander, shows an overview of the depot May 12 in Chambersburg, Pa., to Brig. Gen. Kathleen Gainey, commander of Defense Distribution Center, New Cumberland, Pa.

# New air defense system receives new leadership

## Jones takes reins for SLAMRAAM

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

His predecessor led an air defense system from the drawing board to contract award.

Lt. Col. Walter Jones knows he has a tough act to follow.

Jones became product manager for the missiles and platforms product office or SLAMRAAM – the Surface Launched Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile system – in a ceremony May 18 at Bob Jones Auditorium. He succeeded Lt. Col. Scott Shifrin, who plans to retire in the Huntsville area with more than 20 years service.

“Colonel Shifrin, I congratulate you on all your tremendous success,” Jones, 40, of Torrance, Calif., said. “I will do my best, my utmost, to follow suit and continue the mission.”

The Aviation and Missile Command awarded a \$127 million contract to

Raytheon on March 1 to develop and field SLAMRAAM. This beyond-line-of-sight air defense system, slated for fielding in 2008, is designed to counter enemy cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, low altitude rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft. It represents a joint effort with the Marine Corps.

Shifrin, 43, from El Paso, Texas, led the program for two years from its inception within the Short Range Air Defense Project Office.

“Scott was exactly the right guy to put this program together,” Col. Richard De Fatta, the SHORAD project manager, said. “I believe Walt is exactly the right guy to continue it in the next phase.”

“The real heroes today are the key stakeholders,” Shifrin said. “And that is the folks here in the audience and the folks who could not be here today.”

Of his successor, he said, “Walt is the right guy at the right time.”

Jones, who became an air defense artillery officer in 1986, served as assistant project manager for Stinger based systems in the SHORAD Project Office. He and his wife, Kari, have two daughters, Nikole and Katie.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**ACCEPTING CHARTER**— Lt. Col. Walter Jones accepts the charter for the Surface Launched Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile system from Col. Richard De Fatta, the Short Range Air Defense project manager.

# Alabama Guardsmen rock on with live fire exercise

*Both missiles on target at night in New Mexico*

By PAM ROGERS  
For the Rocket

Soldiers from the Alabama Army National Guard lit up the night sky in New Mexico recently during a live fire exercise at Fort Bliss's McGregor Range. The 1st Battalion, 203rd Air Defense Artillery traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas to conduct an exercise that included the night firing of two basic Patriot missiles. Both missiles hit their targets, which were being towed by a subscale drone aircraft.

The exercise was part of periodic training designed to validate more frequent training using simulators and to make Soldiers comfortable with the equipment they operate, according to Lt. Col. Gary Hunter, air defense artillery officer for the National Guard in Alabama.

The launch crew for the test consisted of 2nd Lt. Morris Rothfeldt of Gunterville, tactical control officer; and tacti-

cal control assistants Pfc. Nathan Parrett of Skyline and Sgt. Kirk Bowling of Athens.

It was the first live fire exercise for all three, and all said it was an impressive experience.

"It rocked the ECS (engagement control station). It was awesome. I was nervous, but everything went off without a hitch. I'd love to do it again," Parrett said. He's a brand new Patriot Soldier, having just completed advanced individual training last fall.

Lt. Col. Chris Morgan, the 1/203 commander, was also pleased with the outcome of the exercise.

"This was just outstanding. They're a great bunch of guys, and I would put them up against anybody," he said, adding that it's not always easy to juggle the demands of a full-time job and family with the requirements of belonging to the Guard.

"It's difficult being in the National Guard. You really have to have a passion for it, but these are great Soldiers and great Americans," he said.



Photo by Pam Rogers

**UPHOLDING TRADITION—** These Alabama National Guard Soldiers placed their headgear behind the launcher during a live fire exercise recently in New Mexico; and the remains will be proudly displayed. From left are 2nd Lt. Morris Rothfeldt, Sgt. Kirk Bowling, Pfc. Nathan Parrett and 2nd Lt. Eric Potter.

## HHC Garrison has first reservist commander



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**SOLDIER DAD—** Capt. Rob Dewberry joins his daughter, Sandi, 9, after assuming command of HHC Garrison.

*Dewberry leading headquarters unit*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Capt. Rob Dewberry justifiably called Friday a "double hoo-ah day."

He became the first reservist to command Headquarters & Headquarters Company Garrison.

Dewberry succeeded Capt. Tommy Bailey Jr., a Cullman native who led the 400-member company since July 2002. Bailey is to deploy to Kuwait for a year.

"Rob, I wish you the best of luck and I hope you have as much fun as I had," Bailey said during the change of command ceremony in Heiser Hall.

Dewberry, 37, from Cherokee, Ala., was an individual mobilization aug-

mentee at the Aviation and Missile Command. He has 18 years service.

"Today I am the commander. But I want to be your commander," Dewberry said. "I am at your service."

Garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin praised Bailey for his nearly two years over the company and welcomed Dewberry.

"I know that Rob you're up to the challenge," he said.

# Contract professionals earn recognition

An Acquisition Center contracting team has been recognized as Contract Professional of the Year for its efforts in awarding a Common Hardware/Software-3 requirement with a potential contract value of \$2 billion over 10 years.

Members included Detra Battle-Blue, chairman of the Performance Risk Assessment Group; Ted Arterberry, contract specialist; Rod Matthews, contracting officer; Dorphelia Wherry, contract specialist; and Milt Peterson, pricing chief.

An Apache spares contracting team was recognized as Contract Professional of the Quarter for using a variety of innovative measures to award 552 contracts in fiscal 2003, a 126 percent increase over fiscal 2002.

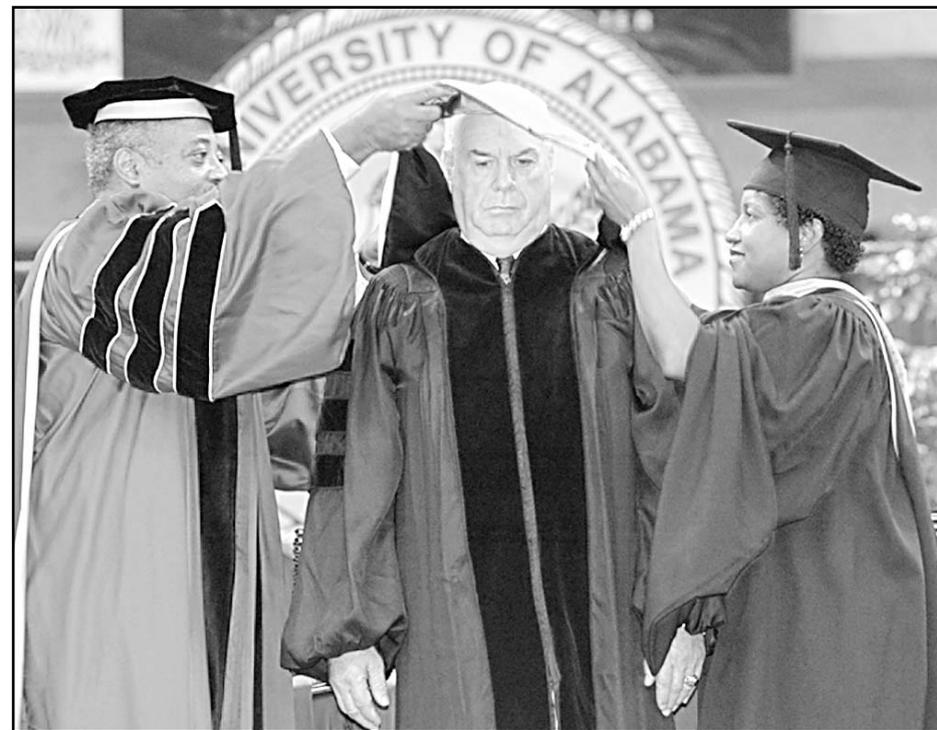
Members included supervisory contract specialist James Chiazirio and contract specialists James Lang, Melissa Limbaugh, Lisa Armes, Stephanie Hutchens, Elaine Battise, Deborah Hughes, Milton Boddie, Roberta Bodine, Teresa Schmoele, Peggy Salters and Beverly Ratliff.



Courtesy photo

**ANNUAL HONOR—** With the Contract Professional of the Year award are, from left, Detra Battle-Blue, chairman of the Performance Risk Assessment Group; Ted Arterberry, contract specialist; Jim Flinn, deputy to the commanding general; Rod Matthews, contracting officer; Dorphelia Wherry, contract specialist; and Milt Peterson, pricing chief.

# UAH awards honorary doctorate to Craig



Susan Altman/UAH photographer

**HONOREE—** Bill Craig of Software Engineering Directorate receives an honorary doctorate May 16 at University of Alabama-Huntsville.

## *Software engineering director leads growing organization*

### ALABAMA-HUNTSVILLE RELEASE

Software engineering director Bill Craig has received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Craig leads the Software Engineering Directorate of the Research Development and Engineering Center. SED is a life-cycle software engineering center, among only three such centers in the Army.

Since becoming the director of SED, Craig has grown the organization from 85 to 172 government personnel, and from annual funding of \$52 million to \$110 million.

He has developed close ties to industry and academia by creating employment opportunities for co-op and postgraduate

students. Craig developed a unique intern program for new students that use the newly approved master of science in software engineering program at UAH to include training in areas such as aviation. The students will complete this program in two years while contributing to the challenging laboratory projects at the SED.

Craig's numerous accomplishments of national and international significance within the Army include the SED and all of its support contractors are now trained and externally assessed by the Carnegie-Mellon Software Institute. Also, during the Persian Gulf War, Craig's organization successfully implemented and fielded the time critical Patriot missile system upgrade that allowed the interception of Iraqi Scud missiles over Israel.

During the commencement May 16, some 1,192 degrees were awarded including 892 bachelor's degrees, 270 master's degrees and 30 doctoral degrees.

# Retiree dental program keeps enrollees smiling

*Benefits crowned  
with enhancements*

TRICARE RELEASE

For almost six years, the Tricare Retiree Dental Program has been helping nearly 750,000 uniformed services retirees — including retired members of the Guard and Reserve — and their families meet their dental health care needs.

The TRDP provides its enrollees with a comprehensive scope of benefits, including coverage for crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontics and dental accidents as well as for routine cleanings and exams, fillings, root canals, gum treatment and oral surgery.

Service under the program is available in all 50 United States as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Canada.

Enrollees in the program can receive care from any licensed dentist of their choice within the service area. However, they can realize even greater savings by choosing to receive their dental care from one of the thousands of DeltaSelect USA and DeltaPreferred Option USA dentists providing treatment for enrollees.

Delta Dental of California has been administering the program contract since 1998 and was awarded a new contract with the Defense Department last May to

continue serving as the program administrator through January 2008. Under this new contract, the program continues to offer the same great scope of benefits, as well as an increase in the annual maximum and lifetime orthodontic maximum, to \$1,200 each; a family deductible cap of \$150 annually; an enrollment commitment of only 12 months; a waiting period of only 12 months for coverage of crowns, bridges, dentures and orthodontics at 50 percent of the program allowable amount; and an expanded network of dentists in more than 67,000 locations nationwide.

“We are excited about the impact the enhancements that went into effect with the contract renewal have had on the program. These enhancements have made the

TRDP an even greater value to our current and potential enrollees,” Tom McDavid, director of Federal Marketing and Communications for Delta Dental, said. “Since the program began in 1998, not only have we far exceeded our initial enrollment projections, but we have retained a large percentage of our original enrollee base — which means that enrollees are satisfied with the TRDP, opting to remain enrolled beyond their initial commitment, and using their program benefits.”

To receive a complete enrollment package or for more information about the program, visit the web site at [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org), or call Delta toll-free at 1 (888) 838-8737.

# Shuttle bus summer schedule announced

GARRISON RELEASE

The Garrison provides a free shuttle bus service to transport personnel to on post activities. Active duty servicemembers have priority and space-available transportation is provided to off-duty military, Department of Defense civilians, and family members of active duty military.

Family members under age 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Identification — such as badge or military ID card — should be provided when requested.

The following schedule will be in effect June 1 through Aug. 31. The schedule includes stops at the Fitness Center building 3705 and Pool 1 on Vincent Drive:

Pickup points for Monday through Friday include: 7:30 a.m., building 3417 ATM (barracks); 7:40, Travel building 4488; 7:50, Fox Army Health Center; 8 a.m., building 111; 8:05, Bicentennial Chapel; 8:10, Post Exchange; 8:15, Military Personnel Office building 3493; 8:20, ATM; 8:25, Fitness Center building 3705; 8:35, Travel building 4488; 8:45, Fox Army Health Center; 8:50, building 111; 8:55, chapel; 9 a.m., PX; 9:05, MILPO; 9:10, ATM; 9:15, Fitness Center; 9:25, Travel building 4488; 9:35, Fox Army Health Center; 9:40, building 111; 9:45,

chapel; 9:50, PX; 9:55, MILPO; 10 a.m., ATM; 10:05, Fitness Center; 10:15, Travel building 4488; 10:25, Fox Army Health Center; 10:30, building 111; 10:35, chapel; 10:40, PX; 10:45, Pool 1; 10:50, MILPO; 10:55, ATM; 11 a.m., Fitness Center; 11:10, Travel building 4488; 11:20, Fox Army Health Center; 11:25, building 111; 11:30, chapel; 11:35, PX; 11:40, Pool 1; 11:45, MILPO; 11:50, ATM; 11:55, Fitness Center; 12:05 p.m., Travel building 4488; 12:15, Fox Army Health Center; 12:20, building 111; 12:25, chapel; 12:30, PX; 12:35, Pool 1; 12:40, MILPO. The aforementioned stops continue in the same order throughout each day until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday pickup points include 12:30 p.m., building 3417 ATM (barracks); 12:35, Pool 1; 12:40 Post Exchange; 12:45, Shoppette (to Madison Square Mall); 1 p.m., Madison Square Mall; 1:15, Fitness Center; 1:20, ATM; 1:25, Pool 1; 1:30, PX; 1:35, Shoppette; 1:40, Pool 1; 1:45, ATM; 1:50, Fitness Center; 1:55, ATM; 2 p.m., Pool 1; 2:05, PX; 2:10, Shoppette (to mall); 2:25, Madison Square Mall; 2:40, Fitness Center; 2:45, ATM; 2:50, Pool 1; 2:55, PX; 3:00, Shoppette; 3:05, Pool 1; 3:10, ATM; 3:15, Fitness Center; 3:20, ATM; 3:25, Pool 1; 3:30, PX; 3:35, Shoppette (to mall); 3:50, Madison Square Mall; 4:05, Fitness Center;

4:40, ATM; 4:45, Pool 1; 4:50, PX; 4:55, Shoppette (last trip to mall); 5:05, Madison Square Mall; 5:20, Fitness Center; 5:25, ATM; 5:30, Pool 1; 5:35, PX; 5:40, Shoppette; 5:45, Pool 1; 5:50, ATM; 5:55, Fitness Center; 6 p.m., ATM (last stop).

Sunday pickup points include 1 p.m., building 3417 ATM; 1:05, Pool 1; 1:10, PX; 1:15, Shoppette; 1:20, Pool 1; 1:25, ATM; 1:30, Fitness Center; 1:35, ATM; 1:40, Pool 1; 1:45, PX; 1:50, Shoppette; 1:55, Pool 1; 2 p.m., ATM; 2:05, Fitness

Center; 2:10, ATM; 2:15, Pool 1; 2:20, PX; 2:25, Shoppette; 2:30, Pool 1; 2:35, ATM; 2:40, Fitness Center; 2:45, ATM; 2:50, Pool 1; 2:55, PX; 3 p.m., Shoppette; 3:05, Pool 1; 3:10, ATM; 3:15, Fitness Center; 3:20, ATM; 3:25, Pool 1; 3:30, PX; 3:35, Shoppette; 3:40, Pool 1; 3:45, ATM; 3:50, Fitness Center; 3:55, ATM (last stop).

For more information, call Ray Boles at 876-3119 or Diane DeHart at 842-2363.

# Cargo helicopter users land at annual conference

*Project management members share future developments*

By **KELLEY LANE**

Staff writer

[kellyqa@bellsouth.net](mailto:kellyqa@bellsouth.net)

The CH-47 Chinook helicopter is billed by many as the Army's workhorse. It does it all: rescues, transporting, Soldier and equipment drops, and even fire fighting. With so many aircraft in service worldwide, how do members of the Cargo Helicopters Project Office ensure the Chinook is meeting the needs of its users?

They invite them down for a conference. The annual Cargo Helicopters Users Conference was May 18-20 at the Huntsville Marriott.

More than 475 people came from around the world to discuss current issues with their equipment and future developments. Col. Tim Crosby, project manager for cargo helicopters, sees the conference as a way to touch base with the people whose opinions really matter, the Soldiers.

"It's our opportunity to interact directly with the Soldiers. The only reason we exist is to support those Soldiers," Crosby said. "The philosophy has changed in our offices. Every organization has their own metrics as to how they measure how they support. In our office the measure is the aircraft and the Soldier — how well they're able to do their job. Everything works backward from that. We're changing the philosophy for how we do fleet management."

Meeting with their customers at the annual conference has been working well, said Norm Huston, fleet manager for cargo helicopters.

"Since 1985, when I started in the PM office, we started holding a user support conference for the Army users that fly the aircraft and maintain it," he said. "Then we expanded it to include everybody. There was such an outpouring of people wanting to come, we started holding them annually. It's grown from 1985 when we used to have about 50 people show up."

The 2003 conference was the first, since the event became yearly, to be canceled.



Photo by Kelley Lane

**IN SIMULATOR—** Instructor pilots Chief Warrant Officer Bob Tenney and Chief Warrant Officer Eric Trafton, from the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site, made the trip from Annville, Pa., to demonstrate the simulator's capabilities.

"With the global war on terrorism, everyone was deployed," Huston said. "There are not as many units deployed right now, so we decided to go ahead this year."

Beside current issues and concerns, the future of cargo helicopters is discussed openly. The contractors who supply parts and equipment set up displays so that attendees can see firsthand what is available to them and what may be coming. Scheduled discussions and forums pertaining to specific issues such as spares and maintenance give users a chance to have their questions and concerns addressed.

"We also have new products we're putting on the aircraft and modifications," Chief Warrant Officer Tom Gerrish, CH-47 customer service representative, said. "We have briefers that present from the supply world, readiness people, and safety people also give briefs. We also have product leads, like the desert kits, different things that we're developing and trying to put on the aircraft for the warfighter. We have presentations of those as well."

"A lot of these people will have gone on, retired and gotten out of the Army by the time we field some of the new systems, but if we get their feedback now, we can put out a better product down the road," Crosby said. "That's why we exist — to give them the best piece of equipment that we can to go into combat. We need their feedback now. Acquisition is not a fast process, but getting their input now improves the product we give them later."

Bridging the gap between the present and future is the newest Chinook simulator. Fully transportable, the large, nondescript building breaks down into two more manageable halves which can be loaded onto trucks.

"It takes about 2 to 4 days to go from where we are right now, operational, to have it de-complexed and sitting on the trucks. Then 2 to 4 days to bring it back up and be fully operational," Dennis Reed, project manager of the Ch-47 Transportable Flight Proficiency Trainer, said. "Everything is self-contained."

A large multisection acrylic mirror wrapping around the cockpit of the simulator allows for an uninterrupted display, taking the realism of look and feel to new heights — with even the tips of the "rotors" in view at the top edge.

"It takes 21 computers to make your out-the-window displays," Reed said. "What makes it so transportable is the acrylic mirrors. It's the first time it's ever been done. These stay in place when we ship and that's why we can ship it so quickly."

Motion seats give the feel of the aircraft without losing sensation at the far edges of turns and banks, such as with simulators relying on actual motion of the cockpit base for sensation.

While many other project management offices have opted for larger venues for their user conferences, keeping theirs at home gives attendees another resource at their fingertips, Crosby said.

"Our objective here and what I tell people is don't leave without getting your question asked. We may not be able to answer right then. But we'll research it and get you an answer," he said. "Here I have the expertise of Redstone available, where I can call over and get a resolution for them. That's why I like to have this conference here in Huntsville. This is where 95 percent of our support to the airframe is. We wouldn't have that if we did this somewhere else."

# Wynonna Judd works up sweat at Pentagon

*Singer performs patriotic concert*

By Spc. LORIE JEWELL  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — Country music star Wynonna Judd wore her staunch patriotism on fringed sleeves in a USO Pentagon concert broadcast through military channels to Soldiers and other servicemembers outside of the area.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld introduced Judd to the stage, calling her a “proud patriot” and “loyal friend” of the U.S. military who has been entertaining troops with the USO since 1987. She has visited injured Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, some of whom had front row seats for the concert, and made repeat visits to Fort Campbell in her home state of Kentucky to sing and welcome Soldiers home.

Marine Corps Gen. Pete Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, echoed Rumsfeld’s comments.

“She does a lot of things for the military that she doesn’t want us to talk about publicly,” Pace said. “These are things that if we could tell you about, they would tug at your heart.”

Judd repeatedly lauded military and Department of Defense members throughout the 45-minute concert May 21, starting things off with “Love Ain’t

No Good Till You Give It Away.” She introduced her self-described theme song, “Rock Bottom,” with a playful mettle familiar to fans.

“I’m a woman with attitude,” Judd proudly proclaimed. “That’s why I’m here today. Get your close-ups now, ‘cause I’m fixin’ to sweat. It’s all about passion today.”

Judd, who turns 40 May 30, is marking her 20th year in country music. She started her career partnered with her mother, Naomi. The duo earned dozens of awards, including eight Grammys, before Naomi retired in 1991 to focus on recovering from hepatitis. Judd continued on with a solo career that has produced a slew of hits, including “No One Else On Earth,” “Only Love,” and “What the World Needs.”

She performed all three in the Pentagon concert, along with an Elvis hit, “Burning Love.” She dedicated it to Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, the Army’s deputy chief of staff for operations and former commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division. Judd noted that she often wears a 101st pin when traveling.

“I homeschool my children and everywhere we travel, I try to talk to them about how privileged we are to live in this country,” Judd said. “We live in the greatest country in the world. I appreciate that you all keep me free.”

Judd toured the Army Operations Center in the Pentagon a week earlier on May



Photo by Spc. Lorie Jewell

**THE ENTERTAINER**— Wynonna Judd entertains a courtyard full of Soldiers, civilian workers and family members in a May 21 concert at the Pentagon.

13 with her mother and sister, actress Ashley Judd. She performed at the White House later that day.

Several hundred Soldiers, civilian workers and family members crowded into the Pentagon courtyard for the show, which ended with Judd saluting and urging all to “keep the faith.”

“I don’t know about you, but I’m getting tired of CNN,” Judd said. “We need to turn it off and step into faith and hope.”

The performance was a morale boost

for many Soldiers, including Sgt. Terry White of the D.C. National Guard’s 547th Transportation Company. White served with his unit in Iraq until health problems caused him to be moved to Walter Reed, where he was treated for a collapsed lung and other respiratory problems.

“I feel like a kid at Christmas time,” White said. “This is an amazing thing. It really helps lighten your day, and helps Soldiers get through everything they’re going through.”

# Robot soccer: real kick to scientists’ work



Photo by K.L. Vantran

**FEET FIRST**— Yang Gu dribbles the soccer ball past the robot “Brain.” The technology gained from playing soccer with robots may one day help save troops’ lives.

By K.L. VANTRAN  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Yang Gu dribbles the soccer ball across the grassy field. His opponent, a robot named “Brain,” turns and moves toward the action.

The technology gleaned from playing soccer with robots may one day help save the lives of those in combat, said Brett Browning, a systems scientist in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh.

Browning’s work focuses on teams of autonomous robots operating in complex, dynamic and often adversarial environments. His main project is robot soccer, where teams of robots compete.

Robot soccer, he said, lets researchers focus on problems within a realistic, difficult and somewhat standardized test environment. This allows usable and useful comparisons, Browning pointed out.

“Robot soccer is a dynamic, fast and exciting testing

domain that allows us to investigate many robotics-related research issues,” said Browning, who hails from Australia. “By its very nature, robot soccer requires a complete solution — where perception, cognition and action must work as a cohesive unit. The need for rapid behavioral response, and the limited available computational power, means that all our algorithms must be fast and efficient.

“The autonomous nature of the system means that our algorithms must be robust and the robot must behave sensibly across a wide range of expected and unexpected environmental conditions,” he added.

The challenge, Browning said, is to create intelligent robots that can work effectively in teams with humans where decisions need to be made in real-time, such as on the battlefield.

Browning’s project is part of a contract that the institute has with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

# Summer safety keys for kids home alone

*Never leave children unattended in vehicles; it could be fatal*

By **SANDY RIEBELING**

Staff writer

sandy@htimes.com

With schools out and temps reaching well into the 90s there's no doubt, summer is here. For kids it means carefree days of swimming, playgrounds and as much television as mom will let them watch. Parents, however, need to be aware of the unique hazards summertime brings.

"We're talking about at what age and for how long and where children can be left alone," Yvonne Lister, Child and Youth Services outreach director, said. "Some of what we're talking about depends on the child. How mature are they? How well do they handle stressful situations? Can they make good choices without an adult right there?"

"But when it comes to vehicles, children should never be left alone," Lister said. "You can't leave your children in the car while you run into the Commissary to get a quart of milk. Even if you're just running in for a minute, don't leave your children unattended in a vehicle. It's just not safe."

Obvious safety concerns include children accidentally dislodging the gearshift, allowing the vehicle to roll, putting themselves and others in danger; and the possibility of child abduction. But now that it's summertime, heat becomes a real threat.

Already in 2004 there have been six heat-related deaths of infants and children in the U.S. after being left in cars, trucks and vans. All of these occurred in relatively mild spring temperatures. Last year there was a record 42 deaths.

"People don't realize how fast the car can heat up," Patricia Albert, safety manager at Fox Army Health Center, said. "It doesn't have to be hot outside for heat levels inside a vehicle to become life threatening."

Within the first 10 minutes the temperature in an enclosed vehicle will rise an average of 19 degrees, according to a recent study by Jan Null, certified consulting meteorologist for Golden Gate Weather Services in San Francisco. After 20 minutes the average rise in temperature is 29 degrees. At 30 minutes, the average rise is 34 degrees and after an hour, the temperature inside an enclosed vehicle will rise 43 degrees above the temperature outside. These rapid rises can push temperatures inside a car, truck or van well above deadly levels.

Heat stroke occurs when the body temperature reaches 104 degrees. A body temperature of 107 degrees is considered lethal. And because of the smaller body mass and lessened ability for their bodies to cool themselves, children are particularly vulnerable.

So on a nice, warm 85 degree day, leaving children in the car with the windows cracked open while you zip into the supermarket for just a few minutes could kill them. In 15 minutes the internal temperatures could reach 109 degrees.

## Locking doors

But even if you'd never consider leaving your child in a vehicle unattended, the question becomes: Do you lock your vehicles at home? Children like to play in vehicles sitting in the driveway or garage. It's not uncommon for a child to be able to open a car door from the outside but not be able to open it from the inside. There's a chance they could accidentally lock the door while inside the vehicle and not realize they need to unlock it to get out. They're trapped. In less than 10 minutes on a hot Alabama day, it could be fatal.



"This goes for pets, too," Lister said. "It can be fatal for them, too. And not to be insensitive to the elderly, but if you're taking elderly parents or grandparents out to the doctor or shopping, be very careful. Sitting in a parked car while you go into the pharmacy to get a prescription filled can become tragic. Heat sometimes makes people drowsy. They can doze off in the parked car and be in danger before they realize it."

According to post regulations, it is never appropriate to leave children under the age of 16 unattended in a vehicle.

The same regulation covers issues of when, where and how long children of certain ages can be left alone.

## Adult supervision

"Children under the age of 5 should never be left unattended, under any circumstances," Lister said. Regulation

608-2 states that children 5 and older may be left unattended at the playground, in the yard or in the general vicinity of home, provided they have access to adult supervision.

Children 5 and 6 must have immediate access to adult supervision. Immediate access is defined as being within eyesight or hearing distance and having the ability to respond within one minute.

"Your children can be playing in the back yard, but you need to keep an eye on them in case they fall or hurt themselves," Lister said. "You need to be right there."

Children 7-11 may play outside without direct adult supervision but must have access to adult supervision. Access is defined as having the ability to contact a verifiable prearranged, responsible adult in case of an emergency and the sponsor knowing the location of the child.

"So if you're letting your child go to the playground, know which one and make sure someone can be reached immediately if there's a problem," Lister said. "Personally, I'd suggest checking on them at regular intervals."

Rules for children left alone in the quarters state that children 10-11 may be left alone for no more than three hours, with ready access to adult supervision.

Children 12-18 may be left alone at the discretion of the parents but children 12-14 must have access to adult supervision and cannot be left alone overnight.

"Children age 13 and older can baby-sit if they've gone through our baby-sitting training," Lister said.

Children 15-18 can be left overnight as long as the sponsor is in the local area (no more than one hour away by car) and has access to adult supervision.

All children alone in quarters, regardless of age must have access to a parental designated adult who is available in an emergency. All children must have the supervising adult's work and home phone numbers and necessary emergency phone numbers, and the sponsor must be within the local area.

"These regs are the minimums," Lister said. "So much depends on your child's individual ability, maturity level, communication skills. It's about knowing what your child can handle."

Lister suggests role playing emergency situations and making sure all contact and emergency numbers and information are left out for easy access.

"Start slowly with your child," Lister said. "Do short trips and see how it works. Make sure that no matter where they are left alone, they know the basic rules about not talking to strangers, not going anywhere with a stranger, not letting people into the house, even friends, without permission. Practice how they will answer the phone or even if they will. Where can they go and what can they do at home, like cooking?"

Child and Youth Services offers free Home Alone classes for ages 10 and older. The next class is July 14 at ChildWise. The next baby-sitting class offered by CYS for youth 13 and older will be June 7-8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ChildWise.

For more information on classes or post regulations, call Lister at 313-3735.

## Evaluating a child's self care/sibling care ability

The following are basic questions to evaluate a child's self care/sibling care ability.

Does the child clearly know the following and can communicate the information if an emergency arises: full name, and sponsor's name; home address, home telephone number or number of physical location; operate and communicate on a telephone, know how, when and why to call emergency services, lock and unlock the door to your home to gain entry without assistance.

Can the child adequately respond to the following situations? What to do in case of fire? What to do in case of injury? If cooking on the stove is permitted, what to do in case of a cooking accident? Where the perimeters of "outside" are in the housing area? What to do if a stranger approaches? What to do if the electricity goes off in the home? What to do if they smell gas?

If caring for a sibling, can the child handle authority and act as a leader? Will the sibling accept this

authority and obey accordingly? Your children should be able to get along with each other when you are not present. Does the child or sibling being cared for have a history of uncontrolled seizures, blackouts or violent and/or aggressive behavior? Does the one being cared for have a handicap which requires special care and supervision? Will the sponsor, parent or suitable alternative, such as another relative be accessible by phone? Does the child go easily with strangers?

# Summer break day care can bring tax break next year

*Federal tax credit due for working parents*

STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE RELEASE

The summer is fast approaching and school will soon be out. If you are trying to figure out what to do with your children under the age of 13, consider sending them to a day camp and you may be eligible for a tax credit which will result in paying lower taxes on your 2004 tax return.

After school care, specialty camps used during Christmas and Spring Break, and summer day camps such as the YMCA or specialty camps for sports, cheerleading or crafts are often used by working parents as day care facilities for school-aged children, but the available tax credit for these expenses is often left unclaimed on the tax return.

The child and dependent care credit allows you to reduce your federal income tax by claiming expenses and receiving a tax credit if you paid for someone to care for your child or a dependent so you could work or look for work. The work may be full or part time. The provider may be a day care provider, babysitter, nanny or nonprofit organization that watches children such as a church or school. You may even pay a relative who lives within your house as long as he or she is at least 19 and not a dependent who you claim on your taxes.

The credit is a percentage, based on your adjusted gross income, of the amount of work-related child and dependent care expenses you paid to a provider. The credit can range from 20 to 35 percent of your qualifying expenses, depending on your income. For example, taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$43,000 or more received a 20 percent credit. If you received dependent care

benefits from your employer, certain exceptions apply, and your credit may be reduced.

If the expenses are not work-related, the taxpayer may not use them to claim the credit. For example, if a couple goes out to dinner or on a vacation and incurs costs to hire a nanny or babysitter, these expenses are not eligible for the credit. In addition, certain expenses are ineligible to be claimed for the credit such as overnight camp or school tuition costs.

If you are married, both you and your spouse must have earned income, unless one spouse was a full-time student or was physically or mentally incapable of self-care. A spouse is considered to earn income if the spouse is a full-time student for some part of each of five months of the year.

**Available tax credit for these expenses is often left unclaimed on the tax return.**

Married taxpayers do not have to file a joint return to receive the credit if the taxpayer is legally separated or married living apart from the spouse, the taxpayer files a separate return, the taxpayer paid more than half of the cost of keeping up a home for the taxpayer and qualifying person, the qualifying person lived in the home for more than half the year and the taxpayer's spouse did not live in the home during the last six months of the year.

So go ahead and send your child to his or her favorite summer day camp and let Uncle Sam split the bill when you pay your taxes. If you have additional tax questions you may visit the IRS web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 876-9005.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## *Drive on over*

**Adrian Baker, advertising specialist for Morale Welfare and Recreation sales and marketing, adjusts the sign before the Soldatenstube's reopening and ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday. The German restaurant moved to the golf course from its longtime location.**



Courtesy photo

## *Boating anyone?*

Outdoor Recreation has new equipment for all your summer fun needs. Call 876-4868 or check the web site at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

# 'KatMannDo' exercise challenges Fort A.P. Hill

*Terrorism scenarios spark various threats*

By **DEBRA R. BINGHAM**  
*Army News Service*

FORT A.P. HILL, Va. — A car joined a line moving toward Fort A.P. Hill's main gate. The driver nervously tapped his fingers on the steering wheel as he waited. The car trunk was full of explosives and his job was to get them on the installation undetected.

The situation was an exercise for the Virginia base players, but next time it could be real.

The exercise, called KatMannDo, challenged participants at the end of April by presenting realistic threats through the use of role players, simulations and specialized technology. Civilian law enforcement, fire and emergency service organizations, and military personnel participated. The exercise also gave local civilian agencies an opportunity to share institutional knowledge and test their communications interoperability and situational awareness.

KatMannDo was a three-part exercise comprised of a field training exercise, a command post exercise and a tabletop exercise. During the training, evaluators observed personnel and later presented findings at an after action review. The post can then use the information to assess its procedures and operations.

During the FTX, law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel responded to variety of threat scenarios. Personnel manning an emergency operation center, or EOC, tested their incident response and communications procedures.

The CPX phase examined the post's ability to process and disseminate intelligence information, and evaluated how it assessed force protection conditions.

The TTX phase included a review of the installation crisis management team and its procedures.

Participants didn't know the nature of the events or when they would happen, giving the exercise a sense of realism, according to John Polis, Fort A.P. Hill's police chief.

"They knew there was an exercise



Photo by Debra R. Bingham

**ENGULFED**— Fire consumes a car detonated during a mock terrorist attack during a force protection exercise on Fort A.P. Hill, Va., at the end of April.

coming up because they had to have a safety briefing, but they didn't know what the scenario was. They were told to do what you would normally do with your training," Polis said.

Polis said the post constantly receives upgrades in equipment and technology for force protection. His officers also undergo specialized training in detecting car bombs and handling terrorist threats.

During the FPX, alert police officers discovered a bomb in the trunk of a terrorist's car and called in the explosive disposal team who diffused it, Polis said.

Officers were not so lucky when a female suicide bomber approached the

gate on foot. She killed herself and a police officer when she detonated the explosives strapped to her body as part of the exercise simulated play.

At a separate car crash site, police quickly established a secure perimeter and began searching for an escaped terrorist. Meanwhile firefighters and emergency response teams arrived on the scene. The fire chief, serving as the incident commander, assessed the scene and set objectives and priorities for the team.

An arch of water cascaded through the air onto the fallen victim in an effort to wash off chemical or biological contaminants that could be spread on contact. Despite efforts to revive him, the terrorist died of his injuries.

Wearing protective suits, firefighters used sensitive monitoring equipment to determine the presence of contaminants at the site, according to Daniel Glembot, post fire chief.

"The firefighters put out the fire and applied a specialized device called a B-Kit to the 1-ton cylinder of chlorine gas to stop the leak. Once the leak was shut down, firefighters ventilated the magazine and secured the area for law enforcement personnel," Glembot said.

Police located and captured the intruder using a combination of air and ground support. Polis also credited the Caroline County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police for their support during the exercise.

"We had military working dogs from

(the Military District Washington) who were instrumental in catching the infiltrator out by Camp Connors. He was highly trained in evasive tactics and (the exercise planners) thought there was no way we would catch him, but we did it with the dogs," Polis said.

The Bowling Green Volunteer Fire Department and Port Royal Volunteer Rescue Squad also took part in the exercise, medically monitoring firefighters and establishing a decontamination line, according to Glembot.

The exercise also gave participants an opportunity to test new communications technology that provided critical, real-time information.

"A new computer system was installed into our fire vehicles for this exercise. These computer terminals allowed us wireless access to our EOC, police vehicles — including Virginia State Police, and Internet access for information and mapping," Glembot said.

Polis and Glembot said KatMannDo provided realistic training and gave many participants a renewed sense of purpose.

"It shows you how hectic it can be in the real world. When the real thing happens not everything goes as smoothly as it would in a simulation," Polis said.

*Editor's note: Debra R. Bingham is assigned to the Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office.*

# Post volunteers on par for statewide golf tourney



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**FOLLOW THROUGH—** Betty McCrory of Birmingham competes in the Women's Alabama Golf Association Senior Championship, winning the First Flight "B" Division with 96-94-87-277.

## Annual competition draws 96 golfers

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

The sun was shining. The senior women golfers smiled and socialized as the tournament volunteers posted scores at the Redstone course.

Marie Maksimowski, senior director for the Women's Alabama Golf Association and host director for the Senior Championship, watched her 46 volunteers from the Redstone golf course community who were hard at work during this statewide tournament May 16-19.

"They were my friends and now they're probably not," she quipped.

Oh, don't worry, Marie. After all this was the first time the Redstone course had hosted a state event.

"It's been done by all volunteers," she said. "Everything was done by volunteers. We have 46 volunteers out here every day

running it."

The annual 54-hole tournament, open to all women 50 and older who are members of a women's golf association in Alabama, drew 96 golfers from throughout the state. They played to about 5,500 yards each day.

"It's been going good, really, really super," Maksimowski said May 18. There was a banquet that night; and awards were presented after the tournament ended May 19.

Chris Spivey of Pine Harbor Country Club in Pell City won with 78-75-79-232. After 36 holes, she earned both the low gross Mary McCutcheon Trophy and the low net Mattie Devan Trophy.

Mary Isbell of Cumberland Lake Country Club in Pinson finished second (78-84-81-243) followed by Peggy Pfaff of Burningtrees Country Club in Decatur (80-86-79-245). In the Championship Flight "B" Division, it was Marie Roberts of Cumberland Lake Country Club (88-85-82-255), Alice Mullen of Troy (86-86-85-257) and Jackie Thompson of Dothan National (88-87-88-263).

# Delta Company rules unit-level golf competition

*Devastating Dragons win for third straight year*

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

The Delta Company golfers knew their closest rivals in the unit-level competition Friday at Redstone course.

Another team from Delta.

Of course there's only one award per unit, so the Devastating Dragons settled for the first place trophy. Second went to HHC 59th which won a tie-breaker with MEDDAC.

Delta's John Fleming, George Landreth, Mark Verren and Rock White shot a 9-under-par 63 for first. The Devastating Dragons have won the title three straight years.

"Mark Verren did the majority of the tees," Landreth said. "And I came in with two key putts. And it was the team on the approach shots."

Close behind their company mates with an 8-under 64 were Rich Gray, Guy



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**TAKING SHOT—** Ray Lee makes contact for MEDDAC on the first hole at Whispering Pines.

Chanpuang, Doug Smith and Johnny Kennedy.

"Everybody made shots today and that was the big thing," Kennedy said. "No one person was a standout. But the big thing was everybody on the team was solid."

HHC 59th's Michael McGilton, Hector Rivera, Nestor Santos and Kenneth Thompson took second with a 4-under 68. "Don't forget: HHC's in the lead for Commander's Cup," McGilton said.

The 59th won the scorecard tie-breaker over MEDDAC by a review of the last nine holes going backward; it had a par

compared to a MEDDAC bogie on the deciding score.

MEDDAC's 4-under third place team included Bruce Slack, Farrell Adkins, Michael Brown and Joe Szmuto. There were 12 four-member teams.

Fleming had closest to the pin on Hillside's third hole. Bill Hoyt of 326th Chemical Company had closest to the pin on Whispering Pines' third hole and also the longest drive.

## Sports & Recreation

### Brickyard 400 sweepstakes

The Community and Family Support Center/Miller Lite "Brickyard 400 Sweepstakes" continues through June 30 at the Redstone Golf Course and Challenger Activity Center. This promotion features an 'instant-win' scratch card and enter-to-win sweepstakes. In addition to the scratch card giveaways, there will be an enter-to-win drawing for four trips-for-two to the NASCAR Brickyard 400 in Indiana on Aug. 8. To enter, participants simply fill out the information on the back of their scratch card and drop it in the entry box provided.

### Swimming pools

Pool season passes are on sale at Outdoor Recreation and the Diane Campbell Recreation Center. Outdoor Recreation is open daily from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Diane Campbell Recreation Center is open Tuesdays through Fridays 1:30 p.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Swimming pools will be open May 29 through Sept. 6 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. daily. Pool hours will be posted at each pool. Cost of season passes is \$45 for families and \$35 for individuals. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation 876-4868 or 876-6854.

### Golf sweepstakes

Drive to Win in Redstone Arsenal's "Lucky Bucket Sweepstakes 2" promotion. Sharpen your golf skills and win prizes in the process. Through June 30, one orange "lucky" ball will be dropped in the range ball machine each week. Find the ball and win instantly. In addition, an "enter to win" sweepstakes is available. You could win a Play Station 2 unit in the local grand prize drawing or one of three trips for two at any Trading Places destination courtesy of www.GovArm.com, event sponsor in the national grand prize drawing. Grand prize drawings will be held at the end of promotion. Call 883-7977 for more details.

### Golf classic

The Bob Jones Touchdown Club will hold the Golf Classic, the first of what is to become an annual event, June 14 at Canebrake Golf Course in Athens. Cost for this tournament is \$100 per player or \$400 per team. There will be door prizes, longest drive, closest to the pin and more. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. "Come out and meet Bob Jones (High School's) new football coach, Shannon Brown," a prepared release said. He played for the University of Alabama from 1992-95 while being named first team Academic All-Southeastern Conference from 1993-95. For more information, call Paul Busing 895-6694 or Dan Bobrowski 461-0921.

### IMMC golf tournament

The Integrated Materiel Management Center will hold a four-man scramble golf tournament June 17. Lunch will be served at noon with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. Prizes will be awarded to the first three places, as well as prizes for closest to the pin on all par 3s, longest drive for women and men, door prize drawings and a chance at \$1,000 or a hole in one. Teams

may be pre-assembled or the committee will arrange one for you. Entries must be received by June 10. Cost is \$47 per player which includes cart fees, green fees, lunch and prizes. For information call Herb Cleveland 586-5059, Kim Lund 876-7841, Rich and Darlene Kerr 881-2687, Laveeeta Kochevar 828-0040 or Billy McGee 883-2075.

### Youth soccer

AYSO Region 160 (playing at Huntsville's John Hunt and Merrimack Parks) will continue soccer registration for the fall through July 15. Registration is \$65 per player through June 30 when fees go up to \$75 each. Fees include a uniform. A \$5 per player discount is available if you register online at [www.ayso160.org](http://www.ayso160.org) using option 1 on the registration page. A copy of the birth certificate is required for players new to American Youth Soccer Organization. Players must be at least 4 by Jan. 31, 2004 and less than 19 on July 31, 2004 to play in the fall. Both coed and girls teams are available in all age groups. For registration instructions or more information go to [www.ayso160.org](http://www.ayso160.org) or call 539-6852.

### Funny hat run

Wear your funniest hat to the Redstone Sports and Fitness Funny Hat Run at noon Friday at the Sparkman Center. The MWR Funny Hat Run will go 1.2 miles around the complex. To register or for more information, call 842-2574 or 955-6844.

### Tennis camps

Child and Youth Services, SKIESUnlimited will begin tennis lessons to all eligible CYS children, ages 5 to 18. Weekly lessons are \$32 and twice weekly lessons are \$56. There will also be tennis camps beginning in June; and each camp lasts a week for \$105. Registration continues through June 2. For more information or to register stop by CYS Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call Brandie DeRemer 313-3701 or Chris Carter 876-3704.

### Madison soccer

The Madison Soccer Club will begin forming boys and girls club soccer teams for the 2004-05 season starting June 4. All sessions will be held at Palmer Park in Madison. For more information, call Carl Blair 864-7026.

### Baseball raffle

Court Appointed Juvenile Advocates is selling \$5 raffle tickets for three drawings where each winning child will have an hour coaching session with a Huntsville Stars player. The drawings will be at the Stars' baseball games May 28, June 25 and July 17. For tickets or more information, call 883-2689.

## Conferences & Meetings

### Configuration data managers

ACDM Huntsville Interest Group will hold a technical symposium on "Enterprise Configuration and Data Management," June 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holiday Inn-Research Park, 5903 University Drive. Cost is \$100 per person; or \$75 each for three or more persons from one organization. For more information, call Cindy Hauer 536-1096 or Sue Fair 544-0691.

### Coast Guard auxiliary

You're invited to join the volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary local flotilla 05 which meets every fourth Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Latham Methodist Church on Weatherly Road. For more information, call Dee Watt 772-7744 or 316-3625.

### AMCOM town hall

The next AMCOM Town Hall, with commander Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, is June 10 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.

### Officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly luncheon meeting today at 11 at the Officers and Civilians Club with Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer as guest speaker. All active, retired and former officers, their spouses and widows, are invited. For more information, call retired Chief Warrant Officer Aniceto Bagley 852-7973.

### Alcorn State alumni

The Tennessee Valley Alumni Chapter of Alcorn State University will meet June 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Richard Showers Center, Blue Spring Road. All Alcorn alumni and friends are invited. For more information, call Sam King 864-7272 or Melvin Mayo 852-7927.

### Tactical missiles conference

The sixth annual Tactical Missiles Conference, sponsored by Association of the U.S. Army, Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, is June 2-3 at the Huntsville Hilton. For more information, call 882-1234.

### Operations research section

The Redstone Arsenal-Huntsville Military Operations Research Section will hold a luncheon today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Offices and Civilians Club. George Kuhn, research fellow for Logistics Management Institute, is to speak on "Projecting Force Support Demands: Patterns of Operations." For information call Wayne Bruno 876-9801.

## Miscellaneous

### Reserve unit openings

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal has openings for computer specialists. The unit seeks prior active duty Soldiers or transfers from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 25B/74B information systems operators and 75B/H unit administration. For 74B, the unit will consider reclassification action to 25B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, programming, networking and telecommunications. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the personal qualifications to pass a SBI background investigation process to obtain a top secret clearance soon. Spe-

cialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For specialty 74C or 74F, they are now authorized to convert to 75B as well. For an interview, 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 Eddie Allen 876-4106 or Gleria Edwards 313-3867. Contractors and other interested people can access [www.cpol.army.mil](http://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](http://www.gsaauctions.gov). For more information, call 544-4667.

### Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Tuesday 9-5 and Wednesday and Thursday 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-12:30. Appointments are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-2. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. The shop accepts handmade craft items for consignment. It can recycle all your inkjet, fax, printer, copier and laser jet cartridges. Volunteers are sought for the afternoons. The shop will be open June 5 for sales from 10-2. For more information, call 881-6992.

### Redstone motorcycle training

Experienced Riders Motorcycle Training is conducted at the Rocket Harley-Davidson Dealership off I-565 and Greenbrier Road. Soldiers, DoD civilians and military retirees are funded by the government. Contractors pay \$75 per person. For registration information, call Keith Coates at 876-3383 or John Zuber at 876-3144 of the Garrison Safety Office.

### Butler High reunion

Butler High School Class of 1969 will hold its 35th reunion June 19 at the Clay House Museum, 16 Main St., Madison. Class members are urged to call Glenda Swafford Anderson 837-9789 or Robin Hall Brewer (256) 325-1018.

### Red Cross youth volunteers

The Red Cross Youth Program at Fox Army Health Center is about to begin and will provide valuable experience to teens. The youth volunteers will be staffed throughout the health center and assist in clinics, the records room and in other areas. Teenagers 14 or older with valid military ID cards are eligible. Those interested in volunteering must call the Red Cross 536-0084, extension 210 to

pre-register and then attend a training meeting June 1 at 9 a.m. at the Red Cross Chapter House, 1101 Washington St. Parents are encouraged to attend the meeting with their teenager.

## Train in concert

The 2004 Miller Lite Army Concert Tour, featuring Train and special guest Graham Colton, is coming to Redstone Arsenal on June 19. General admission advance tickets are on sale for \$15, compared to \$20 on the day of show. If you can access Redstone Arsenal, buy your tickets at Sparkman Cafeteria, Redstone Lodging, the Post Exchange cashier's window, the Officers and Civilians Club or at the ITR office in building 3711 at the corner of Patton and Aerobee Roads. Tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster outlets (Publix stores in North Alabama) and at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Call 800-277-1700 for tickets or 876-5232 for more information.

## Aviation group scholarships

Army Aviation Association of America offers scholarships for entering freshmen which range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 grants given out as one, two or four year scholarships. Interest-free loans of up to \$4,000 (\$1,000 a year) for entering freshmen are available. Scholarships are also reserved for enlisted, company grade, warrant officer, Army civilian, and spouses of AAAA members. Call the AAAA National Office (203) 268-2450 or e-mail [aaaa@quad-a.org](mailto:aaaa@quad-a.org) for an application. Local points of contact for the Tennessee Valley Chapter are vice president for scholarships Tom Harrison (256) 964-8460, ext. 103, and vice president for membership Jim Pepper 922-1211.

## Youth reading program

Child and Youth Services sponsors "Heating it Up With Books at Redstone," a summer reading program through July 31. Children of active duty, retired, and Guard/Reserve military, DoD and Redstone/NASA contractors may participate. Trophies and medallions are awarded to those who read 1,000 pages or more. For information visit [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com) or call Pam Berry 955-6309.

## Father of Year gala

The Volunteer Center wants you to add a special event to your community calendar. The Father of the Year Gala will be at the Huntsville Museum of Art, June 25 from 7 p.m. until midnight. The evening includes food, drink, dancing, a silent auction and the announcement of the Madison County Father of the Year. Entertainment will be provided by The Blue Savoy Combo. Admission is \$35 per person, \$60 per couple and \$250 for a table of eight. Call the Volunteer Center 539-7797 to reserve your seat via Visa or Mastercard. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Volunteer Center.

## Consideration of others

Aviation and Missile Command and the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School will hold the third quarter Equal Opportunity Consideration of Others Facilitator Course, June 8-10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in building 111, EEO conference room. For information call Sgt. 1st Class Vasquez 876-8648 or Sgt. 1st Class Weber 876-9224.

## Asian Pacific observance

NASA, Team Redstone, and Missile and

Space Intelligence Center are sponsoring two events today celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage Month. Samuel Mok, chief financial officer from the Department of Labor, is to speak on the theme "Cultural Diversity in Government Service" from 11 a.m. to noon at building 4316. Cultural performances, multimedia presentations and food tasting will also be featured at this event. A bus will stop at several locations on the installation to transport participants. The second event is tonight from 6 until 9 at the Tai Pan Palace Restaurant; and tickets can be purchased from the EEO office. Cost is \$10 for adults, and a reduced rate is offered for children. The evening event features a buffet, cultural performances, multimedia presentations and presentations of awards.

## Blood drive

A blood drive will be held Thursday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of building 5435. For an appointment, call Joyce Thompson 842-7710 or Wanda Jackson 876-3021.

## Engineering summer camp

University of Alabama-Huntsville is offering two Engineering Summer Camps, June 14-18 and July 12-16 from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., on the UAH campus. Enrollment is limited to 20 students per session, so avoid the race for space and sign up today. The fees for each session (one week) of the camp are \$350. Fees include all activities, lunch, instruction and supervision and materials that will be provided when the student arrives at the camp. A limited number of partial and whole need based scholarships are available. For more information, visit the camp's web site at [www.eb.uah.edu/camp](http://www.eb.uah.edu/camp) or call Veronica Molina 824-3590.

## Military dining discount

Alabama Roadhouse offers 10 percent off on Tuesdays for "Military Special Day." The restaurant, 2322 South Memorial Parkway (across from The Huntsville Times), is also collecting items to send to deployed troops. For more information, call 536-2121.

## Air show

"Wings of Victory Air Show," commemorating the 60th anniversary of D-Day, is June 5-6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. It features the Air Force Thunderbirds, Army Golden Knights and the Air Force F-16 demonstration team. For information call the air show hotline (334) 953-3500.

## Missile defense scholarship

The Army Space and Missile Defense Association will select one graduate student and one undergraduate student to receive a \$1,000 scholarship in August. For more information call Robert Belton 971-1800, ext. 257.

## NCO call

Non-commissioned officers – all services, active duty and retired – are invited to an NCO Call, Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub.

## Robot competition

More than 100 robots from 17 states ranging from 1 to 220 pounds will compete for the title of "Toughest Robot in the Southeast," Saturday and Sunday at Lowe Mill on Seminole Drive. Divided into eight weight classes, the robots will be sawing,

hammering, flipping and smashing into each other. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10 for each of the four sessions with a \$3 discount for students. Event times begin at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit [www.secr.org](http://www.secr.org).

## Blacks in government

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks in Government is sponsoring a "Drop In, Stop, and Go Social Mixer," Thursday from 4-6 p.m. in the Twickenham Room at the Officers and Civilians Club. Chapter members and visitors are welcome to attend, drop by and network on issues impacting federal employees such as the National Security Personnel System. This food, fun and fellowship event is open to all government and contractor employees. For more information, call chapter president James Foster 852-2129 or publicity chairman Mary Peoples 955-4275.

## Youth development seminar

The Child and Youth Services "SKIES Unlimited" program is offering a "Skills for Success! Knowing and Understanding Yourself" seminar, with Dr. Elizabeth Hall, for eighth- and ninth-graders. Hall will work with your child in developing self-management, study, problem solving, time, money management skills, and several more key areas for developing life skills. Class fees are \$150 for the eight-week session. Registration continues through May 31. For more information or to register, stop by CYS Central Registration, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road, or call Brandie DeRemer 313-3701 or Chris Carter 876-3704.

## Supreme Court ceremony

North Alabama Chapter, Federal Bar Association will hold a U.S. Supreme Court Admissions Ceremony, administered by retired Maj. Gen. William K. Suter, clerk of the Supreme Court, June 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. Cost for lunch is \$25. For reservations call Laura Owens 842-0544 or Juanita Sales Lee 955-4521 by June 9.

## Patriotic art exhibit

The Huntsville Museum of Art presents "Becoming a Nation," an exhibition through July 18. Through their forms, materials and ties to important historical figures, the artwork featured tells the story of this country and its developing culture and aesthetics. During this exhibition, the general admission fee for the museum will be \$12.50 for non-members, which includes an audio tour. Discounts will be given to seniors over 60, military, students with a valid ID, and groups of 10 or more. Admission for visitors age 6-11 will be \$6.50. Children 5 and under will be admitted free. Museum members will receive passes for free admission to this exhibition. For information on joining the museum call 535-4350, ext. 221. The museum is located at 300 Church St. south in Big Spring International Park.

## West Point cadets visit

West Point cadets will be available at the Huntsville Madison County Main Library (second floor research area meeting room), 915 Monroe St., Thursday from 5-7 p.m. Interested students and parents are invited to stop by to meet the cadets and learn more about West Point. For more information, call Richard Jackson 337-1319.

## Bible school

Vacation Bible School with an Olympic theme will be going on at Whitesburg Baptist Church, 6806 Whitesburg Drive, June 7-11 from 9 a.m. to noon. "Son Games 2004" is for ages 4 through completed sixth-grade. There will also be a Family Night, June 13. For more information, call Whitesburg Baptist Church 881-0952.

## Fox Army Health Center

Fox Army Health Center announces holiday hours for Memorial Day. The Primary Care Extended Hours Clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to noon Friday, Saturday and Monday, May 28, 29 and 31, for scheduled appointments. All other clinics and the pharmacy will be closed. The health center is closed Sundays. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments. Access to the building may be gained through the Pharmacy entrance on the south side.

## PX news

The Post Exchange will operate with the following holiday hours on Memorial Day, May 31: Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Concessions, closed; GNC, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Mall Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Beauty Shop, closed; Cellular Service, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Furniture Store, closed; One-Stop Goss Road, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Service Station, closed; Burger King, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Military Clothing, closed; Barber Shop, building 3479, closed; Food Court – Anthony's, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Cinnabon, closed; Baskin Robins, closed; Robin Hood, closed; and Churchs, closed.

## Newcomers orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers Orientation, June 1 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at building 3338, Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned for Redstone; and spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

## Retirement briefings

Representatives from the Army Benefits Center-Civilian will provide two CSRS and FERS retirement briefings in June. These briefings should not only help employees thinking about retirement in the next five years, but also those planning for the future. Their visit will also provide an overview of Employee Benefit Information System and how to utilize the various self-initiated services, as well as "how to reach a counselor" via the telephone. The briefings and overview will be held June 22-24 in Bob Jones Auditorium. There is an ABC overview June 22 from 1-4 p.m.; FERS briefings, 8-11:30 a.m. June 23 and 1-4 p.m. June 24; and CSRS briefings, 1-4 p.m. June 23 and 8-11:30 a.m. June 24. To register contact Theresa Falcetano at [Theresa.falcetano@us.army.mil](mailto:Theresa.falcetano@us.army.mil) or Myria Chastain at [Myria.Chastain@us.army.mil](mailto:Myria.Chastain@us.army.mil) by June 17.

