

Redstone Rocket

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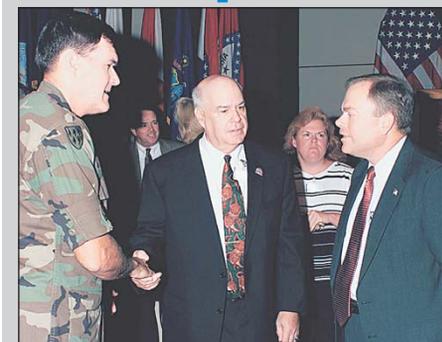
October 2, 2002

Helping people



Annual charity drive has rousing kickoff
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Post profile



Software Institute opens office here
Page 10

Win or lose



Defending post champ takes preseason title
Page 12

New security team standing guard

Alabama Army National Guard members from five units comprise Team Scorpion

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

It didn't matter to Spec. Diana Delaine where the homeland security deployment would take her, she just knew she wanted to go.

"I joined the National Guard 11 years ago because of Desert Storm. I wanted to go over with my friends but by the time I finished basic and AIT, they were coming back," said Delaine, a soldier with Team Scorpion, the latest National Guard unit assigned to Redstone to augment security. "There was no way I was going to miss this chance."

Delaine is one of the 100 soldiers drawn from five Alabama National Guard units to form Alpha Company, 1st of the 131st Armor out of Centre, better known as Team Scorpion. The unit arrived Sept. 16 to replace Charlie Company 1st/167th Infantry soldiers who had finished their one-year deployment to Redstone.

"So far they're doing a super job," Maj. Brad Scofield, provost marshal, said. "They only had three days to in process and prepare. We put them through very intensive training, using closed gates for the exercises. We had a couple 20 hour days. They've taken to the training very



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

NEW CREW— The new National Guard unit assigned to augment security at Redstone Arsenal arrived Sept. 16. SSgt. Jerry Kirby, full-time Guardsman deployed as part of Team Scorpion, checks identification at Gate 8.

well and have already found some (contraband)."

Only a week on the job and Delaine's list of discoveries include alcohol in an open container, a bag of marijuana, knives and one retiree couple announced that they had a pistol in the front seat of the car with them and a shotgun in the trunk, for hunting, they explained. But since neither of

them possessed a hunting permit for the Arsenal, she had to turn them away.

"The people on the gates are our first line of defense," Scofield said. "When they are able to find things with that kind of detail, it does two things: It keeps those things from moving around on the Arsenal

See Guard on page 13

Army engineering centers to merge into new command



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PRODUCT ASSURANCE CONCERN— Bill Glover, a lead product assurance engineer in Close Combat Missile Systems, asks how the research and development reorganization will affect product assurance engineering. A town hall meeting for members of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center was held Friday at Rocket Auditorium.

RD&E Command formed this week

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

The newly formed Research Development and Engineering Command will have a direct impact on engineers here.

RD&E Command was created provisionally Oct. 1. Eventually all seven research and development centers within the Army Materiel Command, along with the Army Research Laboratories, will become part of this new entity.

This means the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center will join the RD&E Command sometime in June. The center will remain intact at Redstone but will no longer be part of the Aviation and Missile Command.

"It'll be a gradual merging," Dr. William McCorkle, director of the RD&E Center, said.

The plans were discussed during a town hall meeting Friday at Rocket Auditorium. Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, said the intent for the change is

See Command on page 13

Blood drives stop at gates

During the spring the hospitals in North Alabama announced that effective July 1 they were changing from the Red Cross to Life South for blood supplies because of cost. Life South said they would have mobile units for blood drives similar to the way the Red Cross has done in the past. Further Life South said they would begin blood drives in July. I called Life South and learned that they are not permitted on Redstone Arsenal for blood drives. Why? When Life South is supplying the blood to all of the area hospitals at a greatly reduced cost, and all of the blood is staying in North Alabama, why is Life South not permitted to collect blood on RSA?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for

your question about our support for area hospitals. The Arsenal is committed to its partnership with the local community, and that includes the hospitals. Redstone Arsenal, like all military installations, has a standardizing procedure for defining how new organizations can gain access to the installation to conduct events. The procedure is intended to allow fair and equal treatment to all organizations, while protecting the security and individual rights of Redstone community members. A copy of the procedure has been provided to Huntsville Hospital and they are working with Life South to submit a request, but have not yet applied. If they do apply to gain access to the installation, the application will be considered on its merits. In any event, Redstone Arsenal will continue to work to support our partnership with the local community."

Questions posed on camping facilities

At the Directorate of Community and Family Activities community awareness meeting held Sept 19, Dan Ahern provided a quick answer and no explanation to several questions related to outdoor recreation. First of all, I'd like to know the status of plans to either upgrade or replace the existing on-post campground. While the location is great, the facilities are inadequate, outdated, and in terrible condition. His only comment was that "nothing is planned to upgrade the existing facilities since it is prone to flooding." OK, I got that part, however, if RASA has no intention of modernizing it, then what are the plans to replace it and when? Take a look at the on-post RV/boat storage yard and you'll see that there are plenty of potential customers. I hope this doesn't take the course of the Memphis-Atlanta highway and get studied forever.

The second item that got an inadequate response has to do with providing shelters for rent in the RV/boat storage yard. I've made a couple of quick phone calls and determined that an aluminum "carport" of the size necessary for a large RV would cost about \$3,000 each and probably much less if 20 were procured at the same time. If these were rented for

\$50/month they would be paid for in five years. After that, there's a considerable source of revenue for the remaining life of the shelters. This sounds like a better investment than his proposal to build a movie theater since there is no labor or overhead involved. I'd like to suggest a poll of the RV and boat owners using the storage yard (do it concurrent with the annual billing cycle) to determine their level of interest.

Finally, if RASA is unwilling to build and rent storage covers, why can't I buy and erect my own? There is one in the yard already. If there is one, why not others?

I will be happy to work on a voluntary basis on these projects.

Dennis A. Fitzgerald
Army retired

Editor's note: Dan Ahern, director of community and family activities, provided the following response. "We appreciate your interest in camping and storage of campers, RVs, and boats on Redstone Arsenal. You have valid points, and your input prompted us into doing a re-look at

See **Camping** on page 5

Command team serves in harm's way

I stand here in the middle of sweltering, 110-degree-plus desert heat with a collection of professionals the Redstone community should recognize and value. This particular group is comprised largely of females; females functioning in a country that, by Western standards, could not be more disagreeable to their gender and their spirit. These Southern ladies and gentlemen, with husbands, wives, children and extended families asking why they must travel to this objectionable part of the world, are undoubtedly the most dedicated, competent, resilient group of professionals I've ever had the honor of working with. Their loved one's outlook notwithstanding, this team devotes their extraordinary expertise and experience to fulfilling our nation's commitments to this complicated and frequently puzzling Middle Eastern partner.

This crew of experts belongs to a committed, conscientious group that routinely travels to and through parts of the world where Americans are not always perceived as the "good guys." Travel is performed at the high cost of time with family and with varying degrees of personal risk. With these trips comes a level of family stress that is often difficult to deal with. That risk and stress has grown radically over the past year. While not wearing the uniform of our country's military forces, this troupe regularly journeys to and through countries our State Department has designated as high risk and hostile.

AMCOM's position as the U.S. Army's leader in foreign military sales — no one even comes close — is owed

to and sustained by this steadfast Security Assistance Management Directorate team. The benefits of that standing extend well beyond the command into the local community through millions of dollars in contracts for Huntsville firms. Whether one agrees with our nation's foreign policy or not, especially when it comes to this volatile region, those at SAMD are the implementers of that policy. Through their hard work, Redstone participates in safeguarding U.S. allies' survival, stability and active cooperation with our national interests. It would seem appropriate for the command to support and defend those it sends to the far corners of the earth — and perhaps infrequently and unintentionally in harms' way — to represent not only the command's interest, but the interests of the United States government.

The sacrifices made by the ladies and gentlemen I stand with here in the desert continue for the most part low key and unnoticed. Their anonymity does not, however, affect the commitment with which they do their jobs. Their loyalty is absolute; they are the stewards of AMCOM security assistance. And in spite of an undeniable unease with boarding that plane for a journey that has become a great deal more uncertain, their professional pride in that stewardship remains undiminished.

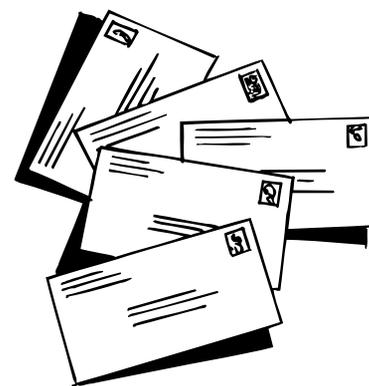
I just thought the Redstone community should know.

Christopher A. Chavez
chief, Saudi Air Defense Branch
Security Assistance
Management Directorate

Rocket rumblings: Good leader traits

What makes a good leader?

That's the *Rocket* rumblings question for this month. Send your response — in 50 words or less — to the *Redstone Rocket* at the following e-mail address: skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil; or via fax at 955-9138.



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Rocket Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Al Schwartz

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Reporters: Sandy Riebeling

Kelley Lane

Spec. Evan Morrow

Copy Editor: Scott Seeley

Advertising Sales: Aletha Pardue

Petie Sims

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Soldier Show offers standby option for attendance

Musical production on tap for Thursday

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The two performances of the 2002 U.S. Army Soldier Show on Thursday are offering a second option for seating to the 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows at the Von Braun Center's Concert Hall: "standby."

If you did not receive tickets, but would still like to try to attend, you can go to the Concert Hall and wait to see if empty seats are available prior to the show. Standby seating will begin 15 minutes prior to the performance on a first-

come, first-serve basis (tickets note that if you are not seated for the show 15 minutes prior to performance time, the ticket is no longer valid).

Unlike with a ticket, standby offers no guarantee of seating, but chances are good there will be vacancies.

"Many times with free tickets, people find it easy to change their plans at the last minute. The tickets and the seating go unused. We are trying to remedy that situation," said Brandie DeRemer of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, this year's coordinator for the Soldier Show. Annual sponsorship pays for production of the show and allows free admission. This year's sponsors are First Command

Financial Planning and the Army National Guard.

Ticket distribution for U.S. Army Soldier Show gives first priority to active duty servicemembers and their families. The remaining tickets are then distributed to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. Ticket distribution for Redstone servicemembers and their families was made from Sept. 16-18. Tickets for public distribution began Sept. 19 at the Recreation Center and at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

"While individuals are limited to four tickets per person, they are still distributed very quickly," DeRemer said.

The Soldier Show is a singing and

dancing production that includes soldiers performing a wide range of musical styles. "It is a very popular family event," said DeRemer. She hopes that individuals that did not receive tickets take advantage of the standby option.

"The generosity of our sponsors allows us to offer these two shows for free. If you can't use your tickets, please pass them on to someone who can so he or she is guaranteed a seat," she said. "But we do want to fill as many seats as possible, so we plan to begin the standby seating promptly at 15 minutes prior to show time."

For more information concerning the Soldier Show, call DeRemer at 313-1202/1203.

2002 Disability Employment Awareness Month focus of videos Oct. 9 in Bob Jones Auditorium

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OFFICE
RELEASE

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is one of the nation's most important civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ADA opened up the true promise of America to people with disabilities who, for far too long, have found impediments to getting an education, getting a job, or just getting around.

Because of the ADA, people with disabilities are gaining equal access to public sector service. And the public sector has rallied to the ADA's goals. From improving access at town halls and courthouses to providing accessible parking to assertive listing devices at public meetings, state and local governments have developed some of the most innovative and meaningful responses to the ADA.

The next step in securing the promise

of the ADA is the New Freedom Initiative that helps ensure that Americans with disabilities can access the best technologies of today and even better technologies in the future.

The Individual with Disabilities Committee and the special emphasis program manager will present three videos to be viewed at Bob Jones Auditorium, building 5304, for Disability Employment Awareness Month. The videos can be viewed Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. "The Americans with Disabilities Act: New Access to the Workplace" will be shown at 8 a.m., "Breaking the Attitude Barrier: Learning to Value People with Disabilities" will be shown at 9, and "The Power to Excel: Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program" will be shown at 10. This year's theme is "New Freedom for the 21st Century." The videos will run again at noon, 1 and 2.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Fresh pizza

Hot Stuff Pizza is now open in the Sparkman Center food court. At work before the grand opening Sept. 18 are Debbie Desgranges, left, cater and food court supervisor, and Angie Black, cook. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Prices range from \$3 and \$3.45 per 6-inch pizza.

■ Recreational cabin by river envisioned

Camping

continued from page 2

the storage services we provide, to include covered storage we may be able to provide in the future.

"As was related in the FACTS Meeting last Thursday, our existing RV campground at Easter Posey Park is indeed prone to serious flooding, virtually on an annual basis. Thus it would simply be unwise for us to pursue a major reinvestment into upgrade or even expansion at this location. However, that doesn't preclude us from keeping it clean, repaired, debris-free, and freshly painted. We did a minor rehab project last year to do just that after customer input — maybe yours — indicated the need to do so! We've also scheduled a work day (with MWR's Outdoor Recreation staff and some of our super volunteers) to clean and paint the bath house and make minor repairs as needed once again during the coming off-season. We look forward to you contacting Outdoor Recreation to help us maintain our area.

"We have addressed your ideas about individual aluminum shelters for storage over the past several years for our storage customers. Early on in this service, we allowed privately owned shelters to be installed by those owners wishing to put them up, on their own. However, after damage to other campers/RVs during storms or high winds due to what were probably sub-par shelters being erected, we changed our policy. Those who had already purchased and installed

them were allowed to keep them installed, and presently there is one remaining. We intend to offer government installed shelters in the upcoming fiscal year, and we'd love to offer the first newly covered space to you. As we do this, we will need to ensure that the shelters are of adequate standard to protect all customers' rights. We would appreciate your input on reasonable rates and quality for this as we do it.

"We are working plans for a major camping facility here at Redstone. We strongly believe, as you do, that there's a significant market here for an attractive, well laid out campground on our beautiful south boundary, the Tennessee River. We have submitted work orders and even gotten deeply into project development in the past requesting site approval and design for a major campground and outdoor rec facility down by the river. But the location in the flood plain, the cost and other utility and environmental issues have prevented us from being able to execute it. Our next major Non-Appropriated Fund project is the new Bowling Center. After that is under way, we intend to pursue a recreational cabin and camping facility, but our intended location is the old quarry. We anticipate a start of this in FY '06. We would appreciate all of the community's thoughts on this idea.

"In the meantime, please help us keep our facilities up to standard and thanks again for your interest. We want to do everything possible to be your 'First Choice.'"

Bicentennial Chapel patrons invited to bring their pets

Blessing of the Animals slated for Saturday

BICENTENNIAL CHAPEL RELEASE

In the case of Oct. 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, one finds it a day for people everywhere, and, indeed, for animals. St. Francis, 1181-1226, founder of the Franciscans, is the patron saint of animals. In his honor a life-affirming ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals is celebrated at many Christian churches.

The celebration at Bicentennial Chapel on Goss Road will be Saturday at 2 p.m. All animals are welcome – rabbits, geese, horses, ferrets, birds, snakes, guinea pigs, hamsters, fish or other pets as well as stuffed toy animals if you do not have live ones. Live animals must be leashed or caged for the safety of all. Refreshments will be available for humans as well as for the animals.

Francis came from a wealthy Italian family, but began giving food and money

to any beggar he encountered. This displeased his father greatly. Francis visited hospitals and ministered to the sick, giving away money freely. His father disinherited Francis. Francis gathered a group of men of like mind. They agreed to take a vow of poverty and preach penance. Francis referred to all creatures as brothers, and legend has it that he preached to the animals.

"The Blessing of the Animals reminds us of the sacredness of all life, and provides an opportunity to celebrate the animals who share our lives," Debra K. Brazzel of Duke University said. Please come and join us at Bicentennial Chapel at 2 p.m. Saturday. Please be on time or a bit early, as the service moves very quickly. The Blessing of the Animals has been celebrated at the chapel for more than 20 years.

Chaplain (Col.) Michael Chilen and Chaplain (Maj.) Fred MacLean will be the chaplains for the service. Everyone is invited.



GOING TO CHAPEL— Grace, a German shepherd, looks forward to the Blessing of the Animals.

Courtesy photo

Officer and Civilian Women's Club offers merit awards

By DIANE MOORE

Officer and Civilian Women's Club

Need money for higher education? You or your family members may be eligible to apply for an Officer and Civilian Women's Club Merit Award.

Each year OCWC presents Merit Awards to qualified applicants based on their scholastic achievements, citizenship and sincere desire to pursue higher education. These awards are designed to help offset the cost of tuition, books and related fees.

All applicants must meet the following criteria: be a member, spouse of a member, or the dependent of an OCWC member in good standing as of Oct. 1, 2002 and live within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. Candidates may compete in one of four categories – high school sen-

ior, undergraduate, graduate and member/spouse. Please note that previous award winners may compete in succeeding years, but may win only once in each category. Additionally, students receiving full scholarship may not apply for a Merit Award.

Applications will be available at all OCWC board meetings and luncheons beginning in October. The deadline for Merit Award consideration is Feb. 1, 2003. If you have any questions regarding Merit Awards, please contact the OCWC Merit Award chairperson, Diane Moore, at 864-2670 or at the following e-mail address: acsvol@mwr.redstone.army.mil.

For membership information contact Karen Lake, the OCWC membership chairperson, at 774-2884 or at the following e-mail address: klpony@knology.net.

Record-setting charity team opens 2002 season

Combined Federal Campaign seeks \$1.6 million in donations

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

All that was missing was a coin toss. The band played, the cheerleaders cheered and the audience roared its approval at the kickoff for the 2002 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign. The opening for the charity fundraising drive among 34 federal agencies was held Sept. 24 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Recalling last year's record-setting campaign, CFC coordinator Gay Money said she felt like the coach of a national

championship team trying to repeat. "Can we do it again? It will take a lot of work," Money said. She is serving again as the chairperson for the Local Federal Coordinating Committee that has representatives from the federal agencies in six North Alabama counties plus Lincoln County, Tenn. Last year's drive raised \$1,832,141 to surpass a \$1.55 million goal; and this year's quest is \$1.6 million.

The kickoff got a lift for the second straight year from the University of North Alabama "Pride of Dixie" Marching Band. The 2002 national award-winning cheerleaders from Sparkman High School also performed for the estimated 400 attendees.

"I don't know about you but I'm worn out," quipped Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile

Command and Redstone Arsenal. He urged full participation in this year's campaign.

Lee Marshall, morning and noon news anchor for WAFF television Channel 48 and radio station WDRM, described the value of local charitable organizations and sang a patriotic medley. "Individually

while we can't raise millions of dollars, we can give a little bit," she said.

An online silent auction is planned again this year and will run the last three weeks of the campaign, Oct. 21 through Nov. 8. Last year's auction netted \$8,000. It can be accessed at the following web site: www.cfc-huntsville.org.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MAJORETTES— The University of North Alabama "Pride of Dixie" Marching Band's majorettes participate in the kickoff for the 2002 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GRAND OPENING— Members of the UNA marching band perform the national anthem during the charity campaign kickoff in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Weather alert information available online

Although the peak tornado season — March through May — has passed, North Alabama's secondary tornado season is in November.

Last year 55 tornadoes occurred in Alabama, setting a record.

The Team Redstone work force can get weather alert and force protection condition notifications on the following web addresses: <https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/> or <http://www.redstone.army.mil/>, by clicking the appropriate links in the upper left corners of

those pages. Also employees can get installation closure or delayed-opening information by calling 955-8445.

Not only is it important to be aware of severe weather alerts, but also it's important to be familiar with the specific building emergency evacuation plans. Emergency plans assure that personnel are safe and accounted for at prescribed assembly points.

Being prepared is key to survival. In any emergency, remain calm and use common sense.

Worker remembered for her creativity, service to soldiers

Diane Campbell died Sept. 25 after suffering a heart attack

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimer.com

Diane Campbell was articulate as well as artsy, according to her supervisor and co-workers at the Recreation Center. She liked to paint, and was always willing to try something new, listen to another's opinion and recognize the abilities of the people around her.

Campbell suffered a heart attack and died while at work in her office on the morning of Sept. 25. She is survived by husband, Scott; one sister, Roma Perry, of Decatur; and a niece and nephew. She was 51.

"She was an arts and crafts person," said Campbell's supervisor, Mike Chem-sak, chief of Recreation and Family Support Division. "That's where she started here on the Arsenal in 1976. Her primary area was teaching photography until 1985 when she moved over to the Rec Center." She became the center director in 1987. "This was a shock to all of us. As far we

know, she didn't have any health problems."

Campbell grew up around the world as the daughter of a career military father but when it came time to settle, the family chose Huntsville. It is the place she called home.

"She was a good friend to all of us," Joe Ruffner, recreation specialist, said.

Ruffner described Campbell as intelligent and dedicated to providing services to the soldiers. "She had a very strong opinion about that, probably because she grew up in the military.

"She was a super person to work with," he said. "She could make a suggestion to you without offending you. She was sensitive and let you exercise your abilities. She made it a nice place for people to work."

Campbell spent the summer working on the "Healing Arts Project," a 21 by 11-foot American flag, created from 10-inch squares decorated by the children, adults and soldiers of Redstone. It was completed just in time to commemorate the first anniversary of Sept. 11. The flag will be permanently displayed in the gym at the Youth Center.



Photo by Adrian Baker

SERVING SOLDIERS— Diane Campbell died Sept. 25 after suffering a heart attack at work. She is pictured here selling concert tickets to Col. Bob Devlin, garrison commander, and his wife, Jennifer, last month. She was the director of the Recreation Center and had worked at Redstone for 26 years.

Contract awarded for Kwajalein site

The Space and Missile Defense Command has awarded a \$626 million, four-year contract with the potential for 15 years valued at \$2.5 billion, to Kwajalein Range Services for logistics support and integrated range engineering support services at Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site.

Located in the Republic of Marshall

Islands, the Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site is designed primarily for ballistic missile defense testing and space surveillance operations. The Space and Missile Defense Command is the Army's proponent for space and missile defense and is responsible for the operation of the Reagan Test Site and other facilities located at Kwajalein Atoll.

Military intelligence unit has new commander

Capt. Chris Robinson assumed command Sept. 6 of B Company, 308th Military Intelligence Battalion, 902nd Military Intelligence Group. Bravo Company consists of eight field offices located throughout Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina. Bravo Company Headquarters and a Military Intelligence Detachment are located at Redstone Arsenal.

Bravo Company's mission is to protect Army forces, technologies and critical information from foreign intelligence and international terrorism threats. This is accomplished through participation in SAEDA briefings and liaison with Army units and programs. Specifically, the Redstone Military Intelligence Detachment works closely with the Garrison, AMCOM and the other Army programs located in the Huntsville area.

Robinson succeeded Capt. John Beckham in a ceremony at the Army Reserve Center on Patton Road. Before assuming command of the company, Robinson served as the Redstone Military Intelligence Detachment commander. He has also served with 3rd Battalion, 32nd Infantry and 6th/32nd Field Artillery. Robinson is joined at Redstone Arsenal



Courtesy photo

Capt. CHRIS ROBINSON

with his wife, Nancy, and son, Andrew.

To report suspicious activity, call the Redstone Military Intelligence Detachment at 313-5186.

Endangered species plant growing near Rustic Lodge

Harper's Umbrella Plant finds refuge on bluffs

By **SUSAN WEBER**

Directorate of Environmental Management

Lehman's Bluff is home to an unusual plant found only in Alabama and Tennessee. Harper's Umbrella Plant — *Eriogonum longifolium* var. *harperi* — a federal species of concern — can be found on the bluffs below the Rustic Lodge.

What makes this plant special? It is found in only 11 small sites in the nation. It occurs on calcareous shale barrens, river bluffs, and limestone glades in three counties in North Alabama, and two in Tennessee. Military lands seem to be the last strongholds of many rare species, and on Redstone Arsenal the umbrella plant is one of several very significant plants and animals that have refuge here, where they are protected and managed.

Lehman's Bluff is TVA property, and is managed jointly by TVA and Redstone. The bluff — an Upland Calcareous Cliff Community (limestone outcrops forming cliffs) — in which Harper's umbrella plant occurs is a globally rare plant community, and the Directorate of Environmental Management is maintaining the native species that are adapted to this very

dry site. Prickly pear cactus and false aloes also can be found among the boulders. This cliff community has a southeast exposure, and as a result is subject to high insolation in the morning and mid-day. Exposed limestone ledges have a nearly soil-less environment, but where pockets of soil form, trees and shrubs have taken hold.

The Harper's umbrella plant seems to have done well in the last few decades, possibly as a result of the clearing that has taken place to open the site for viewing the Tennessee River from the Lodge. Before settlements in North Alabama, the vegetation was probably fire-maintained, as evidenced by very old burned cedar stumps on the bluff. Thinning of the understory may be taking the place of fire to keep the woody vegetation suppressed in this community.

Harper's umbrella plant is an herbaceous perennial in the buckwheat family that dies after flowering and seed set. For the first four years, a basal rosette is all to be seen of this plant, with dark green leaves with a prominent central vein, and a mat of creamy white hair on the lower surface, making them conspicuous among other vegetation. In the plants fifth year or older, the flowering stem grows an

See Plant on page 11

Flu vaccine expected to arrive on time

FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER RELEASE

Fox Army Health Center has not yet received the flu vaccine but wants to keep the Redstone community informed about this year's flu vaccination plan. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the 2002-03 flu vaccine supply is expected to be adequate with no anticipated delay in delivery. However, starting with this year and including all future years, the CDC recommends vaccinating high risk persons in October and targeting mass vaccination campaigns in November.

The following persons are at high risk for the flu:

- Persons older than 65 years of age.
- Persons with diabetes, heart ailments, respiratory illness, kidney dysfunction, weakened immune systems, and women more than three months pregnant.
- Health care providers and family members of those in the high risk category.
- Deployable soldiers and emergency essential DoD civilians.
- Children younger than 9 receiving the vaccine for the first time.
- Children and adolescents on long term aspirin therapy. Persons not sure about their risk status should contact their

primary health care provider.

All categories of military health care beneficiaries are eligible for the flu vaccine. Current DoD civilians can only get their vaccination during the mass vaccination campaign. Contractors are not eligible to receive their vaccine at Redstone Arsenal.

Vaccination of high risk persons will start when the first allocation of vaccine is received. Mass vaccination of the public will start when ample vaccine supply is received. Announcements with location, dates, and times of mass vaccinations will go out to the public through the *Redstone Rocket*, *The Huntsville Times*, electronic bulletin boards, www.redstone.army.mil <<http://www.redstone.army.mil>>, www.redstone.amedd.army.mil <<http://www.redstone.amedd.army.mil>>, and command channels.

You can hear an automated tape recording of all flu campaign information and updates by dialing 955-8888 and selecting service announcements. For more information, call the Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center 842-0196. For information on influenza, go to the CDC web site (www.cdc.gov <<http://www.cdc.gov>>) and type "Influenza" in the search box.

Software engineering is core for future weapon systems

Software Engineering Institute creates satellite office on post

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer
sandyri@hltimes.com

Typically when people hear the word Army, they think of tanks rolling over rugged hills and soldiers in full battle dress marching off to war.

The image is never an office setting with men and women dressed in business suits sitting at their computers diligently working through lines and lines of software code. But nowadays, before you can see the bombs bursting in air, you've got to get the bugs worked out of the software that keeps the helicopter in the sky, the fire control system in check, and the missile on target.

In this new age, software engineering has become a core component on which the future Army will be built. With that understanding, a partnership has been formed between the Department of Defense funded Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute and the Software Engineering Directorate at the Aviation and Missile Command.

"The basis for the partnership is well-founded," William Craig, director, SED, said during the Software Engineering Institute welcome ceremony Sept. 16 in the Bob Jones Auditorium. "Technology permeates our society. The Bradley has 1.2 million lines of code... the Patriot has 7 million lines of code and it is estimated that the Future Combat System will have more than 10 million lines of code (for one piece of the system)."

Craig went on to explain that the time and resources needed to develop such massive amounts of code directly affects



Shawn Harris/PhotoLab

NEW PARTNERS— From left, Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, and William Craig, director of Software Engineering Directorate, welcome the chance to partner with Dr. Stephen Cross, director and CEO of the Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute, based in Pittsburgh, Pa.

the cost and fielding schedule of a system.

The mission of SEI, based in Pittsburgh, Pa., is to provide technical leadership to advance the practice of software engineering so the Department of Defense can acquire and sustain its software-intensive systems with predictable and improved cost, schedule and quality. Since its establishment in 1984, SEI's core purpose is to help others make measured improvements in their software engineering capabilities.

By putting into practice new software

engineering technologies offered by SEI the Army benefits in three ways: cost savings through reduced man hours; a reduction in development time and better quality or performance.

"Let's face it, if something takes 100 years to build, even if it's cheap, it's not useful," Craig said. "And you can't write perfect software the first time out but using their techniques to improve our capabilities will cut out a lot of errors from the beginning."

As part of this partnership, SEI has

established a satellite office at SED staffed by Scott Reed, who will not only interface between AMCOM and SEI but will assist in reaching out to contractors, small businesses, other government agencies in the area as well as academia.

"We've been chosen as the first technology transition partner," Craig said. "We've been users of these developing technologies and processes for 12 years. We believe in it and it has increased our capability level. Now, we can become teachers which will make us even better users of it. We all benefit when a contractor can come up with a better product. We're not having to pay for missed schedules and systems that don't work. We're trying to get all the parties involved to get a better product."

During the welcoming ceremony, Dr. Stephen Cross, director and CEO of SEI, thanked the work force at AMCOM for the mission they perform.

"It was the greatest compliment," he said, "to be described as your partners and colleagues. It's great to be a part of your team."

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, addressed the assembly, asking all the software engineers present to raise their hands. More than half the audience responded.

"The future belongs to you," he said. "Today our first question when something goes wrong is, 'Can we fix it with software?'" adding that future systems will be designed based on how they interact with the software, making hardware a secondary issue. "If you are a software engineer, the future is yours. We have just taken the first step to give it to you."

For more information about the Carnegie Mellon Software Engineering Institute, contact Scott Reed at 876-0703 or scott.reed@sed.redstone.army.mil.

Special license plates bear emblem of few and proud

Alabama Marines encouraged to help fund-raising effort

Alabama Marines could soon have a unique way to display the time honored Marine Corps emblem.

If a commitment is made to purchase 250 license plates, with a symbol of the globe and anchor, the state of Alabama will start producing them.

Alfred Orillion, local Marine Corps League detachment commandant, said the tags will cost an extra \$50 with \$41 of that going to a special fund that will help support various Marine Corps League programs. Those pro-

grams include funding for scholarships, youth activities and to lend a helping hand to fellow Marines in need.

Orillion, who leads the Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment in Huntsville, said Marines are a tight group and he believes his fellow servicemen and women will come through and make this effort worthwhile.

"We'll not only be helping some worthy programs, but we, as Marines, will be able to display one of the world's most recognized military symbols, something we're very proud to be a part of," he said.

Marines who are still on active duty, in the reserves or retired and received an honorable discharge are eligible to buy the tags.

Those who wish to purchase the special license plates are asked to bring proper identification, along with \$50, to their county courthouse and fill out an application form. If at least 250 Marines around the state do not apply by Nov. 1, the state of Alabama will return the money to those who did apply.

Orillion invites all area Marines to attend any of the monthly meetings at the Brandon-Wilbourn detachment. The group meets the second Tuesday of every month. Its next meeting is scheduled Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue.

For more information on the Marine license plates or the detachment, call Orillion at 539-5058.

Company commander takes animation to new levels

Delta Company leader pursues graphics hobby

By Spec. EVAN MORROW

Staff writer
evan.morrow@omcom.redstone.army.mil

The introduction of the personal computer changed how we interpreted the world. Computer literacy became almost as important as being able to read the written word. The expression and dissemination of concepts and ideas took on new dimensions. For Capt. Richard Langsmith, the possibilities for self-expression became endless.

He first started painting in 1978, and was especially drawn to wrap-around wall murals because they provide a continuous visual from every angle. He continued to pursue his artistic talent after joining the Army.

"In basic training at Fort Benning (Ga.), I did wall murals in the platoon day room, in the executive officer's office and the commander's office. The response was very positive," Langsmith said.

He attended airborne and air assault school and went to his first duty station at Fort Campbell, Ky., with the 3rd of the 502nd. He painted a combat mural of soldiers air assaulting out of helicopters when he was a specialist. He was then given orders to attend officer candidate school and was commissioned as an Ordnance officer.

His first move into computer graphics and animation came when he went to National Training Center support at Fort Irwin, Calif., as a second lieutenant.

"The commander wanted more graphics in the weekly and monthly briefs. He wanted entertaining slides and graphics that presented the information in an exciting fashion," Langsmith said. "We began by providing still photographs to accompany the briefings, but soon I started to



Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow

FINISHING TOUCHES— Capt. Richard Langsmith explains how he made a digitally generated mockup of a monument that will be placed outside of 832nd Ordnance Battalion headquarters.

lean toward animation. An animated mascot performing the task of that section appeared before that section's slides. These visual presentations became more and more advanced until we had animated numbers air assaulting out of animated helicopters."

These vignettes evolved into stand-alone movie presentations.

In two months of working with the program studio, Langsmith had advanced beyond simple clip art and moved on to animated audio-video clips.

Six generations later, the program has allowed its users to put even more realism into their graphic renderings.

"The old software did not allow for very much realism," Langsmith said. "The movements were very robotic and the graphic rendering was lacking. On the new versions, skin texturing is accurate, and you can see the tendons moving under the skin in an animation of a hand balling up into a fist.

"The new program also takes into account the laws of physics. In order to animate an explosion using the older software, the animator had to map out a path for each fragment to fly away from the center of the explosion. The new software automatically maps out a path for fragments based on the speed and composition of the objects involved."

Software like this and competent operators should be a valuable tool to the upcoming Objective Force. The use of hi-tech virtual reality computer simulators in the strategy room will allow command and battle staff to map out and explore possible courses of action in a timely fashion.

"It will allow a commander to insert himself into the scenario, and walk around on the battlefield observing the situation," Langsmith said.

This software is also valuable as a training aid. Tank crew members can simulate doing their respective jobs within the

vehicle, practice maneuvers, coordination with other tanks and engaging the enemy.

"Getting into the creative end of these animations and Virtual Reality software for the military has been a longtime goal of mine, but as an officer my job would tend to be more in a supervisory role," Langsmith said.

He uses his spare time and resources at home to pursue his creative ambition.

"I love art. I spend every waking free moment I have perfecting these animations at home. My kids have also gotten involved in more basic forms of computer animation, and it is a great way to spend time with them."

Langsmith is working on an animation titled "The Future of the Ordnance Corps Soldier." He spends about three hours a night on the animation, and hopes to have it done in about five months.

The animation features scenarios in which remote control robots replace and repair equipment in the field while the operator controls the robot from the safety of a bunker. Also featured in the scenario are robots controlled by explosive ordnance disposal teams that can use ground-penetrating radar to recover and disarm all types of ordnance.

Only the robot would be exposed to the dangers of unexploded ordnance and enemy fire.

"This would greatly reduce the human cost of ordnance operations," Langsmith said.

There is currently no official venue for Langsmith to display his animating talents in a military setting, so he maintains a web site at www.metlgrafix.com where anyone can see the variety of animations he has created.

He is working on a design for a Pentagon memorial and the placement of an ordnance monument outside battalion headquarters.

Environmentalists monitoring Harper's buckwheat

Plant

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average of 8 feet tall on Lehman's bluff, taller than on other sites which average 5-7 feet tall. Local limestone has more manganese than in some other places, and this could be a reason why they grow so well. The flower head is shaped like the spokes of an umbrella, hence the name "Harper's Umbrella Plant" which is also known as Harper's buckwheat.

The Directorate of Environmental Management has been monitoring the population of Harper's buckwheat for seven years now. Under DEM management of the site, the buckwheat is doing well, with more than 700 plants growing on and near the bluff. The flower stalks normally come up in August, but none appeared this year because of all the undergrowth overtaking them. They should do well next year thanks to the help of Chugach in cutting the undergrowth earlier this month while carefully protecting the plants.



Courtesy photo

RARE GROWTH— Harper's Umbrella Plant is found in only 11 small sites in the nation, including the bluffs below the Rustic Lodge.

59th shows high-voltage air game in preseason

Watts catches three long TD passes as 59th beats Bravo in tournament final

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

The defending flag football champion found itself in the losers' bracket of the preseason tournament. But that didn't matter in the end.

HHC 59th completed its resurgence by beating Bravo Company twice in the final Sept. 24 at the Patton Road field. The 59th won 14-6 and 24-20 to claim the preseason championship.

It marked a rematch from last year's postseason final. Bravo had won its first three preseason games while the 59th entered at 4-1 after avenging an earlier loss to Delta Company.

"It was a hard-fought game," 59th quarterback Jerry McIntyre said. "We hate to get in the losers' bracket early. But Delta Company put us there. Being the defending post champion we felt we had something to prove."

The 59th made its points – mostly through the air.

Laevrmonde Watts caught three touchdown passes from McIntyre on the night. The first strike covered 35 yards and opened the scoring at 14:13 in the first half of game one. They connected again from 37 yards out at 13 minutes in the first half of the second game and from 40 yards with 17 seconds left until intermission.

"Specialist Watts proved to be a big gun for us the last three games," McIntyre said.

Like McIntyre, Watts played for last year's championship team. He's a danger-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOOKING TO PASS— Bravo quarterback Orlando Moore (1) tries to elude the 59th's Laevrmonde Watts (4) during the preseason tournament final. The 59th beat the Bulldogs 14-6 and 24-20 for the championship.

ous wide receiver on offense and rusher on defense.

"The defense played pretty good," Watts said. "We contained the runner (Bravo's speedy Corey Chester). We did a good job containing him and we didn't allow a lot of long passes. And the offense was clicking pretty good."

That's for sure. After Watts' first touchdown, the 59th added the two-point conversion on McIntyre's pass to Lavon Green for an 8-0 halftime lead. McIntyre connected with Ronald Steele on a 10-yard scoring pass at 15:44 in the second half, making it 14-0.

Bravo closed within 14-6 with 2:45 left on quarterback Orlando Moore's 35-yard touchdown pass to Joseph Aiken. But that was the final score.

In game two, Moore's 8-yard touchdown run and two-point pass to Aiken gave the Bulldogs an 8-6 lead at 5:58 in the first half.

The 59th struck right back at 3:11 when Patrick Perry caught a 60-yard touchdown pass from McIntyre; and the 59th led 12-8.

The final minute of the half proved exciting. Bravo regained the lead on Moore's 10-yard scamper with 33 seconds

left.

But the 59th answered with McIntyre's strike to Watts before intermission for an 18-14 halftime advantage. The 59th started from the 40 in the second half and scored six plays later on McIntyre's 1-yard pass to guard Brett Holder.

Bravo finally answered with 54 seconds left when Aiken caught a 5-yard touchdown pass from Moore that ended the scoring.

"Experience over youth," McIntyre said of the difference in the final. "We just outsmarted them with our experience and that's the key to flag football."

Moore, Bravo's quarterback/coach, had similar sentiments. "We've got a lot of young kids that haven't played flag football. It's a learning process," he said. "Our young kids are still learning."

Moore pointed out that there's plenty of flag football left. "Luckily it's just the preseason and the preseason is for the teams to feel themselves out. And fortunately for us, it's for the officials to feel themselves out too," he said.

"It was a good ballgame. We just came up on the short end in the preseason. But it's the preseason. The Bulldogs aren't going anywhere, we're here to stay. We'll be back," Moore added.

The 59th is apparently already back. The only losses from last year's team were Robert Bullard and Benjamin Carter, who was the 59th's top receiver.

Watts, 25, from Pensacola, Fla., has stepped up as the deep threat. He played basketball for Jefferson Davis Community College in Brewton, Ala., in 1995-97, but surprisingly never played football in school.

"If we stick together and play hard, we'll be champions again," he said. "There's no question about it."

Florida Gators picked to swamp Mississippi

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

Skip's picks went 20-3 in the fourth week of the college football season, bringing the season totals to 95-25. Here are my predictions for selected games this week:

- Kansas at Baylor – **Baylor**
- Brigham Young at Utah State – **BYU**
- California at Washington – **Washington**
- Kansas State at Colorado – **Colorado**
- Houston at Texas Christian – **TCU**
- Illinois at Minnesota – **Minnesota**
- Purdue at Iowa – **Iowa**
- Louisiana-Lafayette at LSU – **LSU**
- Louisiana Tech at Rice – **Louisiana Tech**
- Louisville at Memphis – **Louisville**
- Mississippi State at South Carolina – **SC**
- Oklahoma at Missouri – **Oklahoma**
- Ohio State at Northwestern – **Ohio State**
- Stanford at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**
- Oklahoma State at Texas – **Texas**
- UCLA at Oregon State – **UCLA**
- Penn State at Wisconsin – **Penn State**
- San Jose State at SMU – **San Jose State**
- Southern Cal at Washington State – **USC**
- Texas Tech at Texas A&M – **Texas A&M**

Skip's picks



- Florida at Mississippi — **Florida**
- Georgia at Alabama – **Bama**
- Oregon at Arizona — **Oregon**
- Arkansas at Tennessee — **Tennessee**
- Southern at Alabama A&M — **Southern**
- Army at East Carolina – **East Carolina**
- Clemson at Florida State – **Florida State**
- Virginia at Duke – **Virginia**
- Wake Forest at Georgia Tech – **Ga. Tech**
- Maryland at West Virginia – **West Va.**
- North Carolina at Arizona State – **ASU**
- Connecticut at Miami – **Miami**
- Pittsburgh at Syracuse – **Syracuse**
- Navy at Air Force – **Air Force**

■ National Guard soldiers arrive for gate duty

Guard

continued from page 1

that shouldn't be here and it acts as a deterrent for people who might want to sneak things through.

"We have a significant mission at Redstone," he continued. "A lot of research and development and testing of future munitions and programs goes on here. We need to protect our resources and people living and working on the Arsenal. We service a population of about 107,000. Somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 vehicles pass through the gates everyday. It's important to have the National Guard here to augment security."

Leading Team Scorpion is Capt. Zachary VanDyke, a University of Alabama law student in civilian life, having served eight years active Army. He spent four years enlisted and four years as an officer with combat tours during the Panama Invasion and the Gulf War. Transforming from a floundering college student into an infantry soldier with the 82nd Airborne was "a kick in the head for a guy off the street," he said. "Very challenging."

Challenging is also the word he uses to describe his current mission as company commander, mostly due to the combination of soldiers put together for this mission.

"We have a broad spectrum of knowledge here — policemen, paramedics, nurses, teachers, bankers, school teachers, stock brokers — and a lot of different MOSs," VanDyke said. "We have mechanics and repairmen intermingled with tankers, combat arms soldiers, but because everyone is integrated, we can learn from each other, keep each other motivated."

Soldiers come from units including Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 131st Armor based in Centre; Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 31st combat support battalion out of Oxford; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1/131st Armor, Ozark; Detachment 2, HHC 1/131st Armor, Ashford; and Detachment 1, E troop, 31st Cavalry out of Calera.

Most of the soldiers are within four hours of their home unit and a few are from Huntsville. Chris Johnson is a contractor for Belzon Inc., and works as a data base administrator for the Program Executive Office for Aviation. His wife delivered their second child, a baby girl, right after he was deployed as a battalion staff officer.

Ages range from about 21-58 with

roughly 30 percent having been active duty including veterans from Vietnam, Panama and the Persian Gulf. Most are married.

Delaine is a single mother of two, Dakur, 8, and D'shae, 4, from the small town of York, about three hours from Huntsville. She was a production worker at a warehouse in Meridian, Miss., before volunteering. As an ammunition specialist, she did her advance individual training at Redstone but said it was so long ago she doesn't remember much about the post. She's just glad the deployment left her so close to home.

"When they first started showing parts of the war on TV my son said, 'If they call, you need to tell them you're sick and can't go.' But they're used to me being in the Guard. At first he thought my being away was the two weeks annual training. Now he's starting to understand that I'm going to be gone longer."

Through weekend visits and telephone calls, she manages to stay involved in their lives while Grandmother takes care of them. After a long shift on the gate, Delaine doesn't waste any time stowing her gear and getting PT out of the way.

"I have to get done in time to call my son and go over his spelling words with him," Delaine said. "I want to make sure he's not slacking off while I'm away."

On the other end of the spectrum, 1st Sgt. Larry Hanson is a married, full-time Guardsman, Desert Storm veteran with 29 years of service. He lives in Centre, about 90 miles from Huntsville.

"Things here are great," he said. "The soldiers' morale is high. Living accommodations are excellent. Food is fantastic." The only thing missing for Hanson is tank positioned near the side of the road at the gate, to fill the empty spot where a Bradley used to be.

"I've got no complaints," VanDyke said of the mission. "Everyone has gone out of their way to support us, especially Bill Clark. He's in charge of billets and ranges. He's gone out of his way to help us out."

Perhaps the oddest experience for VanDyke so far was watching a Marine Corps officer with his fingers stuck in his ears walking around saying, "I'm not listening. I'm not listening," as the guards checked his vehicle.

"He was coming on post as a visitor," VanDyke said. "He didn't understand why he had to be checked. Our mission is to provide the security Redstone Arsenal needs, deserves and will have. It doesn't matter who you are. If you come through the gate, we're going to check."

■ Engineers affected by reorganization

Command

continued from page 1

to speed the move of technology to soldiers in the field.

"AMCOM will continue to be a user of the RDEC to perform those sustainment missions we currently have," Dodgen said.

Engineers in the filled 400-seat auditorium expressed their concerns about the potential impact of this reorganization which is part of the Army's transformation efforts.

"For 40 years now when control moves from Huntsville to Washington, we lose a little bit more of the fun from working here and seeing some of our handiwork go to the field with green paint on it where it makes a real difference," engineer John Carter said. "And that is transition."

Drive a hard bargain when shopping for used car

Consumers advised
to do homework first

By Capt. WILLIAM CARPENTER
Chief of Legal Assistance

Smart consumers can gain information to significantly minimize the risks of purchasing a used car. You can find out if a car is overpriced, has a history of high repair costs or recalls, has undisclosed problems, involves odometer fraud, or is actually a wreck in disguise.

Although many of the factors that you should consider in purchasing a used car are the same for new cars, buying a used car should involve additional research considerations. There is a wealth of information available in print and online to help you do this. Remember, "Knowledge is power," and you should not be impulsive when buying a car, because it pays to do your homework.

To determine who is offering the "best deal" on a vehicle's price, consult publications such as the monthly National Association of Automotive Dealers Official Used Car Guide www.nadaguides.org, the monthly Kelley Blue Book www.kbb.com, or Edmund's "Used True Market Value Pricing" www.edmunds.com. Your bank, insurance agent, local library and bookstores should also have a copy of such publications. If you pay too much for a used car, you may be disappointed when you seek to sell or trade it at a later date.

If you will be financing a used car purchase, the interest rate will vary with the economy and your credit rating score. Generally, financing a used car purchase involves a higher interest rate and a shorter financing term (i.e. 36 months or less instead of 60 months) than financing a new car. If you plan to finance a vehicle purchase, make sure that you understand the amount financed, the annual percentage rate, the number and amount of the payments, and the total price of the vehicle with down payments, any trade-in allowances, and the costs of the credit. It is also a good idea to shop around for loan terms with banks, credit unions, or other financial institutions. A small difference in the interest rate can save you a lot of

money over the life of the loan.

If you finance a used car at a high interest rate and you later decide to sell or trade the car, your car may be worth less than the loan payoff amount. This is commonly referred to as being "upside down." If you sell when you are "upside down," you may not be able to get enough money to pay off your loan. If you trade a vehicle when you are "upside down," the difference between your trade-in allowance and the payoff of the loan will be added to the price of the next car purchase.

Caution: A low monthly payment does not necessarily reflect a good deal! Sellers may urge you not to worry about the costs of the vehicle by promising a low monthly payment. However, there may be a large final payment ("balloon payment") due at the end of the financing term.

The reliability of various vehicle models and their recall history can be researched with several resources. Consumers can learn about safety related recalls by contacting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at 1-800-424-9393 or www.nhtsa.dot.gov. Consumer Reports, Consumer Guide Used Car Reviews, and other resources are available that have detailed reports on records of maintenance, reliability and comparison of various vehicles. Detailed vehicle history reports can be obtained from resources such as Carfax Inc., <http://www.carfax.com>. This company maintains a nationwide database using vehicle identification numbers, and it offers such services as: "Lemon Check," "Record Check," "Recall Check," "Problem Car Check" and "Stolen Car Check."

Some businesses are rebuilding wrecks that were total losses and later reselling them without revealing their history. Alabama requires that such a car receive a "salvage title," which means the title on such vehicles must contain a legend indicating that the vehicle has been rebuilt. Consumer Reports' web site, <http://www.consumerreports.org>, includes a special report titled "Wrecks in Disguise," which discusses a "shadow industry" that annually rebuilds as many 400,000 rebuilt wrecks that are five or less model years old.

Even if your research indicates that a particular model has few defects and a reli-

able maintenance record, it is very important to thoroughly inspect the actual used vehicle yourself. There are many helpful used vehicle checklists that are available for your reference online or in print. For example, the Better Business Bureau has an "On-the-Lot Checklist" and a "Road Test Checklist" that are available at <http://www.bbb.org/library/carused.asp>, and Consumer Reports has a helpful article "Inspecting a Used Car" at <http://autos.yahoo.com/consumerreports/insect.html>. Make sure that you inspect the vehicle in good lighting. Furthermore, it is also important to have a trusted mechanic inspect the vehicle thoroughly. If the seller does not want you to get an inspection by a mechanic of your choice, consider this a "red flag." The seller may be trying to conceal mechanical problems or other defects with the vehicle.

Before purchasing a vehicle from a car dealer, do your homework by checking out the dealership. You can contact the local Better Business Bureau (contact the North Alabama BBB at 533-1640 or <http://www.northalabama.bbb.org>), the state Attorney General's Consumer Protection Office (in Alabama contact 1-800-392-5658 or <http://www.ago.state.al.us/consumer.cfm>), and the Federal Trade Commission (contact 1-877-382-4357 or <http://www.ftc.gov>) to see if there are unresolved consumer complaints against a dealer. Under federal law, the FTC Used Car Rule requires car dealers to place a "Buyer's Guide" sticker in the window of each used vehicle they offer for sale. The FTC's Buyer Guide requires disclosure of certain information, including

whether the vehicle is being sold "as is" or with a warranty and what percentage of the repair costs a dealer will pay under a warranty. You should keep the original FTC Buyer's Guide. Under federal law, the FTC Buyer's Guide becomes part of the sales contract and overrides any contrary provisions. Consequently, if the buyer's guide says a warranty is included, but the contract states that the vehicle is sold "as is" with no warranty, the dealer must honor the warranty provisions listed in the buyer's guide.

When buying a used car from an individual, the vehicle will be considered to be sold "as is" with no warranties, unless a contract specifically says otherwise. Some people mistakenly believe that they can get out of the contract using the "Lemon Law." The Alabama "Lemon Law," however, does not apply to used vehicles. Others mistakenly believe that they have a three-day right to cancel the sale. There is no such right, unless the seller specifically agrees to such a provision in the contract.

Before signing a contract on a used car, make sure you understand all of the terms. Do not rely on a seller's explanation of the contract terms. Military ID card holders can have the sales contract reviewed and explained by a legal assistance attorney.

A used car purchase can be a great deal and a smart financial decision. Just remember to do your homework and to understand the entire sales contract before you sign. The Legal Assistance Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you need assistance, please call 876-9005 for an appointment.



Sports & Recreation

Walkathon

"America's Walk for Diabetes" is Oct. 19 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus. Walk teams are needed. For more information, call the Huntsville ADA 539-4404.

Pineapple open

The eighth annual Pineapple Open fundraising golf tournament, presented by the Officer and Civilian Women's Club, will be held Friday at 8:15 a.m. at Redstone Golf Course. The rain date is Oct. 11. Entry fee is \$60 for individual players, \$45 for RSA members and \$10 for lunch only. For more information, call Christine Hackett 313-7626.

Basketball salute

The Association of the U.S. Army will present "Salute to Military Night" with the Huntsville Flight vs. Asheville Altitude basketball game Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Tickets are \$5 per person. For more information, call Lawrence 429-1008.

In-line hockey

Child and Youth Services In-Line Hockey registration is open through Oct. 24 to Redstone and Madison County youth ages 6-17. Cost is \$50 plus \$25 USA Hockey membership fee (plus \$15 Child and Youth Services Central Registration fee if not already registered) for youth whose parents/guardians are military, retired military, DoD or Army civilians, RSA contractor, or NASA employees. For all others, cost is \$100 plus \$25 USA Hockey membership fee. Redstone-affiliated youth will sign up at Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Call 876-3704 or 313-3699. All other youths should sign up at S&V Sports, 3190 Leeman Ferry Road, Huntsville; phone 883-9917. A copy of a current sports physical must accompany hockey registration.

Volleyball league

The Civilian Welfare Fund Volleyball League is forming. Interested teams should call Felix Milar 313-1200 or 830-4042.

Basketball clinics

A basketball clinic for athletes in grades 5-9 will be held at Randolph School Gym every Sunday in October from 3:30-5 p.m. The cost is \$55 and includes a free T-shirt. A basketball coaches clinic will be held at Dublin Park Gymnasium Oct 12 from 2-3:30 p.m.; cost is \$35. "Skillz n' Drillz Clinic" will be held at Dublin Park

Gymnasium for athletes in grades 5-9, Oct. 12 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.; cost is \$40 and includes a free T-shirt. A basketball coaches clinic will be held at Optimist Recreation Center Gymnasium Oct. 19 from 9-noon; cost is \$45 pre-registration/\$55 day of clinic. Information about a year-round basketball clinic for athletes ages 6 to 16 can be found at the following web site: www.playsmartt.com. For more information, call (256) 325-PLAY.



Conferences & Meetings

Alcoholics anonymous

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

Federal Bar luncheon

The North Alabama chapter of the Federal Bar Association will have a luncheon Oct. 17 - note date change - at the Officers and Civilians Club on Redstone. Michael Durant, the pilot who was taken captive in Somalia in 1993 after his Black Hawk helicopter was shot down, is the scheduled guest speaker. The social will begin at 11:15 a.m. and the prime rib lunch will be served at 11:30. Cost is \$11.75. For those who do not have a Redstone decal on your vehicle for access onto the post, be sure to bring a photo ID, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Reservations are due by Oct. 15 via e-mail: cindy.vanrassen@smde.army.mil or by phone at 955-5717.

Airborne association

The Vulcan Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association meets on the third Saturday of each month. Membership in the association is open to anyone who is airborne qualified, as well as anyone who has served in a unit assigned or attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. For more information, call Barry Simpson 533-3000 or Dennis Camp 883-7488.

Unaccompanied spouses

Come out and share an evening with other waiting spouses - make new friends, share ideas, and have a great time. Waiting Spouses is a group of ladies who are geographically separated from their husbands. They get together one night a month to participate in various social activities. Their next get together will be Thursday for Dinner Out/The Army Soldier Show. Tickets are free, and child care will be provided. For more information call Kristi Foster or Tracy Silvia, Army Community Service, 876-5397.

Enlisted spouses

The Enlisted Spouses Club will meet Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Challenger Community Activity Center. The meeting is open to all spouses of active duty or retired enlisted. New members are always welcome. For more information, call club president Crystal Taylor 864-3126 or vice president Sue Furia 895-6037.

Toastmasters

Mason Dixon Toastmasters meets on the second and fourth Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Eleanor D. Murphy Public Library, 7910 Charlotte Drive. The next meeting is Oct. 8. For more information, call Nancy Badgley 883-7563.

Resource managers

American Society of Military Comptrollers will have its monthly luncheon Oct. 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church on Airport Road. Kathy Wells from the Crisis Center of North Alabama is to speak on "Crisis Services." If you would like to attend and do not have an ASMC contact in your office, call Virginia Moore 955-6262 (ext. 165) for tickets by 4 p.m. Thursday. To join the ASMC, call Moore or Don Clinger 955-7588.

Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold its regular monthly membership meeting Oct. 15 at 5 p.m. at building 3202 (union office). All employees are invited to attend. For more information, call 876-4880 or 881-7430.

Community town hall

The Redstone Garrison will hold a Community Town Hall Meeting, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Recreation Center, building 3711 (Aerobee and Patton Roads). All residents, retirees and employees are invited to attend. Community town hall meetings are intended to provide information and feedback on community developments. Members of the Team Redstone staff will be on hand to answer questions or concerns from the community. For more information, call Ivy Downs 876-3376.



Miscellaneous

Soldier payments

The deadline for the \$2,700 payment for VEAP to MGIB convertees is rapidly approaching. The responsibility falls on the individual to check and ensure that they have paid the full \$2,700 within the statutorily required deadline (18 months from the date entered on their DD Form 2366). Meeting this deadline is critical. Soldiers have no education benefits to uti-

lize until the required \$2,700 is paid in full. Furthermore, soldiers who fail to pay the \$2,700 in full by the deadline will forfeit all contributions made to that point and will not be eligible for any MGIB benefits, according to the Education Center. Many soldiers have had problems with their local finance offices erroneously stopping the reduction in pay when it reaches \$600 or \$1,200. Finance has erroneously refunded some payments to soldiers. DFAS will send out a message to finance offices for corrective action. Soldiers, however, are ultimately responsible for initiating action to discover and correct any finance mistakes. Soldiers may have to make lump sum payments to ensure the full \$2,700 is paid within the required 18 months. For more information, call the Education Center 876-9761.

Tuition assistance policy

Beginning Oct. 1, Department of Army will pay the full amount of tuition and fees for college or training courses provided by an approved institution when the cost does not exceed \$250 per semester hour. The \$250 ceiling includes lab fees, computer fees, and security facility fees where required. When an institution's charges exceed \$250 per semester hour, the Army will pay \$250 per semester hour, and the soldier is required to pay the remaining costs. The new policy increases the annual TA amount from \$3,500 to \$4,500 per fiscal year per soldier. The student is still responsible for maintaining a passing grade; and any failure, withdrawal or incomplete must be resolved before additional TA is provided. For more information, call the Education Center 876-9761.

Instructors luncheon

The Instructor of the Year luncheon is Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. The cost is \$7 per ticket. For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Battle 842-9767.

Butler High reunion

The Butler High Class of 1972 is planning its 30-year reunion for Friday and Saturday, and seeks current information about former classmates. Former '72 classmates, other interested alumni and faculty, past and present, are invited to participate in this milestone event. For more information, call Sharon Wise Pendrey 880-1969 or Greg Welch 881-4001.

St. Barbara dinner

The Redstone Arsenal/Huntsville chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association is sponsoring its annual St. Barbara Dinner Dance saluting the Air Defense Artillery branch Oct. 26 at the Officers and

See Announcements on page 17

Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Lt. Gen. Dennis Gavin, commander of the Assessments Command and deputy commander for initial entry training for the Training and Doctrine Command. For more information, contact the chapter secretary at the following e-mail address: mhowell@colsa.com.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday from 9-5. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9-12:30. The shop has appointments Wednesday and Thursday 12:30-3. Donations are accepted. The shop is now a collection site for New Futures, so please bring your cell phones that are in working order (Audiovox, Ericsson, Kyocera 3035, Motorola and Nokia) and all your inkjet, fax, printer, copier, and laser jet cartridges. The shop will be open this Saturday for sales from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 881-6992.

Army family team building

Army Family Team Building instructor training is scheduled Oct. 21-24 from 6-9 p.m. at Army Community Service. No teaching background is required, just a genuine desire to help Army families succeed. Call 876-5397 to enroll.

Call for volunteers

The National Contract Management Association's community service committee seeks volunteers for the following events: Pancake Breakfast to benefit Meals on Wheels, Oct. 12, from 7:30 a.m. to noon (shift times will be announced later), at the Senior Center; call Patricia Vail 824-2659 or Tzyet Bailey 430-5560. Diabetes Walk, Oct. 19 at 8 a.m. at University of Alabama in Huntsville; call Bailey. Special Olympics, Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Milton Frank Stadium; call Vail. NCMA members, their families and co-workers are invited to participate in all activities.

Logistics achievement awards

The Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Awards will be presented at a luncheon/ceremony Oct. 29 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Here are the nominees for this year's awards: Management/Executive Category — Billy Ray Cary of CCAD (Program Management Branch), Willis Epps of Acquisition Center (logistics support director), Mary Frisk Marcucci of IMMC (Attack Directorate), John W. Yurko of IMMC (Lower Tier Project Office); Professional/Technical Category — Thomas A. Bennett of IMMC (Cargo Directorate), Sandra Denton of IMMC (Scout Observation Directorate),

Jerry W. Hill of IMMC (PM TOC/ADCCS), John Jensen of IMMC (Scout Observation Directorate), Michael R. Johnson of IMMC (Readiness Directorate), Charles R. Roberts of IMMC (General Missile Directorate), Todd Rodowick of IMMC (Maintenance Directorate) and Cynthia Ysasi of IMMC (associate director for aviation staff). Tickets are now on sale for the luncheon at \$12.50 each. For more information, call Faye Yates of Integrated Materiel Management Center 876-1757.

Army health center hours

Fox Army Health Center announces holiday hours for Oct. 11 and Oct. 14 for Columbus Day. The Primary Care Extended Hours Clinic will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days for scheduled appointments. The Pharmacy will be open regular hours Oct. 11 and closed Oct. 14. All other clinics will be closed both days. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day, year-round, at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments for the Primary Care Clinic.

Family housing yard sale

The Family Housing Yard Sale is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. "This is a great opportunity to dispose of those things you no longer need and provides others the prospect of finding treasures," a prepared release said. "Good selling and shopping to all!"

Nashville bus trip

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council will be sponsoring a bus trip Dec. 7 to Nashville for the New York City Rockette's Christmas Show and the Ice Sculpture Show. The bus will depart at 9:30 that morning from the Kroger parking lot on Drake Avenue and will return at approximately 10 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$70 per person, which is non-refundable. The Ice Sculpture Show is at 2 p.m. with the NYC Rockette's show at 3:30. There will be time to shop at Oprymills. There will be morning juice and muffins available on the bus. Seats are limited so make your reservations early. For reservations call Randy Bigler 955-0505.

Found property

A Nokia cellular telephone with a green faceplate was found Sept. 20 on Cooke Drive, Redstone Arsenal. The owner can call Investigator Dale Markin 876-3449/2090 to claim this property.

Spot bid sale

The Disposal Operations at Marshall Space Flight Center will conduct a Drop by Spot Bid Sale, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Intergraph Building 21, 470 Dun-

lop Blvd., Huntsville. For more information, call the sales hotline 544-4667 or Greg Tate 544-1774.

Preschool crafts

Child and Youth Services will present a class for parents of children ages 3-5, "Crafts and Projects for the Preschooler," Oct. 12 from 10-11 a.m. at the June M. Hughes Arts and Crafts Center, building 3615 at the corner of Vincent Drive and Gray Road. Parent participation points are given with attendance. This class is free and it's open to the entire Redstone community to include contractors. For registration or more information, call 876-2798.

Babysitting class

Child and Youth Services will hold a free Teen Babysitting Class for youth ages 11 and up Oct. 8-9 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Challenger Community Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. The class will cover safety issues, diapering a child, feeding a child, play activities, first aid skills, and emergency procedures. Participants should bring a sack lunch both days. Please call in advance to reserve a space. Call Carolyn 313-3609 for details or registration.

Catholic pilgrimage

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic community at Bicentennial Chapel is planning a

pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Lourdes, France for the annual International Military Pilgrimage. The patrons will be in France May 14-23. Many sightseeing trips are included in this pilgrimage, to include a day trip to Utah and Omaha Beaches, visit to the American Cemetery, and two days in Paris. The price of this pilgrimage is approximately \$1,677 per person based on double occupancy leaving from Huntsville and \$1,560 per person based on double occupancy leaving from Atlanta. Cost includes roundtrip coach air fare, transfers, tours, two meals per day, 4-star hotels and taxes. For more information, call Donna Ragucci 461-9415.

Spraying for mosquitoes

The Garrison has announced that "test fogging" will be starting at selected events. Notification will be announced in the *Redstone Rocket* as well as the bulletin board.

Parenting class

A four-session parenting class for parents with children ages 6-12 will be held from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 15, 17, 22 and 24 at Child-Wise, 1413 Nike. The class and materials are free to active duty and retired military, DoD civilians and contractors. For more information, call Virginia Dempsey of Army Community Service 876-5397.



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Worker remembered for her creativity, service to soldiers

Diane Campbell died Sept. 25 after suffering a heart attack

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@hntimer.com

Diane Campbell was articulate as well as artsy, according to her supervisor and co-workers at the Recreation Center. She liked to paint, and was always willing to try something new, listen to another's opinion and recognize the abilities of the people around her.

Campbell suffered a heart attack and died while at work in her office on the morning of Sept. 25. She is survived by husband, Scott; one sister, Roma Perry, of Decatur; and a niece and nephew. She was 51.

"She was an arts and crafts person," said Campbell's supervisor, Mike Chem-sak, chief of Recreation and Family Support Division. "That's where she started here on the Arsenal in 1976. Her primary area was teaching photography until 1985 when she moved over to the Rec Center." She became the center director in 1987. "This was a shock to all of us. As far we

know, she didn't have any health problems."

Campbell grew up around the world as the daughter of a career military father but when it came time to settle, the family chose Huntsville. It is the place she called home.

"She was a good friend to all of us," Joe Ruffner, recreation specialist, said. Ruffner described Campbell as intelligent and dedicated to providing services to the soldiers. "She had a very strong opinion about that, probably because she grew up in the military.

"She was a super person to work with," he said. "She could make a suggestion to you without offending you. She was sensitive and let you exercise your abilities. She made it a nice place for people to work."

Campbell spent the summer working on the "Healing Arts Project," a 21 by 11-foot American flag, created from 10-inch squares decorated by the children, adults and soldiers of Redstone. It was completed just in time to commemorate the first anniversary of Sept. 11. The flag will be permanently displayed in the gym at the Youth Center.



Photo by Adrian Baker

SERVING SOLDIERS— Diane Campbell died Sept. 25 after suffering a heart attack at work. She is pictured here selling concert tickets to Col. Bob Devlin, garrison commander, and his wife, Jennifer, last month. She was the director of the Recreation Center and had worked at Redstone for 26 years.

Contract awarded for Kwajalein site

The Space and Missile Defense Command has awarded a \$626 million, four-year contract with the potential for 15 years valued at \$2.5 billion, to Kwajalein Range Services for logistics support and integrated range engineering support services at Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site.

Located in the Republic of Marshall

Islands, the Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site is designed primarily for ballistic missile defense testing and space surveillance operations. The Space and Missile Defense Command is the Army's proponent for space and missile defense and is responsible for the operation of the Reagan Test Site and other facilities located at Kwajalein Atoll.