

Redstone Rocket

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Bowling center has outgrown frame

Construction under way for new 32-lane facility

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The old bowling center just isn't what it used to be.

And that's why the 35-year-old facility is being replaced by a new, larger bowling center. Redstone has simply outgrown the old one.

"It's too small. It can't accommodate like it once did," John Howard, business manager at the bowling center, said. The 16-lane facility opened in 1968. Howard has worked there since 1975 and became business manager in 1991.

Revenue at Redstone Lanes has grown from \$60,000 a year to more than \$480,000 last year.

Enter the new facility, being built with non-appropriated funds. A ground-breaking ceremony for the 32-lane, \$6.4 million bowling center was held May 28 near Patton and Honest John roads, just west of the existing facility.

"It's just great. We'll be able to provide so many more services for the patrons," Howard said.

A contract for construction was awarded to Caddell Construction Company with expected completion in October 2004. With more than 30,000 square feet the facility will include a modern control center, support space, business office space, and party/meeting rooms. It will feature the Strike Zone Restaurant, a sports bar and an arcade. Billiards and karaoke will also be offered in the sports bar area.

"It's family entertainment," Dan Hill, director of military sales for AMF (Always Means Fun) Bowling Products Inc., said.

"We want everybody, all ages, to participate."

AMF, based in Richmond, Va., will install the bowling equipment which includes 32 lanes, automatic pin spotters, automatic scoring and automatic bumpers. "The most modern equipment in the world today," said Hill, a retired lieutenant colonel.

"It's going to be a great facility," Darrell Brewer, deputy to the garrison commander, said. "We're really looking forward to it."

The only certainty about the old center is that it will close when the new one opens. "I'm quite sure it's going to be used for something but nothing's definite yet," Howard said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SETTING UP— Dan Hill, left, of AMF Bowling Products Inc., and Darrell Brewer, deputy to the garrison commander, set up bowling pins at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new bowling center.

See **Bowling** on page 11

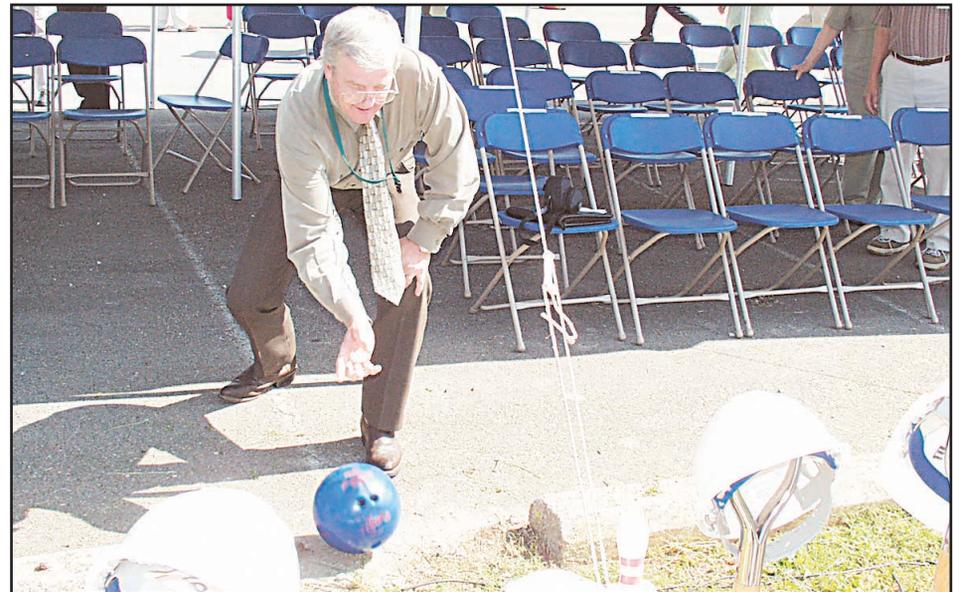


Photo by Skip Vaughn

ON ROLL— Darrell Brewer, deputy to the garrison commander, knocks down the ceremonial pins after the ground-breaking.

Army research lab part of search for SARS cure

Scientists at Fort Detrick, Md., probing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

By SFC DOUG SAMPLE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The military has joined a worldwide effort to find a cure for the sometimes deadly SARS virus.

At the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a small team of scientists at the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Md., has trained its microscopes on severe acute respiratory syndrome.

"This (research) does in fact fit into our overall mission in that although we have not had an outbreak in the military yet, if we

were operating in an area where the SARS virus was in fact transmitting, this would be a significant military problem," John Huggins, an expert in viral research and chief of the laboratory's viral therapeutics branch, said. His major concentration has been on screening drugs against viral agents, including Ebola, Marburg, smallpox and now SARS.

Scientists at the Army institute normally work to develop strategies for protecting military personnel against biological warfare threats and naturally occurring infectious diseases.

'I am optimistic that we will ultimately find something for this particular virus.'

— John Huggins

Fort Detrick medical institute

See **Research** on page 11

Letters to the editor

Colonels active in community

Diversity is our strength. Our Redstone community includes roughly 142,000 members from more than 60 major organizations. It includes almost 100,000 retirees and family members, 13,000 Department of the Army civilians, 26,000 contractors (on and off the Arsenal), and 4,000 soldiers and family members. Our community organizations range from international organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medium Extended Air Defense Management Agency, to federal organizations like NASA and the FBI, to Department of Defense organizations like the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Joint Program Office for Ground-based Midcourse Defense, to a wide variety of Army organizations from the Department of the Army staff, the Army Materiel Command, and the Training and Doctrine Command. Our community is also a significant Research and Development center (Cummings Research Park is the second largest in the nation) and we are a significant employer in North Alabama – including MSFC we put about \$4 billion into the local economy – about 10 times as much as the next three largest employers combined.

To ensure that we keep a pulse of the needs and good ideas that come from our community members and organizations, we have a number of committees that work with the community. (And we strongly encourage each of you to exercise

your vote on how this community is run by participating in your community activities and these committees.) They range from the Family and Community Team bimonthly meeting, to the monthly Mayor's Meeting (our version of a city council), to the quarterly Hunting and Fishing Advisory Board and organizational boards such as the Real Property Planning Board. (A more comprehensive list is on the Garrison web site in Policy 215-5.)

Some of these groups are formally established, and some are informal. In particular, I will focus on the Eagles Group. We encourage all groups with like interests to keep their bond an active part of the community. We have a very active group of retired colonels that meets for breakfast quarterly. (There are approximately 350 retired colonels in the local area.) Paralleling that tradition, we have a tradition of a small group of colonels (Eagles) meeting once a month for lunch. Over the past six months, we have expanded that to include invitations to all of the 68 active duty colonels on post.

The group normally meets at the Officers and Civilians Club, but has focused lunches that are hosted at specific organizations. For more information on this group, please call Wendy Mitchell at 876-8861.

Col. Bob Devlin
Garrison commander



Photo by Kelley Lane

Tireless effort

Members of the Marine Corps Detachment clean up during their benefit car wash Friday. From left are Lance Cpl. Matthew Howsen, Pvt. Bryan Grimm and Pvt. Max Hernandez with the hose.

An open lane random survey

Should women be allowed to play on PGA golf tour?

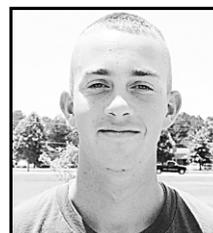
By KELLEY LANE
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net



Christine Brown, retired military
"Yes, the women should play. They deserve to. Why should they not play?"

PFC Bryan Rose

"If women can serve in this fine country's Army, Navy and Marines then they should be able to do anything that men do."



PFC Devon Doxey
"Yes, they can do everything a man can do."



Pvt. Laura Ortiz
"I'm all for it. If I can be in the Marine Corps, then I'm sure someone else can swing a golf club."

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

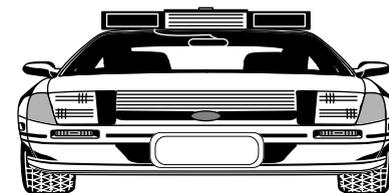
May 16 — Two individuals were charged with the Use of Counterfeit Instruments, Manufacturing Counterfeit Instruments, Possession of Counterfeit Instruments, and Conspiracy after discrepancies were found in training certificates which they had submitted. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

May 17 — A cab driver was charged with Possession of Controlled Substances when the vehicle he was operating was stopped at Gate 10. An inspection of the vehicle revealed a small amount of cocaine the subject had in a bag located on the front seat. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

May 18 — An individual was cited into Magistrate Court after a concerned government employee alerted the Provost Marshal Office that the subject operated his vehicle on post while his driver's license was suspended. The individual was observed operating a motor vehicle on post when he was stopped.

May 19 — A soldier was charged with Harassing Communications when it was learned that the soldier had made several harassing telephone calls to an employee's workplace. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

May 20 — An individual was stopped at Gate 8 and found to be operating his



vehicle under the influence of alcohol. The subject was cited and then detained until such time as his blood alcohol level reached the legal limit.

May 20 — An individual was stopped at Gate 10 and found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana and cocaine. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

May 22 — An individual was cited into Magistrate Court after he was observed operating his vehicle at Gate 10 with a suspended drivers license.

May 22 — A government employee reported that unknown persons by unknown means damaged his personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended in the Sparkman Center. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 18; possession of controlled substances, 2; improper parking, 2; failure to obey traffic control devices, 3; failure to use seatbelt, 32; failure to judge clearance, 1; driving with a suspended drivers license, 2; expired drivers license, 1; no drivers license, 1; inattentive driving, 1; and trespassing, 1.

Redstone Rocket

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CENTCOM's Gen. Franks plans to retire this summer

Midland, Texas native led coalition actions

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON— "Gen. (Tommy) Franks has advised me of his desire to step down as the commander of the U.S. Central Command in the weeks immediately ahead and his intention to retire from active duty later this summer."

With these words in a written statement, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced that the architect of the stunning victory in Operation Iraqi Freedom would leave his position and the Army.

"He has served our country with great distinction," Rumsfeld said. "I consider myself privileged to have worked so closely with him over these many months."

His request for retirement must still be approved, DoD officials said.

Franks, 57, has been CENTCOM commander since June 2000. The command has responsibility for much of Central Asia, the Middle East and portions of Africa. The general has commanded the coalition actions in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

Franks, from Midland, Texas, was

commissioned a second lieutenant in 1967 via Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, Fort Sill, Okla. He served with the 9th Infantry Division, Republic of Vietnam, as a forward observer for the 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery.

His other combat assignment was as assistant division commander (maneuver), 1st Cavalry Division during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-91.

In 1969, he was selected to participate in the Army's Boot Strap Degree Completion Program, and subsequently attended the University of Texas at Arlington, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1971.

Franks served in numerous posts in Germany, Korea, Oklahoma, Texas and the Washington, D.C., area.

His awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished Service Medal (two awards); Legion of Merit (four awards); Bronze Star Medal with "V" (three awards); Purple Heart (three awards); Air Medal with "V"; Army Commendation Medal with "V"; and a number of U.S. and foreign service awards. He wears the Army General Staff Identification Badge and the Aircraft Crewmember's Badge.



DoD photo by R.D. Ward

PRESSING ISSUE— Gen. Tommy Franks answers a reporter's question about the progress coalition forces are making in Iraq during a Pentagon press briefing with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on May 9.

Digital technology transforms Army logistics system

Pre-positioned equipment helped win war in Iraq

By Spec. BILL PUTNAM
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Time and digital technology helped win Operation Iraqi Freedom, even if huge gambles were taken with extended supply lines, said Army generals in charge of logistics at a video teleconference May 19.

Limited port availability

The buildup to both wars in the Persian Gulf took about six months but there were big differences in getting soldiers to the front line, said Brig. Gen. Vincent Boles from Baghdad.

There was virtually no equipment pre-positioned in the Persian Gulf area before Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and moving that equipment there was critical, said Boles, the commander of Army Material Command's Logistics Support Element in Iraq.

Port size and the numbers of ports were probably one of the biggest differences between Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Brig. Gen. Jack Stulz, the deputy commander of the 377th Transportation Support Command.

Kuwait has just one port dedicated to commercial shipping and that limited the number of ships that could be in port.

There are three big ports in Saudi Arabia and that allowed a larger amount of ships to off-load at the same time during Desert Storm.

Pre-positioned supplies

The "key" for OIF was the Army Pre-positioned Stocks of vehicles, ammunition and supplies that floated or sat in warehouses before the war, Stulz said.

Those supplies and vehicles were enough to field five brigade-sized units.

Distances in the two wars were very similar but their approach to the building up for those eventual wars was vastly different, Stulz said.

In Saudi Arabia the distance from the port to the frontline was about 600 kilometers while that distance in Kuwait was

only about 75 kilometers, Stulz said.

But the distances those supplies had to travel from Kuwait into Iraq extended to about 600 kilometers.

During Operation Desert Storm the Army tried to build mountains of supplies, about 60 days worth.

For Operation Iraqi Freedom there were only about five to seven days of supplies on hand.

"We didn't build mountains, we moved it and smoothed it out much like you do in civilian business," Stulz, an activated Army reservist, said of the buildup to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Digital technology aids effort

The advent of digital technology also helped track what supplies were on a ship, where on that particular ship they were and where the ship was, Boles said.

During Desert Storm, the Army could track what was on the ships bound for Saudi Arabia, but not where a certain container of spare parts was because that technology simply wasn't around then, he said.

But it was new technology in OIF — that proved the transformation idea — that also helped track where supply convoys were on the ground in Iraq, Brig. Gen. Jerome Johnson said.

The new Blue Force Tracking system that uses Global Positioning Systems proved instrumental to finding out where supplies were, said Johnson the director for plans, operations and logistics readiness for the Army's G-4.

Often times a unit from the 3rd Infantry Division might report a particular location and be gone before a supply convoy could arrive. Commanders could track the movement of that unit and direct the supplies to that new place.

While the tracking system isn't on every vehicle in the Army, the war proved that the system does work and funding to put on every vehicle is being worked out, Johnson said.

What went exceedingly well was the joint effort between the branches of the U.S., Stulz said.

"We took combined equipment to war as one team, in one fight," he said.

Radar operators recall fire fight against Iraqi forces

Multiple launch rocket units rely on target acquisition

By **TIMOTHY L. RIDER**
Army Materiel Command

BAGHDAD — Firefinder Radar operators from Alpha Battery (Target Acquisition), 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System) normally operate well to the rear of frontline units, but one crew woke up to a new normal, March 22, in southern Iraq.

Operations had been under way only two days that early morning during the peaceful duties of waking, personal hygiene and readying for a Third Infantry Division convoy to start rolling once again — which it quickly did. A rally of enemy mortar fire suddenly exploded.

"We did a survivability jump. We all took off! We were driving for everything its worth," said Senior Radar Operator, Sgt Nathaniel Evans. "That was our wake up call."

That day they had pushed forward until they became part of the front. "They would stop us because we had no protection in front of us," said Evans of 2nd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment and 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, among the frontline infantry and cavalry troops that led the northward push to Baghdad.

"We were receiving small arms fire, so we had to let the Infantry catch up and engage because they were still caught up in battles behind us," Evans said. "We called ourselves radar infantry after that. We were radar recon."

The accordion-like process of filtering into the front was repeated, according to Section Chief, SSgt. Mike Jensen who frequently saw Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and Abrahams tanks moving by to engage troops in front of them.

"They would just pass by with a quickness and do what they did," said Jensen, who mentioned that very shortly thereafter, the convoy would start up again.

After the convoy reached southwest Karbala, March 24, the radar operators set up and returned the favor to the cavalry and infantry troops. Enemy tanks were in a formation that was creating a lot of resistance for the infantry units and the tanks had support from artillery, accord-



Courtesy photo

VIEW FINDER— Radar Operator, Spec. Matthew Richter of Alpha Battery (Target Acquisition), 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery (Multiple Launch Rocket System) sights a Q-37 Firefinder radar near Baghdad.

ing to Evans.

Minutes after his team completed the mission to set up their Q-37 Firefinder radar systems southwest of Karbala, Evans got a call on the radio from the chief fires officer: "I want to speak to Predator Niner Five," the call sign for Evan's radar team. "I just want to confirm with you that that counter fire mission resulted in four howitzers destroyed and 35 men killed."

Evans then turned from the radio and said, "we're in the battle boys." He was later told that turning on the radar was the turning point in the battle. "That right there is what basically freed them to take the airport, which is what we needed to do. So they said we came up just at the right time," he said.

The target acquisition battery also provided support to direct combat units starting around 3 p.m. near An-Nasariya on the first day of ground operations according to their commander, Capt. Gino Quintiliani. "We got the radar up. Immediately, (there) was almost 200 acquisitions within a couple hours. It was just amazing how quickly we acquired them and were able

to put rockets and cannon fire there."

The battery responds to missions to set up their two types of Firefinder radars, the Q-36 and Q-37. The radars are capable of detecting artillery fire, its direction and a grid coordinate of the location from which it was fired.

The Firefinder system and operators determine friendly from enemy artillery and it has the capability to pass coordinates digitally to the artillery battalion where the appropriate Multiple Launch Rocket System or cannon troops can send rounds right back at enemy mortars or cannon, according to Quintiliani.

"Basically, as soon as they fire, we know where they're shooting from and we can destroy and shut down their artillery. It puts in their mind that as soon as they fire they're gonna be destroyed," Quintiliani said.

Optimally, the time from the moment the Iraqis fired until U.S. artillery crews fired back is three to five minutes, Quintiliani said. "We were meeting that pretty easily."

During combat operations, the battery acquired more than 3,000 rounds, and one

Q-37 acquired more than 1,800.

"Every round that we got they went after something fierce," Jensen said.

Two, 12-man crews in the battery operate a Q-37, radar, which tracks artillery and rockets for the whole division zone. Three six-man crews operate the Q-36, which tracks mortar fire, small artillery and has a smaller range.

Firefinder radar operators operated well behind the frontline troops in Desert Storm and being closer was unexpected, according to Quintiliani. Between six and eight kilometers from the front line trace is considered normal.

"My guys, a lot of times they moved into positions (and) were clearing bunkers and capturing prisoners and doing things you don't think radar guys and MLRS guys are supposed to be doing," he said.

The adage, "everyone in the Army is a soldier first," proved apt. Evans and Jensen found an Iraqi soldier hiding under a blanket in a bunker and turned him over to a warrant officer. According to Jensen, his crew experienced mortar fire daily, went through an area with a known sniper, engaged in small arms fights, cleared bunkers with grenades and recovered from ambushes.

"I've seen this stuff on TV and I was thinking I would never see myself doing this," Jensen said.

The rapid move north also pressured the soldiers who keep the radars up and running, something Quintiliani considered most important. Advanced radar repair specialist and spare parts were further to the rear during the rapid advance north, according to Quintiliani. "If they're not up, you can't do your job," he said.

Quintiliani said, however, being there at the front was at least one of the reasons the Third Infantry Division was able to keep moving north toward their objective, Baghdad.

"If we had not had the target acquisition assets in place, on the right place, on the battlefield to track the rounds to put through the system and deliver fires on them, it would have been a much longer campaign."

Editor's note: The Multiple Launch Rocket System is managed at Redstone Arsenal.

Army partially lifts Stop-Loss order

Thousands of soldiers get retirement option

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Army has lifted "Stop Loss" for active-component units and for soldiers in about half of the specialties that had been required to stay on active duty.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Reginald Brown approved the partial lifting of Stop Loss May 27.

This lifting of Stop Loss will allow about 16,000 active-component, 4,900 Army Reserve and 675 National Guard soldiers to leave active duty if they want between now and October, personnel officials said.

These soldiers, as they begin their transition from the Army, will be provided time to complete transition and career counseling, along with demobilization activities, officials said. They said the Army's Stop Loss exit strategy will normally allow 180 days to transition soldiers

returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Personnel strength managers from all Army components will regulate separation dates to ensure no adverse impact on Armywide readiness.

The Army lifted its "stop movement" order earlier in May to allow many OIF soldiers to report to their next assignments.

Soldiers in the following specialties are now no longer subject to Stop Loss: Officers with specialties: 15C35 (Aviation Intelligence); Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) K4 (Special Operations Aviation), K5 (MH-60K Pilot), and/or K6 (H-47E Pilot); 18 (Special Forces); 38 (Civil Affairs); 39 (Psychological Operations).

Warrant Officers with specialties: 153E (MH-60 Pilot); 154E (MH-47 Pilot); 155E (C-12 Pilot); 155G (O-5A/EO-5B/RC-7 Pilot); Pilots with ASI K4 (Special Operations Aviation), K5 (MH-60K Pilot, and/or K6 H-47E Pilot); 180A (Special Forces); 350B (Intelligence Technician); 351C (Area Intelligence Technician); 352G (Voice Intercept Technician).

Enlisted soldiers with Military Occupational Specialties: 00Z (Command Sergeant Major with Special Forces (SF) background); 18B (SF Weapons Sergeant); 18C (SF Engineer Sergeant); 18D (SF Medical Sergeant); 18E (SF Communications Sergeant); 18F (SF Operations and Intelligence Sergeant); 18Z (SF Senior Sergeant); 37F (Psychological Operations Specialist); 38A (Civil Affairs Specialist); 67U (CH-47 Helicopter Repairer); 98C (Signals Intelligence Analyst).

The Stop Loss policy was initiated in four separate increments to allow the Army to retain soldiers — who were determined to be essential to the national security of the United States — on active duty beyond their date of retirement or separation for an open-ended period. It began with Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom Nov. 30, 2001. The fourth and last increment, announced Feb. 14, was for units supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Stop Loss does not affect most involuntary separations or retirements, officials said, nor does it generally limit laws, regulations, or policies that lead to involuntary separations, retirements, or releases from active duty.

Reserve-component Unit Stop Loss, which affects Reserve soldiers assigned to alerted or mobilized RC units, remains in effect.

The following skills for all components remain affected by the Army's 12-Month, Skill-Based Stop Loss Program:

Officers designated: 30 Information Operations, 31 Military Police, 34 Strategic Intelligence, 35 Military Intelligence, 45A Comptroller, 48G FAO (Mideast/N Africa), 51C Contract & Industrial Management, 53 Information Systems Management.

Warrant Officers: 152C OH-6 Scout Pilot, 153D UH-60 Pilot, 154C CH-47D Pilot, 311A CID Special Agent, 351B Counter Intelligence Technician, 351E Human Intelligence Collection Technician.

Enlisted: 52E Prime Power Production Specialist, 55D EOD Specialist, 74B Information Systems Operator, 92M Mor-



Courtesy photo

Academy staffer

Maj. Betina Erzen, a 1988 graduate of the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., has been selected by the academy to serve on the staff as an air officer commanding. The 1983 Huntsville High graduate reports June 16. She is the daughter of Doreen Jurgielewicz, who retired in 2001 as management assistant for Defense Systems Management College, now the Defense Acquisition University, Southern Region.

tuary Affairs Specialist, 95B Military Police, 95C Correctional Specialist, 95D CID Special Agent, 96B Intelligence Analyst, 96U UAV Operator, 97B Counter Intelligence Agent, 97E Human Intelligence Collector, 97L Translator (Minus Russian and Spanish), 98G Voice Interceptor (Language Specific).



Shawn Harris/Photo Lab

FAL guy

Lt. Col. Darryl Colvin, product manager, Field Artillery Launchers, has taken over his new PM duties in the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles. He is now in charge of the Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems.

Marine force commander details progress in Iraq

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Marines based south of Baghdad made the transition from warfighting to peacekeeping with their usual aplomb, said Marine Lt. Gen. James Conway during a video press conference May 30 from Iraq.

"Our Marines were extremely innovative and adaptive during the campaign, and they've carried those characteristics into the aftermath," Conway told the Pen-

tagon press corps. "Our current mission is to provide a safe and secure environment in order to eventually be able to turn Iraq back over to the Iraqis."

The general, commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said his Marines are going about the job in a no-nonsense manner. "What we tell the Iraqis is that 'we're here to do a job — don't get in our way, and nobody will get hurt; indeed, you will like the results,'" he said. "Interfere with our efforts or threaten our forces in any way, and there will be consequences."

The 1st MEF has had success in dealing with the local populations. "Thus far, we are pleased to say that the people of southern Iraq have generally welcomed our presence in the cities and in the countryside," he said.

Since the Marines left Baghdad in April, there have been no "significant incidents that have resulted in a Marine or sailor being seriously wounded or killed." The unit is working with nongovernmental

See Progress on page 6

Society's engineer of year never stops learning



Photo by Kim Gillespie

REWARDING WORK— Bill Boggess, a civil engineer with Chugach Management Services and the Huntsville Post, SAME's, 2002 Engineer of the Year, inspects the Toftoy Road overpass bridge at Martin Road.

Marines adopt peacekeeping role in Iraq

Progress

continued from page 5

organizations, Army civil affairs teams and troops from other nations to "re-create" the quality of life in southern Iraq.

Conway said that the success is in part due to the reputation of the Marine Corps has around the world, but other factors are more important. Part of this is the Marine ground forces have more infantrymen than comparable Army units. This allows a larger presence, he said.

"But I think we're also fortunate in that the south of Iraq has a much larger Shia population," he said. Saddam Hussein murdered thousands of Shia following the Persian Gulf War, and maintained an iron grip on the region. "There are not as many Baathists, I think, remaining in the south as perhaps there are in the north, (and) a lesser number of Sunnis, who were sympathetic to the regime," he said.

At the beginning of the ground war, the 1st MEF consisted of 85,000 U.S. Marines and the British 1st Armored Division — which also included British Marines. He said there are about 41,000 U.S. Marines in Iraq and Kuwait today.

Conway said he believes the security situation in Iraq is improving. The spate of attacks in northern Iraq does not concern him.

"I think what we're seeing are a limited numbers of attacks that are, I think, in some cases being mischaracterized as how the whole nation is seeing our presence," he said. "I really don't think that there's anarchy in Iraq, to include northern Iraq. But there are specific individuals that are

very aware of the fact that even a small-scale attack makes large-scale news."

The U.S. military, he said, needs to continue doing what it is doing — building the Iraqi police forces, providing point security on key infrastructure, rehabilitating basic infrastructure.

"Just seven to 10 weeks ago, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force ... was accomplishing feats in combat never envisioned for a force whose origins were from the sea," Conway said. The unit attacked more than 600 miles from the nearest beach. Marine Corps aviation units provided close-air support and also participated in the overall air campaign.

Conway said that columns of units slashed through and around Iraqi defenses. He said the U.S. Central Command leadership took a calculated risk to push the Marines forward as far and as fast as they did, he said. The rubber band was stretched, but it never broke. Marine support troops made 22-hour trips to supply the materiel of war.

"The war now is essentially over," Conway said. Marine aviators are flying Iraqi children injured in automobile accidents to treatment centers. Tanks are parked, and ground troops are engaged in building police forces and repairing schoolhouses. "Our support troops are clearing unexploded ordnance, providing Iraqi farmers with diesel fuel and rebuilding bridges destroyed during the fighting," he said.

"We recently took pride in our ability to rapidly topple the regime of a vicious dictator," he continued. "Today we take pride in our ability to offer a bright and prosperous future to the children of Iraq."

Post support services worker has advice for young people

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

Being recognized by your professional peers is a significant accomplishment; but being recognized by your peers in a town dominated by the profession is especially sweet. Just ask Bill Boggess, a Team Redstone engineer.

Boggess received the Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers' "Engineer of the Year" award for 2002 earlier this year during the Engineers' Week celebration at the Huntsville Area Technical Societies annual engineer's banquet.

"I was truly honored and turned red in the face when I heard about it," said Boggess, who works for Chugach Management Services as a civil engineer under the Chugach Installation Support Services contract for Redstone Arsenal. "I love my profession and I'm happy that I have been able to contribute to it for so many years."

Boggess has worked for Chugach for more than a year, where he supplies technical assistance for a variety of infrastructure needs. But his work history with Redstone spans more than 11 years because he has continually supported projects at Redstone while employed as a professional consultant engineer in the Huntsville area.

"I managed projects that provided the Arsenal with engineering design on a multitude of engineering projects since I moved to Huntsville," he said. "The design projects were accomplished with the help of the office's design and engineering staff, and involved water quality and distribution, sanitary sewage collection, landfill design and permitting, site design for buildings and utility placement, street upgrades, drainage and assorted other projects."

Boggess has worked on so many projects at Redstone and has such an extensive knowledge of the installation, many of his co-workers think he is a Redstone "lifer." "A lot of people here have said they thought I had worked here most of my career — I guess because I just seem

to be very involved with infrastructure here."

Boggess, a registered engineer in Alabama and Kentucky, received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1977. "I got a late start in on my engineering career. I spent six years in the Navy during the Vietnam War and was very lucky. I received guidance and opportunity from several dedicated engineers, especially from a civil engineer named Keith Honaker, who helped me complete my engineering education and find work in the areas of engineering I enjoyed."

Boggess was nominated for the award by some of his SAME counterparts who were familiar with his work, and he believes that winning could be largely credited to his involvement with several professional engineering organizations, and encouraging and advising young engineers with their careers.

"The societies allow me to help participate in young engineer programs and middle/high school programs for math and science and scholarship," he said.

When asked what advice he would give to young people considering a career in civil engineering, Boggess suggested that learning something about all the major areas of engineering is important because it allows you to be versatile and can enhance problem-solving skills. "Never quit learning, especially from the younger folks coming up after you," he said. "Your contributions mean something to all the folks that benefit from them each day, so you must do the best design you can on each assignment."

When asked to cite his most challenging project at Redstone, he mentioned water quality and distribution on an installation that resembles a small city with all its diverse needs. The most challenging project of his career, so far, was upgrading a state park dam. "It impounded a lake, had a state highway traversing the embankments, served as a water and fire supply for the oldest state park in the state, and had a water treatment plant and campground at the base of the dam."

As for what he would like to accomplish in the future, Boggess had a simple answer: "As much as I can, and enjoy what God has blessed our world with."

'Labor of love' benefits spouses of deployed troops

Lee High students contribute to Waiting Spouses group

By EYETTE BROOKS
For the Rocket

Proving that special things come from special people, special needs students at Lee High presented an \$801 check May 28 to the Waiting Spouses after a flag and yellow ribbon fund-raising drive.

"Though it is a choice to be in the military service, soldiers pay a high price when deployed," parent Katherine West said. "We need to support our troops and these special needs children at Lee High School have done just that."

West first thought about sending phone cards to deployed servicemembers, but learned that bulk packages could not be mailed. Determined not to let that stand in her way, West was inspired while watching a television news broadcast. She decided on combining yellow ribbons with flags for sale. She felt that having the Lee students make the ribbons would help them to refine recently-learned skills and, at the same time, do something for the deployed soldiers.

"The kids worked very hard, and at times it was not an easy task," West said. "But it was truly a labor of love."

The students wanted the proceeds from the \$1 yellow ribbons and flags to go to the spouses of deployed troops. Waiting Spouses is a 60-woman group sponsored by Army Community Service.

"It is amazing. I am overwhelmed that the kids took the time to do this for people they don't even know," Jessica Schachle, a waiting spouse, said. Her husband, Capt. Patrick Schachle, is serving in Iraq.

"I feel honored. It's heartwarming and such an unselfish thing to do," Melissa Foster, a waiting spouse, said. "Especially coming from children, this effort simply warms my heart." Her husband, Sgt. Calvin Foster, is also serving in Iraq.

The employees of Huntsville Hospital and Huntsville Hospital East, where West works, bought hundreds of the ribbons.

"We are very proud of the kids," West said. "They worked very hard and made everything. It may seem like a small thing to some, but it was a very big deal to the kids. They love to help and it made them feel important."

"It was truly a labor of love. We should all do our part to recognize the troops for the job they are doing. Let us not forget the war is not over until all our men and women are home."



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

STUDENT HELPERS— Standing from left are Wes Holmes, waiting spouse Melissa Foster, waiting spouse Jessica Schachle, Evan Johnson, Ben West, Isiah Roberts and Katherine West. Seated is Kayla Beard.

Emergency relief drive tops \$104K

Annual fund-raising campaign surpasses last year's total

The Army Emergency Relief campaign finished with \$104,434, topping last year's \$102,861.

An award ceremony is scheduled June 17 at 10 a.m. at Heiser Hall. All organizations that raised \$250 or more will receive a certificate of appreciation.

AER, which eclipsed this year's \$65,000 goal, provides loans or grants to active duty and retired soldiers and their families when they need assistance.

"The civilian population and all the different organizations and directorates have gone above and beyond this year," AER officer Kristi Foster said. "Probably

the big surprise this year was the (stuffed) bears; they raised \$7,670."

Resource Management Directorate sponsored the sale of the stuffed bears.

"We really appreciate everyone's support during a really busy and stressful time for everybody," Foster said. "They've really risen to the occasion and supported our soldiers and our family members. The funds that were raised this year will be put to good use."

"Anytime a war's going on, the pressures and needs increase for the soldiers and families, especially."

Last year some \$352,733 was distributed to 483 active duty soldiers, retirees and qualifying family members. Army-wide, \$38 million went to more than 53,000 soldiers and their families.

Dining facility sinks teeth into food service award



Photo by Evette Brooks

CHOW LINE— The troop dining facility, open year-round, serves more than 1,300 meals a day.

Worldwide competition next for regional winner

By **EVETTE BROOKS**
For the Rocket

The troop dining facility, building 3438 at Aerobee and Snooper roads, has been awarded the Southeast Region's Phillip A. Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service.

The dining facility faced Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Stewart, Ga., Fort Campbell, Ky., and Fort Benning, Ga., in the best large dining facility competition. The competing facilities are judged in several categories such as food preparation, sanitation and accountability, building appearance, chain of command support and customer service.

"I believe that a large part of our success is that we believe in preparing food the old-fashioned way; everything is prepared from scratch," Anthony Jones, project manager for K&K Food Service, said. "Most of the soldiers we serve are from the school and are very young. We try to give them that 'home feeling.' We have a very loyal and dedicated staff of 54, most of whom have been here 15 years or more."

The facility is open 365 days and serves more than 1,300 meals a day. Jones, a retired master sergeant who took over the facility July 2001, said his mili-

tary experience has helped him in his job. He also credits his food adviser.

"We had not been in the competition since 1995," Hal Weatherman, food adviser, said. "So it's been good to be back competing. We came very close in past years to winning, but to win this year had been absolutely great."

The facility advances to three-month worldwide competition against other regional winners. That competition begins in October and runs through December.

"We are confident we will do well in the upcoming competition," Jones said. "You must have caring leadership in place, and you must pay attention to detail. We are fortunate to have that. We have a clean facility and the food is simply outstanding. Plus, we create an atmosphere where the soldier feels at home."

SFC Adriano Vasquez, of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, is a satisfied customer.

"I have served at a number of posts both in the states and overseas," he said. "I can definitely say that the Redstone Arsenal dining facility deserves this award, and I hope they go all the way to take top honors."

Combined, Jones and Weatherman bring more than 40 years of food service experience to the facility.

"They work well together and have found just the right mix," Vasquez said.

■ New bowling center to open by October 2004

Bowling

continued from page 1

Brad Mason, a contractor employee for Marshall Space Flight Center, bowls at Redstone Lanes about once a week at lunch time. "A new building will be nice,"

he said. "But compared to other lanes I've been in around Huntsville, I'd personally rank this pretty high."

Like other morale, welfare and recreation activities, the bowling center is open to active duty and retired military, Department of Defense workers, Redstone contractors, Marshall Space Flight Center workers, and their family members.

■ SARS virus has killed 750 people worldwide

Research

continued from page 1

"Because SARS poses a global health problem for the military and civilians potentially, we were asked to participate in this effort also," Huggins said.

As of Thursday, according to CDC, the virus had caused 750 deaths worldwide, although no SARS related deaths have been reported in the United States.

For years, the institute has been part of a government consortium of research facilities that includes the CDC, the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The Fort Detrick institute and CDC have existing collaborations on smallpox virus, Huggins said. He noted that because CDC is the only repository of smallpox virus in the United States, USAMRIID scientists routinely travel to Atlanta to conduct smallpox research.

"When the SARS virus came along, it was pretty straight forward to call the people who work with pretty high hazardous viruses at bio containment levels to start working to find an anti-viral drug," he said. "We knew each other's capability and we knew each other's expertise."

Inside a tightly controlled Biosafety Level 4 laboratory at Fort Detrick, some of the world's most dangerous viruses — such as Ebola — are studied. (The SARS virus is handled at Biosafety Level 3.) Huggins said scientists have been working long hours searching for a SARS cure.

He noted that a team of seven scientists at the lab is directly testing drugs; about 20 researchers are working on the entire SARS effort.

Already, 40 FDA-approved drugs currently used to treat a variety of viral infections such as HIV, herpes, flu and hepatitis have been sent to the lab for evaluation by independent pharmaceutical companies.

Thousands more will also be tested as scientists investigate whether these drugs, although not designed to be effective against SARS, could prove to have a "cross-reacting" ability to fight the virus, Huggins said.

The strategy, he explained, is to find a "quick fix," to first see if there are any drugs currently marketed that might work against the virus.

"We developed a test tube assay to see if a drug was capable of stopping the virus from reproducing itself, the first step to stopping someone from being infected," Huggins said.

"We used that assay to begin screening drugs currently on the market to treat other viral diseases. Now we're working at a broader area to look for other potential drugs that might have activity ... sort of hoping you'd find a quick fix.

"It doesn't look like that there is a quick fix, although we're still working on some of those."

However, one promising drug, interferon, is still being looked at, said Huggins, adding that USAMRIID scientists have been studying a large collection of interferon compounds to see if any can stop the virus.

Some interferon does, he pointed out. "What we have more work to do on is to see if they can inhibit the virus at concentrations that would be clinically relevant — that is concentrations of interferon you could give to a patient," he explained. "That is work which is under way and we don't yet have the answer to that question."

Although many questions about SARS remain unanswered and more research and testing must still be done, Huggins said thus far, the institute's research into the virus is encouraging. He said he is hopeful a cure can be found.

"We are working with some pharmaceutical firms that have some very powerful tools," Huggins said. "I am optimistic that we will ultimately find something for this particular virus."

Ordnance school spends day on summertime safety

Eighth annual event targets ages 18-25

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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The schoolhouse tries to ensure its soldier students have a safe summer.

Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School held its eighth annual Safety Stand Down Day, Thursday at the post activity field.

"We stand down all the operations and spend the entire day on safety awareness," Don Cranford, safety and occupational health manager for the school, said.

The goal was to heighten awareness of the OMEMS community on all aspects of safety. "Safety is no accident" was the theme. The target age group was 18-25 because "they're the most at-risk," Cranford said.

Ten stations were set up, including eight on the activity field and two inside the Recreation Center. Each covered a safety topic such as heat injury, boating, motorcycles and bicycles, severe weather, barbecue grill and household safety.

"We get good support from the installation and the county, city and state," Cranford said.

Members of Huntsville Fire Department's station 3, at Bob Wallace Avenue and Jordan Lane, brought the fire safety house, a trailer that fills with smoke to

serve as a teaching tool. "We can teach them how to get under the smoke and how to get out," fire department Capt. Tim Seay said. "It's a good thing with the kids."

Redstone fire inspector Art Murtha gave instruction on fire extinguishers. Pvt. Derek Slater and Pvt. Joshua Hickman, both of Bravo Company, were among the volunteers during the fire extinguisher demonstration.

"I think it's a good idea," Slater, 19, of Dallas, said of safety stand down day. "Basically it teaches everything we already know but it refreshes everything. Most of what they're teaching out here — like boating accidents and fire — happens every summer."

"It helps us soldiers know the safest thing to do," Hickman, 19, of Olympia, Wash., said. "It helps keep us safe."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

PUTTING OUT FIRE— Pvt. Joshua Hickman puts out a fire during the fire extinguisher demonstration.

Provost marshal office offers summer safety advice

PROVOST MARSHAL RELEASE

Summer brings endless hours of sun and fun. Summer also presents numerous opportunities for both minor and serious injuries from playground falls to drowning. The Provost Marshal Office and the Garrison Safety Office provide the following safety tips that will help keep your child's summer a safe one.

Never leave children unattended near the water. Use U.S. Coast Guard approved life vests, also known as personal flotation devices, on boats, docks and around deep or swift water.

Children should have adult supervision at all times while swimming. No one, not even adults, should ever swim alone. Never swim during a lightning storm. Don't swim in unfamiliar waters.

Make sure children always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or scooter, rollerblading or skateboarding.

Protect children from excessive exposure to sun — especially from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Use a sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor 15 or higher.

Supervise children whenever they use playground equipment such as making sure children stay clear of the front and back of swings while in use.

Keep children away from areas where any lawn mowers are being used. Never allow children to ride on mowers.

Minimize the risk of bee and insect stings by having children wear shoes and light color clothing. Use insect repellent sparingly on older children and never on infants.

Know the plants in your yard and teach your child not to pick or eat anything

without first checking with an adult.

Keep children from playing near barbecues and bonfires and always have water present when fire is involved. Only adults should use lighter fluid.

Strap children in a properly-fitting seat belt, car seat or booster seat when traveling by car or airplane.

Drive defensively, in the housing and public areas, and watch out for mistakes that children make.

In accordance with AMCOM Regulation 210-2, Appendix z, children under 9 will not be left unattended in motor vehicles, in family quarters, or recreation areas without proper supervision.

Vehicles should never be left unlocked, particularly in housing and public parking areas, allowing entry for small children resulting in potential incidents of suffocation.

Children should never approach unfamiliar animals. Never disturb an animal that is sleeping, eating or caring for its young. It is especially important to avoid contact with all bats, raccoons, skunks, groundhogs, foxes, snakes, insects, etc. These animals have been known to carry the rabies virus or cause severe injury as result of bites.

Make summer food safety part of picnics, cookouts

By KAY BLAKLEY
Defense Commissary Agency

As summer arrives and we start making plans for picnics and cookouts, it's a good time to review a few warm weather food safety measures.

Harmful bacteria that causes food poisoning is present year-round, but warm weather conditions combined with preparing and consuming foods outside normal home kitchen conditions sets the stage for these bacteria to multiply and become dangerous, if ingested. The "danger zone," or temperature at which these organisms can reproduce, ranges from 40 to 140 F. So, the secret to staying safe is to keep both raw or prepared foods under the 40-degree mark, and to cook meat, fish or poultry to a temperature sufficient to render harmless any bacteria present. That advice, added to a few more simple rules, plus your application a bit of common sense are sure to keep you safe.

Keep it clean

You don't have to be a contender for a "Good Housekeeping" award to stay safe in this category, but you do have to use some good judgment. Because we all lead such unbelievably busy lives these days, housekeeping standards have understandably slipped a few notches. So, if you only have time to keep one room in the house totally clean, make it your kitchen. Even the tiniest bits of food left on the kitchen counter, on the interior surfaces of the refrigerator or cupboards, or even on the utensils or dishes themselves can be a breeding ground for harmful bacteria. Add warm, humid, summer air, an open window that allows crawling and flying insects to enter and carry contamination from place to place, and you've created a perfect environment for bacteria to rapidly multiply.

Be a stickler about hand-washed dishes. Always use the hottest water your hands can tolerate and do a thorough job of washing, rinsing and drying before placing the clean dishes back in the cup-

board. Carefully inspect dishes from the dishwasher to make sure they are clean, and routinely wash and disinfect countertops, cooking surfaces and sinks. Things will always turn out better, if you make sure foods for a picnic or cookout are prepared on a clean counter, using clean dishes and utensils, and are served or stored in clean containers.

Keep cold foods cold, hot foods hot

This can be a pretty tall order for food served away from home, so remember these points to minimize bacterial growth. Where possible, thoroughly chill both the food and its serving container, and pack it directly from the refrigerator to the insulated cooler immediately before leaving home. Use enough crushed ice or ice packs to keep the cooler temperature below 40 F. Take care to transport it in the coolest part of your car, and place it in the shade once you arrive at your outdoor destination. Because beverage coolers will be opened frequently, it's best to use one cooler for drinks and another one for perishable foods. If you happen to have a third cooler available, consider using it exclusively for any raw meat, poultry, fish or seafood that's part of your picnic fare. If that is not an option, then tightly wrap and seal these items to keep any raw juices from leaking onto other foods in the cooler. When it's time to eat, salads or other dishes containing seafood, poultry, meat, eggs or mayonnaise should be the last dishes to come to the table, and the first to return to the cooler (if there are leftovers) as soon as the meal is finished. Nesting the serving container, for these type foods, in a larger container filled with crushed ice will help keep them cool during the meal, and give an added measure of safety. This is an especially wise move when the crowd is large and the serving line moves slowly.

Keep meats for the grill in the cooler until the fire is ready, so they don't spend any more time out of their cool environment than absolutely necessary. Once the meat is cooked, keep it hot by scooting it

to the side of the grill rack. You want it off the coals, so it doesn't overcook, but still close enough to the heat to stay safely hot. Transfer the cooked meats to a clean platter and serve at the table, if the crowd is reasonably small. For large crowds and slow moving serving lines, serve straight from the grill.

Try to match the size of your guests' appetites to the amount of food you serve. Leftovers from an away-from-home picnic or cookout are usually not a good idea. Most definitely discard any food that has set out for more than two hours, or one hour if the temperatures are above 90 F. If it truly kills you to throw away an expensive steak, or piece of chicken or bunch of hamburgers leftover, then pay very close attention to all the rules (keep it clean, keep it hot, watch the time). Place these leftovers in a sealed container or zip closure bag. Arrange the pieces in a single layer so they will cool faster, and return them to the cooler, then back to your home refrigerator as soon as possible.

Avoid cross-contamination

Always take along paper towels and hand sanitizer or a spray bottle filled with soapy water to wash and dry hands after handling meat, poultry or fish. Make sure you have plenty of clean utensils and platters on hand. Discard, or clean and put away the utensils and platters that held the raw product as soon as it goes on the grill, and use a clean set of tools for cooking. Place the cooked product on a clean plate for serving.

If you expect to have to replenish certain dishes during the meal, do not add fresh product to that which has been setting out in the warm weather. Any bacterial growth in the old product, on the edges of its serving container, or even on the serving spoon can easily contaminate the fresh product. Instead, divide the dish into two or three smaller serving bowls and

replace the entire bowl with a fresh one from the cooler when needed.

Test the temperature

If you're not in the habit of using a meat thermometer to verify that everyday items such as hamburgers, pork chops, chicken breasts, and the like, have reached a safe internal temperature, please, do yourself and your family a favor right now by changing that bad habit. Even though the accepted advice used to be "cook ground beef patties until the center is no longer pink," judging when the food is done based on color has been proven to be unreliable. A recent USDA study found that 1 out of every 4 hamburgers turns brown in the center before it reaches a safe internal temperature. If you're a fan of rare hamburgers, be aware that you are taking a calculated risk every time you eat one.

Why is it OK to eat a medium rare steak, but not a medium rare hamburger? Because, any harmful bacteria present, most likely resides on the surface of a whole piece of meat like a steak. The high temperature and amount of time required to brown the steak's exterior will kill the surface bacteria and sufficiently warm the center to a safe level. Medium rare, or an internal temperature of 145 F is the outer limit for safety. Hamburgers, on the other hand, are ground beef. Any surface bacteria present on the whole piece of beef, hamburgers are made from, gets disbursed throughout the entire product in the grinding and mixing process. Therefore, in order to be totally safe, both the surface and the center of a ground beef patty must be thoroughly cooked - until the center temperature reaches a minimum of 160 F. This goes for other ground products as well, such as ground pork or turkey.

Editor's note: Kay Blakley is DeCA's Europe consumer advocate.

Talking to group doesn't have to be painful

Toastmasters clubs address fear from standing before audience

By **KELLEY LANE**
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Fear of public speaking, or glossophobia, is considered by many to be the most common fear in America. Studies by the University of Ohio say that it is more common than even the fear of death. In this age of communication, being unable to express yourself clearly and effectively before a group can be tantamount to death in a professional career. An easy and painless way to overcome speaking anxiety is to join a club such as Toastmasters International.

Formed in 1924 in a California YMCA basement, Toastmasters promotes good public speaking skills. The Research Park club meets weekly for one hour at the Army Corps of Engineers on Wynn Drive. At every meeting, members rotate duties. Each has a turn leading the meetings. Several members give scheduled speeches on topics of their choosing and predetermined lengths. Others are asked to volunteer to speak impromptu on a topic announced during the meeting. All are timed, critiqued and recommendations are made to each speaker. They cover voice pitch, speed, gestures and grammar — including filler words such as the dreaded “um” and “uh.” It is a way to hone your skills in a small, friendly environment and eliminate the anxiety of standing up before a group.

The communication program centers on familiarity through experience. The member's manual contains speech projects to be completed. These involve different styles and time lengths. By preparing and delivering these projects in the safety of the club setting, would-be speakers can build confidence through practice and the support of their club. Upon each

level of Toastmasters' requirements met, the member receives an award to reflect his or her newly acquired skills. The new member fee is \$16 with dues at \$18 every six months to cover materials and club expenses.

Joe Hidalgo, a contract negotiator at research development and systems engineering company Sparta Inc., is a new member of the club.

“I joined this last October and I feel it's one of the best things I've done,” he said. “It's a club where every minute of the hour is dynamic interaction. It works toward the purpose of learning through repetition — standing in front of people and giving a presentation or conducting a meeting or speaking impromptu.”

Hidalgo sees the club as a way to not only learn and refine new skills, but also keep sharp the tools he's already acquired.

“Speaking is like any other skill. If you don't use it, you lose it,” he said. So far he has enjoyed both the social interaction and the knowledge he has acquired. The improvements he has made through the program over his seven month membership have been commended by other Toastmasters.

“Joe is doing an outstanding job as a new speaker,” Pam Fuqua, longstanding club member, said. “He's incorporating all the basic skills of a new Toastmaster.”

Joining a learning organization such as the Toastmasters can help demystify the art of public speaking. If the route to perfection is indeed through practice, then anyone can become an accomplished speaker through a club's positive and upbeat environment. For information on finding the Toastmasters club closest to you, check their web site at www.toastmasters.org or contact the Research Park Toastmasters directly. Call vice president of membership Elizabeth Keith at 539-0212, president David Lake 859-2352 or vice president of public affairs Joe Hidalgo at 837-5282 ext.1399.

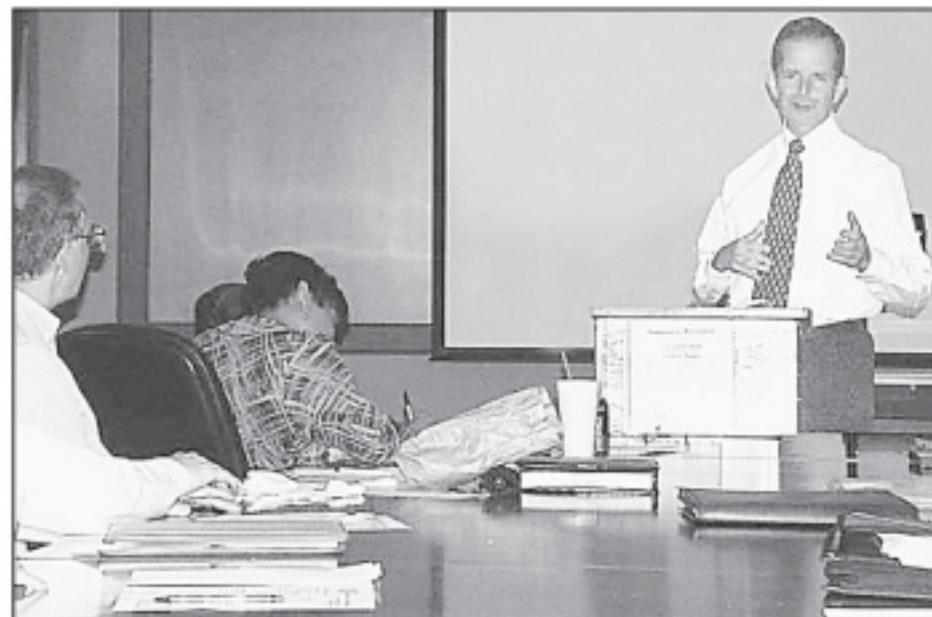


Photo by Kelley Lane

NEW SPEAKER— Joe Hidalgo gains speaking experience as club members critique his performance.

Higher seeds bear fruit in volleyball tournament



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GETTING READY— From left Bravo's Chris Thomas practices a spike against teammate Carlos Serra while setter Aladino Perez (6) looks on.

Favorites win their openers in double-elimination event

HHC 59th, Headquarters & Alpha and Bravo Company enjoyed opening night May 28 in the volleyball post championship tournament at Pagano Gym.

Second-seeded HHC 59th beat seventh-seeded NCO Academy 25-10, 25-17. Headquarters & Alpha, the third seed,

outlasted sixth-seeded AMCOM 21-25, 25-18, 15-7. And fourth-seeded Bravo bested the fifth-seeded Marines 25-20, 25-20.

Delta, the top seed, won by forfeit Thursday over eighth-seeded Charlie. In losers bracket games, AMCOM eliminated NCO Academy 25-6, 25-16; and the Marines won by forfeit over Charlie.

The final for the postseason tourney is scheduled tonight at 7 at Pagano Gym.

Thonus wins ladies golf event

The Ladies Golf Association held its Spring Handicap Tournament, May 28 with 42 members participating. There was a tie for overall handicap champion between Margaret McBrearty and Dee Thonus with a score of 64. A scorecard playoff was done and Thonus was awarded the championship.

Other winners for the day included: First Flight, Peggy Stanley; Second

Flight, Junghee Norrell; Third Flight, Ernestine Anderson; Fourth Flight, Margaret McBrearty; and Fifth Flight, Betty Butler.

Closest to the pin winner for Flights one and two was Joan Arnold. Closest to the pin winner for Flights three, four and five was Jo Miller. Accuracy drive winner was Jackie Clark. Di Wilson was the tournament chairperson.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

Up, up and away

Balloons soar at sunrise at the 26th annual Alabama Jubilee and Balloon Classic in Decatur May 24.

Find Christmas gifts during summer vacation

Pick up holiday ornaments while on your get-away

By SANDY RIEBELING
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This time of year most people are thinking about baseball, backyard barbecues, picnics at the lake and that ever-precious summer vacation. Summer is a great time for relaxing but it also provides a variety of opportunities to get a jump on your Christmas gift shopping.

I know. I know. Who wants to talk about Christmas in June?

Problem is, before you know it, the kids will be back in school, the turkey will be nothing but leftovers and you'll be staring at your Christmas list wondering where the last year went.

This is just a little reminder, before you go on that once in a lifetime trip, or maybe just a few days down to the beach, that most tourist shops offer a nice selection of native clothing and holiday ornaments year-round — many of them at discount prices during the summer.

One of my favorite times at Christmas is pulling out the box of ornaments we've collected over the last 15 years. Not to take anything away from the fine selection of ornaments our children have contributed, but just a glimpse of the red and white dough ornament in the shape of a ship's anchor with "Bar Harbor" scrolled on the cross bar brings back a flood of memories of our trip to Maine.

As we go through the box, finding a place on our tree for each special ornament, we travel the country in our minds and memories, reminding us of how blessed we have been.

We have ornaments from the Garden of Lights, Rock City in Chattanooga, the North Church from Boston, a portrait of a colonial home on a ceramic ornament from Virginia, a metal plate ornament engraved with the head of an Egyptian sarcophagus from the St. Louis Science Center, and the list goes on. And with every ornament, there's a priceless memory.

But one tops the list. We call it the Ugly Elvis Shirt Ornament. I'm not sure how Elvis got involved because the ornament came from a little shop in Arizona. My husband picked it up as a gift for me while on a business trip to Phoenix.

He brought it home and proudly presented it to me as a token of his love and rather impressed with himself for remembering to bring me something. I pasted on a smile and accepted it gratefully but the puzzled look on my face gave me away and I had to ask: "Were these on clearance?" It was early in our marriage and I was hoping there was a reason for him to pick this ugly present.

He wanted something that reflected the culture, which explained the turquoise and brown miniature shirt with a red animal skull mask in the center.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TREE OF MEMORIES— These Riebeling family ornaments are from Boston, Rock City in Tennessee, St. Louis, Mo., Virginia and Arizona.

Every year when we hang it on the tree (low in the back facing the corner), we joke about the day he brought it home but in my heart I am reminded of what a thoughtful, giving man I married.

So perhaps this year, while you're out enjoying your travels, look around for an ornament that can so quickly bring your memories into clear focus. Or, pick one up to give away in an ornament exchange. It may be the most unusual one there.

For our family, we'll probably pick up an ornament from the Space and Rocket Center because my son is attending Space Camp in a few weeks.

But if you're looking for something a little bigger, a project worthy of a summer's effort, you may want to visit the Arts and Crafts Center on Redstone. They offer several classes including wood working, matting and framing (for that special photo gift), stained glass, oil

painting and basket weaving. They can also help you create a set of personalized stepping stones for that hard-to-buy-for friend or relative.

"Start early," advised Charles Shalansky, manager of the shop. "We have people coming in here a week before Christmas wanting to build a trunk or an entertainment center for Christmas. Don't wait until the last minute."

Before using the wood working shop tools, patrons must attend a wood safety class. Classes are offered every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m.

"We're having a special children's class with quilting materials this summer," Shalansky said. "We offer a lot of help here for projects. We have books to look through to get ideas. Give us a call."

A schedule of classes is posted on the Morale Welfare and Recreation site, redstonemwr.com. For more information about arts and crafts classes, call 876-7951.



Sports & Recreation

Golf sweepstakes

The U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, event sponsor, and Redstone Golf Course are hosting a spring golf driving range promotion, "Lucky Bucket Sweepstakes," through June 30. The promotion is targeted at all ages and skill levels. Winners must be authorized MWR patrons — active/retired/Guard/Reserve military, DoD/NASA civilian or contractor and dependents. Two "Great Golf Escape" vacation packages will be randomly drawn Armywide at the end of the nine-week promotion. In addition, instant prizes are awarded on the spot when you find the red "lucky" ball in your bucket of driving range balls. The more you participate, the greater your chances are of winning. Call 883-7977 for more information.

Alabama sports festival

Registration is under way for the 2003 Alabama Sports Festival XXI State Games, June 26-29 in Huntsville. Opening ceremonies are June 27 at 7 p.m. in the Von Braun Center. "This is Alabama's largest, Olympic-style, multisport event for amateur athletes of any age or skill level," a prepared release said. For more information, visit the festival's web site at www.alagames.com or call (800) 467-0422.

Fitness achievement program

Redstone Arsenal Recreation and Fitness Achievement Program, a new activity for you and your family, encourages individuals to enjoy life by participating in recreational and fitness activities, as well as making healthy life choices. The program is designed to motivate individuals to be active throughout life and emphasizes regular participation in activities rather than outstanding performances. Select an activity, complete the requirements in the specified time allowed, all while documenting your progress. To receive your award (certificate and your picture on the MWR web page), turn in your progress sheet (log), personal data sheet, and \$5 to one of the MWR fitness centers. Choices include swimming, golf, bird watching, gardening, tennis, wood work, jogging, weight loss, smoking cessation, reading and more — over 100 activities in all. After completing five activities, participants receive a RFAP T-shirt. For more information, go to www.redstonemwr.com.

Hunter safety courses

Outdoor Recreation is holding Alabama State Hunter Safety Courses throughout the summer and fall from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Toftoy Hall, building 3495 on Patton Road. The classes will be held in two-day sessions on June 7 and 14, July 12 and 19, Aug. 9 and 16, Sept. 6 and 13, and Oct. 4 and 11. Class signup ends the Wednesday before the first session of each class. By Army regulation, anyone hunting on Army property must have, without exception, passed an NRA or state approved Hunter Education Safety Course. You may sign up by calling 876-4868 or 876-6854.

Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct Boating Safety Classes from June 12 through July 24. The classes will cover boating skills and boating safety. The classes will be held Thursday evenings at 6:30 in building 3305, Stillwell Hall, Zeus Drive, room 215. There is a \$22 fee to cover text and materials. This boating safety class will satisfy requirements for the state boating operators license and can reduce the cost of boat insurance. For more information call Tom Kunhart 885-7096 or 830-6621.

Charity golf program

Chrysler will support the Rocket City Retired Military Golf Classic with its charity golf program, Drive for the Chrysler. This program provides amateur golfers and guests an opportunity to drive the latest new cars from Chrysler and raise money for Redstone Arsenal Junior Golf. Courtesy of Madison Square Chrysler, the 300M Special and other new Chryslers will be available all day June 10-12 at the Redstone Golf Course for golfers and guests to examine and drive. For every drive completed with a product evaluation, Chrysler will make a \$5 cash donation to Redstone Arsenal Junior Golf. As Chrysler's way of adding a personal thanks, each driver will receive a gift of golf balls. Step up to the Chrysler tent and take a few minutes to check out the automotive innovations from Daimler Chrysler. Pick up free golf balls while you help raise extra dollars for Redstone Arsenal Junior Golf.

Mystery bowl

Redstone Lanes is having another summer of fun with Mystery Bowl II. New prizes, more prizes, and chances to win await you at the bowling center. Eighty-seven Army bowling centers began this summer's promotion June 1. The nine weekly winners at each participating bowling center will be entered into a drawing at Community and Family Support Center for a chance to win one of two resort packages, plus \$500 to defray travel costs. The resort vacation includes hotel/resort accommodations for seven nights at the Palm Desert Resort in California, and a vacation activities and amenities package worth at least \$2,000 in-kind services per package. The promotion runs for nine weeks, with weekly winners from each installation entered into a chance to win resort vacation packages. This year's prize board will feature a Brunswick Viz-A-Ball, a double roller bowling bag from Brunswick; and there will also be bowling towels for some of the instant wins and smaller mystery promotions. Also new this year, centers will have a variety of plush toys for younger winners. Kids will also like some of the prize board offerings — especially the CD player, headsets, two-way radios and other prizes. Sponsors for this summer's promotion are www.GovArm.com and Brunswick. Patrons can check out the resort destinations that weekly winners will have to choose from, if they log on to the sponsor's web site. From now through July 31, every purchase at participating bowling centers will be given an entry blank to participate in the weekly trip to the prize board. Winners will scratch off

one of the mystery spots on the board to reveal their prize. Only the nine weekly winners from each center will have a chance to win one of two resort vacations. For more information, call 876-6634.



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.

Toastmasters

Are you nervous about speaking in front of people? Do you get butterflies in your stomach? No problem. Learn the art of speaking by joining Toastmasters. Two clubs meet for one hour every week: Strategic Speakers meets at SMDC room 2E1200, Tuesday 11:30-12:30, call John Johnson 313-3634 or Matt Boenker 721-7006, extension 119; and Communicators Club meets Thursday 11:30-12:30 at Sparkman Center building 5304, call Ron Legowik 876-5619.

Naval sea cadets

The newly formed Robley Evans DD-552 Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Huntsville Police Academy on Airport Road. For more information, call (256) 431-9321.

Logistics engineers

The International Society of Logistics and the American Helicopter Society are co-sponsoring a luncheon Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Lt. Col. Cory Mahanna, deputy project manager for aviation systems, is to speak on "Aircraft Condition Assessment Team, Operation Iraqi Freedom." Cost is \$12, \$11 for SOLE members. For information call Emma Louise Cooper 955-8462, Debbie Baugh 313-6693 or Ruth Gordon 922-0003 (ext. 243).

Alcorn State alumni

The Tennessee Valley Alumni Chapter of Alcorn State University will meet for breakfast June 21 from 8:30-10 a.m. at Victoria's Café, 7540 Memorial Parkway southwest. For more information, call Melvin Mayo 876-1731.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment will meet June 10 at 7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue. For more information, call (256) 498-3166.

Union meeting

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



Miscellaneous

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednes-

days 9-5, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-12:30. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. The shop will be open for sales this Saturday from 10-2. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. The shop, which now accepts handmade craft items for consignment, seeks volunteers. For more information, call 881-6992.

Butler High reunions

Butler High class of 1983 will have its 20-year reunion Aug. 29-30. For information call Tammy 721-2246 or Kelly 829-1427. Butler's classes of 1968 and 1969 are having their 34th and 35th year reunion June 20-21; and for more information call Jeannie Sharpe King 772-1963 or Robin Hall Brewer 325-1018.

Lee High reunion

Lee High class of 1973 will have its 30-year reunion July 11-12. For information call Bob Mathis (256) 519-7674 or Teresa Walker Beasley (931) 937-8504.

Motorcycle safety course

The Department of Defense and Department of Army require all soldiers who operate motorcycles either on or off post to have satisfactorily completed an approved Motorcycle Safety Course. This requirement also applies to all individuals who operate a motorcycle on DoD installations. Motorcyclists will be required to show proof of meeting this requirement when registering or renewing a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal. The Experienced Rider Course is scheduled June 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This training will be provided free of cost for military and DoD civilians. To qualify for the ERC, a rider must have at least one year experience and have ridden more than 1,000 miles. These requirements are reduced to six months and 500 miles if the rider has completed a Basic Rider Course. Individuals under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign a required waiver form before starting the course. Riders must bring a valid driver license with motorcycle endorsement to the course. Enrollees must provide a street-legal motorcycle which will need to pass an inspection by the rider coaches. The inspection includes tires and wheels, controls, lights, oil, chassis and kickstand. Motorcycles should be properly insured. Class participants should also provide their own helmet and all required safety gear. To register for the course, call Bryan Lorge 842-8622.

Association scholarship

The Army Space and Missile Defense Association will award a \$1,000 scholarship in August. Applications are due by July 15. For more information, call Bob Belton of Quantum Research International 971-1800, ext. 257.

Logistics course

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics is offering a 50-hour Logistics Management course. The course provides a comprehensive review of logistics, preparing interested students for the next CPL exam

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scheduled Nov. 1. For more information, call Joyce Bilodeau 842-9968.

Summer 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, Army, Redstone/NASA contractors and dependents may participate. Trophies will be awarded to the top readers. For more information, visit www.redstonemwr.com or call Pam Berry 955-6309.

Youth sponsorship

Youth Sponsorship Training will be held on the first Tuesday of each month from 4-4:30 p.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. Youth (grades 6-12) that would like to become a Youth Sponsor or youth that have recently moved to the Redstone community are invited. For more information, call Pam Berry 955-6309.

Space talk

A space-related talk, sponsored by the Huntsville L5 Society chapter of the National Space Society, will be held Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library auditorium, 915 Monroe St. Topic is "Advanced In-Space Propulsion for Exploring the Solar System," by Les Johnson, manager of NASA in-space propulsion technology projects. The event is open to the public and admission is free. For more information, call Ronnie Lajoie 721-1083.

Gospel concert

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority choir will present its sixth annual gospel concert, "Sisters in Praise," at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at First Missionary Baptist Church, 3509 Blue Spring Road. For more information, call Brigitte Fletcher 859-8003 or Deborah Nious 830-8029.

Car show helpers

Volunteer are needed for the Army Emergency Relief fund-raising car show, "Cars and Camouflage," July 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking area off Zeus Road near Gate 10. Volunteers are needed for everything from directing participants to staging areas and traffic control for public parking areas, to registration, setup and judging (some experience or background

is required for those volunteering to judge). Individuals interested in volunteering should call SFC Thomas Perkins 955-8888, ext. 1141 or e-mail him at thomas.perkins@se.amedd.army.mil.

Employment readiness

An employment readiness class is designed to enhance your job search efforts. Information will cover self-assessment, researching career interests, resume writing, and how to answer tough interview questions. The class will be held June 11 at 9 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338. To register call 876-5397.

Concerts in park

Concerts take place every Monday night from 6:30-8 in Big Spring International Park. The first band performs 6:30-7:10 and the second 7:20-8. Here's this month's schedule: June 9 - first, Crosscut (blues) and second, Eric Rhodes Band (blues variety); June 16 - first, Huntsville Brass Band (pops and marches) and second, Huntsville Youth Orchestra (classical pops); June 23 - first, Heart and Soul (rhythm and blues, soul) and second, Abstract Band (jazz with rhythm and blues); June 30 - first, Margie Sings Patsy (Patsy Cline songs); second, Tina Turner Revue (rock and roll); and third, Open Delta (blues and love songs).

Red Cross blood drive

Here's the American Red Cross blood drive schedule: Thursday - from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at building 5400, call Jan Martin 313-1996 or Vernon Daniels 876-1062; and 7-12:30 at Ground Based Mid-course Defense, 5000 Bradford Drive, Gloria Wynne 313-9651 or Tim Hughes 313-9834. Friday - from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Post Exchange, Shelia Burhart 650-5928. June 12 - from 7-12:30 at buildings 5300/5309, Betty Mountain 313-1779. June 19 - from 7-12:30 at building 4488, Lisa Wright 876-2975. June 20 - from 8-1:30 at NASA building 4316, Rick Wallace 544-8885. June 26 - from 8-noon at building 6263, Jennifer Feemster 876-1670. June 27 - from 7-noon at Corps of Engineers, Wanda Griffin 895-1225 or Debra Rice 895-1880.

Quarterly retirement ceremony

The quarterly retirement ceremony is June 25 at 1 p.m. at Heiser Hall. Retiring ser-

vicemembers should call SFC Rodger Pettitt, operations sergeant for the garrison, 876-2819 by June 11.

Bible school

Vacation Bible School at Bicentennial Chapel is June 9-13 from 9-11:30 a.m. The theme this year is "Zoom Zone - Discover Jesus is Forever." Children age 5 before this Sept. 2 through those entering seventh-grade are eligible to attend. Register at Bicentennial Chapel during weekday duty hours and Sunday mornings. Call 876-6874 for more information.

Challenger bingo

The Challenger Activity Center's bingo program will have "Special Pack Night," Friday at 6 p.m. Buy one game pack and get a second one free. On the "Father's Day Special," June 15, everyone will receive a free game pack and there will be a door prize for fathers. Call 837-0750/0751 for details.

Father of year finalists

The Madison County Father of the Year for 2003 will be honored June 21 at a gala event in Huntsville's historic Depot

Roundhouse. The Volunteer Center of Madison County sponsors the Father of the Year gala as a tribute to the importance of responsible fatherhood. Ten finalists have been selected. All 10 either work or live in Madison County and will be honored at the upcoming event. One of the honorees will be recognized as the Madison County Father of the Year. The 10 finalists include Dwight Brown, Phil Crane, John Garrett, Jeff Luna, Thomas Morris Jr., Edward Pack and Michael Schrenk, Huntsville; Luis Alberto Duarte, Lacey's Spring; Larry Sanders, Madison; and Capt. Pete Anthony Ross, Redstone Arsenal. The nominees were judged on elements such as how the individual has made a difference in a child's life, how he has served as a role model, the nominee's involvement in the community and other attributes of an outstanding father.

Union election

AFGE Local 1858 will hold a runoff election for president Monday from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the union office, building 3202. Union members in good standing as of May 23 are eligible to vote. The candidates are Don Eiermann and Abner Merriweather.

