

# Redstone Rocket

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February 19, 2003

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Short range idea attracts industry

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# Pedal patrol rolls into neighborhoods



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**ON THE MOVE**— Bicycle patrol officers Sgt. Charlene Booth, left, and Sgt. Joshua Lee take a spin around the housing area near the Youth Center.

Provost Marshal Office using two-wheel fleet

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer

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The sight of police officers pedaling around the housing areas clad in bright yellow shirts, sporty black pants and athletic shoes doesn't elicit the same response as when residents see an MP dressed in cammos behind the wheel of a police car slowly cruising the neighborhood.

It's not supposed to.

"The bicycle patrol is a community policing initiative that establishes a closer relationship with law enforcement and the community," Maj. Brad Scofield, provost marshal, said. "It gives us great visibility. We are able to get out there and prevent a lot of things from occurring before they happen. And it's much friendlier than a rolling patrol vehicle coming through with the windows up."

The official bike patrol kicked off Feb. 3 with four officers on staff riding varied shifts between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m., with concentrated patrols in housing areas, near businesses and covering special events. They ride anywhere from 15-20 miles per shift.

See Bikes on page 11

# Command shaping up by cutting rolls

Separation bonuses help reduce surplus

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Efforts to voluntarily reduce the command's number of surplus employees are getting results.

The latest reshape early-out has cut the surplus list by half – from approximately 120 to 66. Some 32 out of 67 applicants were approved for Voluntary Early Retirement Authority /Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay after the fiscal 2003 reshape window Jan. 15-22. It was the fourth such window this fiscal year.

"The reshape is tied to the surplus list," Angela Williams, a personnel management specialist in Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, said. "The people that are approved for the reshape program basically are going out so surplus employees can be saved (from potential layoff)."

They were approved for separation bonuses of up to \$25,000, based on a severance pay formula, for leaving the government through early or regular retirement or resignation. Early retirement candidates had to be age 50 with 20 years serv-

See page 13 for a list of separation bonus approvals

ice or any age with 25 years service.

Another program, called special restructuring, allows for separation bonuses that aren't tied to the surplus list. In this program, a certain number of workers are allowed to leave the government so their jobs can be restructured. Some 123 workers were approved for the special buyouts allocated for fiscal 2003 to the Aviation and Missile Command by headquarters Army Materiel Command. This included 57 from the first window, Nov. 20-26, and 66 from the second window, Jan. 8-14.

"The special buyout is a result of the National Defense Authorization Act and it allows for reshaping positions to meet mission needs," Valerie Morgan, personnel management specialist in CPAC, said.

The command asked higher headquarters in January for 46 additional special buyout allocations to address remaining needs for restructuring. "So there may be a case where

there'll be another special buyout before the end of the fiscal year," Morgan said.

The number of surplus workers, 66 as of last Thursday, changes frequently because of such factors as vacancies and reassignments.

"The organizations are still currently working to find vacancies for these individuals outside of reshape," Williams said. "So it's an ongoing process removing employees from the surplus list. It doesn't stop just because the reshape window closes."

Voluntary separation has become an annual process at this command. Reshape voluntary separation incentive pay has been used here each year since first authorized in 1993.

"I think it's a win-win for both AMCOM and employees that want to retire because they get to retire with an incentive and the command is able to reduce and restructure its work force by voluntary means," Williams said.

"It takes a lot of cooperation from CPAC specialists and (primary organizational elements) in working the total (early-out) process," Morgan said. "We would like to thank our CPAC co-workers and the AMCOM POEs for cooperating in working to complete the special buyout and reshape exercises."

## Nursing home visit appreciated

AMSA employees located at Redstone Arsenal conducted Consideration of Others training to brainstorm and develop a plan to visit a local nursing home, Big Springs Specialty Center. The session was held Jan. 22, facilitated by Willie L. Brazile. A total of 34 participated in the training.

The presentation started with an overview of Big Springs Specialty Center describing its mission, function and the types of services offered by the center. The objective of the meeting was to brainstorm ideas on how we as an organization could show our concern and assistance to this organization, form a planning committee to develop a strategic plan based on ideas discussed within the group, and organize volunteers to implement a plan to visit the center.

Prior to the meeting, coordination was made with Big Springs Specialty Cen-

ter's activity director to see how we could best share our time with the patients. During the discussion, the director felt it would mean so much to the residents just to have someone outside of their center come by to visit during lunch. It was decided that we as an organization would go to the center during lunch on Feb. 6, and serve ice cream and distribute magazines donated by members of AMSAA-MAD. In addition to serving ice cream and distributing magazines, volunteers had a chance to talk and share quality moments with patients throughout the center. The visit to the center was well received by both patients and staff. Volunteers from this organization were deeply touched by the experience of going to Big Springs Specialty Center.

**Willie L. Brazile**  
CO2 facilitator

## No need to rush to work

Wow, just finished reading the "letters to the editor" in the Redstone Rocket and it amazes me the people complaining about the gate guards and base security. Those of you that don't like the gate security, all I can say is spend a day on the gate, preferably one of those cold windy days. Also, if you do encounter a problem at the gate, it is easy to resolve; go directly (in person) to the Provost Marshal Office. I'm sure you will get the issue resolved. If not, I'm sure the old man would like to know this.

Secondly, the lady in the gray import... slow down. You're not punching a clock and I don't know of any employees being fired for being one or

two minutes late. Look at it this way, if you are running 10 minutes late, and you have to travel 10 miles to work. To make up the 10 minutes, you will have to drive a minimum of 60 mph over the speed limit. So why be all stressed out, speeding, tail gating and creating a possible road rage incident by saluting your friends that are on time? Use a little common sense, leave your house earlier. And when you do leave early or speed to get to work, don't forget there might be a 20 minute wait to get through the gate. So what is the rush? Slow down and enjoy life. Now for those of you that like to drive slower than the speed limit, be courteous and move over. Enough said.

Name withheld by request

## Driver feels trapped by ticket

On the morning of Dec. 23, at approximately 6:50, I entered the Arsenal at gate 9. I exit the Arsenal in the afternoon through gate 7. Just past the guards, the speed limit is 55 mph. I was low on gas so I decided to u-turn down at the point that is from the gate to go back to Goss Road. Not having traveled north on Rideout in quite a while, I knew that the speed limit to be 55 mph before the lane redesignations. I accelerated after making the u-turn and reached 55 mph when I came upon a speed limit sign showing 45

mph. I lifted my foot off the gas pedal and approximately 250 feet the limit was down to 40 mph. To my surprise a police car was parked facing south, pulled me over at the access to Goss Road and cited me for 53 in a 40 speed zone. I told the officer that there was no warning that the speed was reduced ahead after I u-turned from Rideout Road south to north. He still proceeded to issue me a ticket anyway.

I took digital photos of the way the signs were placed along the northbound

See **Ticket** on page 6

## Security drives need for inspections

Week after week, I read letters of Redstone workers' complaints over getting on post without their perceived harassment. Yes, times have changed. Having spent time in Vietnam where security was paramount and having just retired from a National Guard unit that is en route to the Persian Gulf, I am very sympathetic concerning the activated guardsmen here and have voiced my support on many occasions. But to get to the point, what is so important here on Redstone that we have these seemingly tight inspections? Within the last six months, I have driven into Pensacola NAS, Scott AFB and Birmingham ANGB with just a wave (no ID check), with just a glance at my DoD sticker.

Name withheld by request

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "First of all, we thank you for your concern about security on Redstone Arsenal. Unfortunately, the situations that you mention as occurring at other Department of Defense installations are beyond our control. As an Army Material Command that is transitioning to an Installation Management Agency installation, we take our security and force protection guidance and direction from these higher commands. Both of these agencies are Department of the Army major commands. The installations that you mention in your letter are Navy, Air Force or National Guard installations. Therefore, the difference in the Armed Services guidance and policy on these matters is more*

than likely the reason for the differences.

*"Without divulging details of our critical assets here at Redstone, you can be assured that Redstone Arsenal as with most DoD installations do have facilities, missions and organizations that need additional security and protection. The current Force Protection Condition Level and measures are set based upon the criticality of our resources, what the current threat locally, nationally and internationally is, the amount and types of resources available to provide the commensurate level of security, and the directive from higher headquarters. A commander or installation can always raise the FPCON level but can never lower it below the headquarters directive. Therefore, RSA is currently postured at Bravo plus based upon all of those factors.*

*"If you read SSgt. Pennington's response in the letter to the editor section of the Rocket last week, we can confirm that the majority of our criminal cases are now initiated at the installation's access control points (gates). You can take comfort in the fact that we feel very confident that the vehicle inspections and verification of identification procedures that we conduct are keeping the RSA community safe and secure. We also ask for yours and the community's support by patiently enduring these procedures in order to make it easier for our National Guard and Department of the Army civilian security guards to perform this challenging mission."*

## An open lane random survey

How do you feel about mandatory retirement?

By **KELLEY LANE**

Staff writer  
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net



Pvt. Nick Hardy

"I don't think that anybody should have to retire before they want to. If they want to stay working then they should be allowed to stay working."

Pvt. John Melvin  
"This is a volunteer Army. No one should be forced out of service. People are voluntarily serving their country, they should choose when they leave."



Pvt. Keith Pollar

"If you'd like to serve your country, then as long as you could you should be able to, and not have to retire when someone says your time is up. You shouldn't have only a limited time to serve."



Ray Williams, vendor

"I'm 10 years over the retirement age and I'm still working. I don't agree with mandatory retirement."



# Redstone Rocket

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# Acquisition interns available to organizations

Feb. 28 deadline looms  
for job requirements

By KELLEY LANE  
Staff writer  
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According to the Acquisition Support Center, more than half of Redstone's current work force is eligible for retirement. The likelihood of all of those employees retiring en masse is minimal, but a few every year will opt for retirement. That leaves Redstone with a slowly dwindling pool of resources. To solve this crisis before it ever happens, the Army Acquisition Corps in conjunction with Army Materiel Command is sponsoring the Acquisition Career Experience Program.

The program offers two-year internships to college juniors and seniors. They work during breaks between semesters and holidays. Some work during the school year on selected days. All are majoring in a related field. Through the program managed by the Acquisition Support Center, they are placed into non-com-

petitive positions upon graduation. It is a low cost, effective way for organizations to maintain their work force while ensuring that new hires have the skills and experience necessary to complete their jobs.

"We're attempting to get some younger people in to work who are going to make government their career," Sharon Clodfelter, Acquisition Career manager, said.

Jeanne Berry agrees. "We're looking down the road," she said. "We don't want to end up with empty spaces and the work not getting done. We're looking ahead and trying to do something now."

This is the third year for the ACE program in Huntsville. It started in New Jersey four years ago before spreading to the Washington, D.C. area and then branching out to include Redstone. There are 23 students participating. Nine will be graduating in 2003 and will be seeking placement. Placement levels for graduating students are determined by experience levels and other factors pertaining to the specific positions and organizations involved.

Program slots are highly sought after through the colleges and universities participating. The fields are varied, including logistics, engineering, business, computers and information.

Eligibility requirements are simple. They must be full-time students in good standing. They must be capable of completing 640 hours of work with the organization they are placed with before graduation. They must be U.S. citizens pursuing a field related to career fields in the acquisition work force. They must be ready to accept an Army internship after graduation. While a specific grade point average is not required, lower scores are frowned upon. Non-traditional students are also welcome. Recent graduates come from varied backgrounds, including displaced workers and mothers who have gone back to school. The speed of placement is hindered only by the speed of paperwork and the availability of positions.

The benefits to the organizations receiving ACE students are numerous.

"At first I was concerned about them coming in and leaving, that people wouldn't give them the things that they needed to be doing, but that wasn't the case," Eric Edwards, deputy product manager for Air Warrior, said. "We've been very pleased."



Photo by Kelley Lane

**MANAGING PROGRAM— Sharon Clodfelter, seated, and Jeanne Berry handle the details that turn students into interns.**

Through the program, organizations can get several students for what one employee would normally cost. Some slots are funded by Acquisition Support Center, but they are limited in number. For \$5,000 to \$6,000 per student, participating organizations can fund additional student slots themselves. "As long as they fund them, we can find the students for them," Clodfelter said.

"We could use their fresh knowledge from school combined with our seasoned

experience," Erbin Troutman, of Space and Missile Defense Command and a mentor of an ACE student, said.

He thinks students need the experience working in the real world. "Perceptions while you're in school of what you'll be doing are not always accurate," Troutman said.

Acquisition Support Center is responsible for the administrative and logistical details. They also handle all the recruiting and board selection processes. The selection process is extensive to ensure that Redstone offices receive the best ACE has to offer. The organization is responsible for providing the student with a mentor, supplying tasks for the student, and all personnel actions.

Surprisingly, organizational participation hasn't been as high as expected. "We're having a hard time trying to stress the importance of the program and what it is going to mean to the Army," Clodfelter said.

"If the organizations, such as the Acquisition Center or RDEC would come online and say 'Yeah, we would like to participate,' then we could have more students and more slots," Berry said. "Maybe the right people aren't hearing about this program."

Organizations wishing to participate should call Clodfelter at 955-1632 or by e-mail at sharon.clodfelter@amd.army.mil. Position requirements must be submitted by Feb. 28.



Courtesy photo

## Black History speaker

Dr. Homer McCall, university chaplain/professor at Alabama A&M University and pastor of St. John AME Church, is scheduled speaker for the Black History Month program Thursday at 9 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. "The Souls of Black Folk (100th Anniversary)" is this year's theme.

## Phone book updates due Feb. 24

By JIM BOWNE  
For the Rocket

The deadline for submitting updates to the Redstone Arsenal Telephone Directory is Feb. 24. The 2003-04 edition is scheduled to be delivered in early June.

Things are moving along fairly well, according to Geneva Murphy, a telecommunications specialist in the Directorate of Information Management within the Garrison.

"I want to remind everyone that individuals are responsible for updating their own telephone numbers on the web," she said. "Please do not send them to me. Individuals need to go to the AMCOM web page at <https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/> and make the necessary changes. Once the

web site comes up, click on 'Redstone Phone Book' and then on 'Update.' Since each person has to enter his or her social security number and badge number to make changes, we cannot do it for them."

All organizational changes should be sent to Murphy. "We need any updates, including new organizations on post, changes to organizational names, phone numbers, listed individuals (including any added or deleted individuals), and building numbers," she said. "We try to put together the most accurate telephone book possible, but we need to receive the correct information from the Redstone community."

Murphy can be reached at 876-6103 or by her e-mail address: Geneva.murphy@redstone.army.mil. Her fax number is 876-1098.

# Synchronized skaters slide into Nationals

Huntsville team  
smooth as ice

By KELLEY LANE

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Huntsville is famous for several things — including Redstone Arsenal, Marshall Space Flight Center and ice skating. Yes, ice skating.

If you haven't heard about Huntsville's adult synchronized skating team, then you don't know what you've missed. This year Huntsville is hosting the 2003 U.S. Synchronized Team Skating Championships, with its own Masters Division team, *Mystique*, attending.

The event is March 3-9 at the Benton H. Wilcoxon Municipal Ice Complex on Leeman Ferry Road. But what is synchronized skating?

"It's the same sort of thing as synchronized swimming. Picture that and then picture it on ice," Shirley Black, a member of *Mystique* and Team Redstone, said. *Mystique* is Alabama's only 'home team' in the sport. "We have worked very hard practicing long nights away from our families so that Huntsville could have a home team," Black said.

In order to compete in the Masters Division, a team must have 12-20 skaters, with at least 75 percent over age 35. *Mystique* has 12 skaters, which means no alternates or substitutes should someone become sick or injured. Everyone in *Mystique* is over 35. About two-thirds of the team represents Army contractors, Marshall employees or retired civil servants. They come from organizations like Software Engineering Directorate, Utility Helicopters, Directorate of Public Works, Space Shuttle Projects, Integrated Materiel Management Center, Aerodyne and Intergraph. The team is approximately seven years old with tryouts held annually. See

the Huntsville Figure Skating Club web site at [www.hsvfsc.com](http://www.hsvfsc.com), for more details.

The team competed in the Midwestern Sectionals in Grand Forks, N.D., on Feb. 1; and placing fifth, it now has a shot at the national competition. Although it has been to sectional competitions three times, a national bid is a feat no other Alabama team, youth or adult, has managed before. While choreography and execution play an important part in the competition, creativity in the selection of music and costuming are also vital.

Teams are scored on both technical merit and presentation. *Mystique*, supported by Huntsville's Figure Skating Club and the Huntsville Skating School, hopes a rousing "Blues Brothers" routine will slide them into a top spot and possibly on to the 2003 World Synchronized Skating Championship in Ottawa, Canada. Competition promises to be stiff with 2,500 skaters participating. The event will also be taped by the Lifetime Television Network for broadcast sometime in April.



Courtesy photo

**HOME GROWN**— Team *Mystique* is: front row from left Allison Wheeler, Jill Shelton, Audrey Beerli, Jean Paradise, Shirley Black, Judy Tuck; and back row Cynthia Fowler, Elizabeth Quinn, Patricia Blackman, Fred Bagnall, Kate Matus and Joan Prewitt.

# Troop teams open second half of season

## 59th wins showdown against NCO Academy

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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HHC 59th and Delta look like the teams to beat as the troop basketball league enters the second half of the regular season.

The 59th beat the NCO Academy 62-47 in a showdown Feb. 12 at Pagano Gym. The 59th improved to 8-1 while the NCO Academy fell to 6-2.

"Good defense, rebounding, we just outran them," 59th point guard Patrick Perry said. "We outplayed them. We wanted it more."

Detrick Bush scored a game-high 22 points, Perry had 18 and Laevrmonde

Watts added 13 for the preseason champs.

Mark Thomas scored 13 points and Terry Montgomery and James Godine had 10 apiece for the Academy. The score was tied 24-all at halftime.

"Second half we just missed a lot of easy shots," Academy guard/forward Demmonique Walker said.

**AMCOM 63, Charlie 60:** Derrick Davis scored a game-high 27 points as AMCOM improved to 5-4 on Feb. 11 at Pagano Gym.

Lorenzo France had 14 points and Michael Gola added 12. AMCOM led 37-25 at halftime.

Taurean Brady scored 23 points and Christopher Haynes had 16 for Charlie (4-5).

In other games last week, Marines d. Bravo-2 55-21, HHC 59th d. Alpha 131st 68-39, Bravo-1 d. Bravo-2 73-30, Delta d. Headquarters & Alpha 65-34, Alpha 131st d. Charlie 53-49, Marines d. AMCOM 52-39, Bravo-1 d. Headquarters & Alpha by



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**GETTING READY— Academy guard Kraig Reed warms up for a game at Pagano Gym.**

forfeit, NCO Academy d. Bravo-2 57-53 and Marines d. Charlie 45-39.

**League standings entering this week:** Delta (8-1), HHC 59th (8-1), NCO Academy (7-2), Marines (7-4), AMCOM (5-5), Bravo-1 (5-4), Headquarters & Alpha (4-6), Charlie (4-7), Alpha 131st (2-6) and Bravo-2 (1-9).



Shawn Harris/Photo Lab

## Healthy forester

Col. Bob Devlin, the Garrison commander, presents to post forester Jesse Horton a Sick Leave Conservation Certificate for having more than 2,500 hours of sick leave.

## Volleyball league courting players

The Redstone Arsenal Volleyball League is still recruiting players and teams.

In matches Feb. 12, team 4 beat team 1 25-23, 25-21, 15-21.

"The second match was played with the number 3 team recruiting players from the floor, again due to not having all

their players present, and went on to win all three games 27-25, 25-22, 21-17," league organizer Felix Milar said. "This unusual format is allowed due to teams still recruiting new players."

For more information, call Milar at 313-6091 or Paul Banks at 842-6131.

# Emergency relief drive opens in March

Annual campaign has \$65,000 goal

By SKIP VAUGHN

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The Army continues to take care of its own.

Army Emergency Relief helps active duty and retired soldiers and their families when they need it most. The annual AER fund-raising campaign is March 1 through May 15.

A kickoff ceremony will be held March 3 at 1 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone, is scheduled speaker. Campaign chairman 1st Lt. William Bridger of Alpha 131st, the activated National Guard unit providing force protection, is to make a presentation. And the WilTech Singers from Williams Middle School will perform, directed by Patsy Gray. A reception will follow.

The campaign goal is \$65,000. Last year's drive raised more than \$102,000, exceeding the \$50,000 goal.

## General Dynamics gets precision contract

The Aviation Rockets and Missiles Project Manager of the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles has announced that General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products has been awarded a \$53.8 million, two-year contract for Block I development of the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System.

"APKWS is an important program in Army Aviation's transformation to the objective force and we are confident General Dynamics will make it happen," Carol Frazier, ARM-PM, said.

APKWS now enters system develop-

ment and demonstration, adding precision guidance systems to existing 2.75-inch, Hydra-70 rockets.

APKWS not only is cost effective, but also will be a precision weapon system for accurate use against soft to lightly armored targets.

Program management and development work will take place at General Dynamics' Burlington, Vt., and Camden, Ark., operations.

General Dynamics competitively selected BAE Systems of Nashua, N.H., to provide the guidance and control section.

"A large part of that was the result of the soldiers contributing so much in the form of allotments that they did last year," AER officer Kristi Foster said. "The soldiers contributed over \$30,000 in allotments last year."

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.

"AER has been serving soldiers for 61 years now," Foster said.

This year's campaign theme is "In Peace and War, Your Army Emergency Relief is Always There."

AER training for key representatives is scheduled 10-11 a.m. March 5 at building 3338, conference room; 1-2 p.m. March 6 at building 5300, room 5140; and March 11 from 10-11 a.m. at building 5300, room 5140, and 1-2 p.m. at building 3338, conference room.

For more information, call Foster or Army Community Service at 876-5397.

## Transition speaker gives neat advice to soldiers

Monthly workshop addresses lifestyle

A monthly workshop aimed at helping soldiers change to civilian life has undergone its own transformation.

New additions to the Transition Assistance Program Workshop, held Feb. 11-13, included a guest speaker and a "dress for success" session. Eleven soldiers leaving the service attended the three-day class at the Transition Center in building 3493.

Retired Col. Ed Stone, former chief of staff for the Aviation and Missile Command, addressed the group Feb. 12 to share his experiences.

"You need to be clean, neat, sharp and conservative out in the world," he advised.

That afternoon representatives from Men's Wearhouse and Casual Corner gave tips on how to dress as a civilian.

"We're teaching them all they need to know so their transition will be as smooth as possible," Tanzella Jackson, transition services specialist in the Garrison's Mil-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**SHARING EXPERIENCES—** Retired Col. Ed Stone tells soldiers in transition what to expect in the civilian world.

tary Personnel Office, said.

"This program was developed after the ACAP (Army Career Assistance Program) was abolished," Joe Winston, chief of military personnel services and operations division, said of the transition workshop. "So we developed this program to help our soldiers here at Redstone."

The program is also available to civilians. For more information, call Jackson at 842-2721.

### ■ Driver questions fairness of enforcement

## Ticket

continued from page 2

Rideout from the u-turn to the newly installed rumble strips to show that the area was a speed trap if you made a u-turn after entering gate 9 and were unaware that changes were done to the northbound side of Rideout Road. I called Bobby J. Noles of Directorate of Public Works to explain the signage of Rideout Road north that resulted in my issuance of a speeding ticket. He said he would look into it. That afternoon, I observed a worker repositioning the signs along Rideout Road north with the 45 mph sign positioned approximately 250 feet from the u-turn so you cannot miss the speed limit upon completion of your u-turn.

I don't have a clue how many tickets were issued that morning to unsuspecting drivers that made the u-turn and were unaware that the speed limit had been changed. To those who were ticketed that morning: you should not pay the \$50 fine for fear that you can't fight city hall and challenge the fact that you were a victim of an unbeknownst speed trap.

George S. Fox

Editor's note: The Garrison provided

the following response. "As the primary law enforcement agency servicing Redstone Arsenal, the Provost Marshal Office conducts speed enforcement operations on the installation to ensure the safety of the community by preventing serious accidents before they occur. As a preventive measure to slow traffic on the outbound lanes at the installation access control points and primarily at gate 9 (Rideout Road), a project was recently implemented jointly by the PMO and DPW to adjust the speed limit at this location in order to create a safer environment for not only the security personnel working at gate 9 but also the traffic exiting the installation from Rideout Road as well as merging traffic from Goss Road. I assure you that the intent was not to create a 'speed trap' as all of the Military Police vehicles are staged in plain sight as part of our deterrent effort to slow motorists during their exit. Anyone on RSA who receives a traffic violation citation notice (DD Form 1805) has the option of appearing in U.S. Federal Magistrate Court in Huntsville to present any rebuttal that they feel may be warranted. Personnel issued these citation notices are also informed of this option by the officer at the time of issuance."

# Prototype integration facility getting fast results

One-stop technology shop supports weapon systems

By JIM BOWNE  
For the Rocket

The Research Development and Engineering Center's Prototype Integration Facility has emerged as a focal point for agile development, rapid prototyping, and swift fielding of a new weapon system capability.

"The acquisition community is faced with the increased challenge of rapidly fielding hardware and software in a more cost effective, timely manner that will get technology into the hands of the warfighter now," Devin Whitaker, PIF business and financial manager, said. "The PIF concept focuses on assembling and integrating the necessary government and industry expertise to render a true rapid response."

In Whitaker's view, nothing better describes the warfighter of the 21st century than the word "responsive."

"In today's ever-changing global environment, the United States must have the best trained, best prepared, best equipped military force in the world," he said. "During the past decade, acquisition reforms have impacted the way that the military equips the warfighter. The strategic focus has changed, but the ultimate goal of the Department of Defense acquisition community remains unaltered — provide the warfighter with an expansive technological advantage, via rapidly fielding technologically superior warfighting capability."

Located in Building 5405, the PIF is a government-owned, government-operated facility that concentrates on meeting the rapid response needs of DoD, most notably weapon systems supported by the Aviation and Missile Command. The acquisition community needs solutions, not just technology.

The primary goal of the PIF is to support Army aviation, missile, DoD, and technology activities in the development, fabrication, integration, test/qualification of prototype tactical and ground support systems, subsystems and components. Additionally, the PIF offers capabilities that allow for manufacturing and integrating unique, difficult-to-procure, and low-



Courtesy photo

**OFFICIAL VISIT—** Secretary of the Army Thomas White and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen tour the Prototype Integration Facility during the secretary's visit July 24.

rate production items.

"The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center has had an electrical and mechanical prototyping and platform integration capability since the early 1970s, but this capability has been geographically and functionally separated," Ronnie Chronister, chief of Manufacturing Science and Technology Division, Engineering Directorate, RDEC, said.

"During FY '02, AMRDEC leadership successfully integrated these capabilities —functionally, organizationally and geographically — into what is now referred to as the PIF. Under the purview of this revolutionary concept, the PIF will continue to support DoD program executive officers, and program and product managers, as well as science and technology initiatives and their respective staffs, in a myriad functionality to weaponize the warfighter."

Although the PIF organizational and operational concept builds off the foundation of the existing base of government expertise, it also integrates unique business principles to form a creative, powerful concept to assist PIF customers in their

quest to rapidly provide hardware and software solutions to the warfighter. The primary tenants of the PIF concept include leveraging existing governmental and industrial capabilities to provide a cost effective alternative that its customer base can use.

To augment existing in-house govern-

ment resources, the PIF uses AMCOM's "PIF RAP Contract" as it is commonly known. The Rapid Acquisition and Prototyping contract is a 10-year, \$1.1 billion contract that was awarded last year. "The PIF RAP contract allows us to leverage the capabilities of original equipment manufacturers and primes, capability-specific companies, and local small and small disadvantaged businesses," Whitaker said.

Bridging the gap between developmental prototyping and production is one of the Prototype Integration Facility's strong points. Resourced with state-of-the-art tooling/equipment and skilled personnel, the PIF provides customers with a multitude of diverse manufacturing processes in a single facility, thereby reducing historically lengthy development-to-production timelines.

The PIF's agile development capability and expertise provides customized and fully integrated turn-key solutions through unprecedented design and engineering expertise. These capabilities include modeling and simulation, rapid prototyping, mechanical fabrication, circuit card assembly, cables and chassis buildup, platform integration, modification work order development, advanced manufacturing technologies, and overall program/project management expertise.

"In today's volatile environment," Whitaker said, "a significant factor in the

**See Prototype on page 9**

# Guard unit trains for chemical warfare



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**STAYING CONNECTED—** Brigade communications officer Maj. Mike Henson, 31st Chemical Brigade, Alabama National Guard, seated, and Capt. Andy Gilbert, detachment commander, check the network of laptops set up to communicate between brigade headquarters and four battalion tactical operations centers during a field training exercise at Fort McClellan. Henson is an account executive at Jaco Electronics Inc. in Huntsville.

## 31st Chemical Brigade exercise tests functions, communications

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer  
sandy@htimes.com

Weapons of mass destruction. As the possibility of armed conflict looms closer with every meeting of the United Nations, troops must face the real possibility of getting hit with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

It's the chemical units assigned to these troops that help detect dangerous agents, collect data to determine the path and concentration of contaminants, warn others in harm's way, decontaminate vehicles, clothing and equipment as well as provide smoke missions to cover troop movements or stationary assets.

The 31st Chemical Brigade, based in Northport, held the second or execution phase of a two-phase battle command staff training exercise at Fort McClellan Feb. 1-9. The brigade, with four battalions and eight companies, is in standup mode — having spent the last few years transitioning from an armor to a chemical brigade.

The exercise scenario placed the brigade in the Middle East, with battalions planted at the convergence of the Iraqi, Saudi, Kuwaiti borders. The brigade's responsibility was to assess the needs of higher echelons and put together operations based on those needs.

"It was a continuous 30-hour exercise testing brigade and battalion staff functions," Maj. Gary Hunter, 278th Chemical Battalion executive officer, said. Hunter also

works in the Short and Medium Range Targets Office at the Missile Defense Agency in Huntsville. "Everything from reports, communications, scheduling, battle tracking, logistics tracking, personnel tracking. Finding our strengths and needs in interaction from brigade staff to battalions."

The exercise tested communications through computers, a first for the brigade. By creating digital networks using laptops, battalion tactical operations centers, usually positioned about 50 miles from each other, could communicate through shared files and e-mail, a capability unavailable to the brigade until now. Before, the units relied on radios, faxes and hand-carried messages for communication.

"It makes the testing more realistic," Hunter said. "We were able to be tested a lot harder — pushing it to you immediately."

"The key to the exercise was testing our reporting system by each staff section," he said. "Personnel reports indicated if we had casualties and how many and did we have enough people to do the mission or did we need to pass it on. Did we understand the threat? Did we have enough ammo and supplies, fuel and fog oil? Equipment readiness?"

Brig. Gen. A.C. Blalock, 31st Chemical Brigade commander, was pleased with the planning and execution of the exercise and expressed success in identifying strengths and challenges for the brigade.

The two major issues identified were the need to update status boards and effective reporting to higher headquarters but even with these challenges, the performance of the brigade proved to be successful, moving it closer to becoming a fully mission capable unit.

## Prototype

continued from page 7

success of any organization, any specific program, or any industry entity, is the ability to foster an open communication environment that results in cooperation among all of the stakeholders."

Contractors represent about 68 percent of the personnel supporting the PIF operations. Most of the workers are employed by the PIF's Rapid Acquisition and Prototyping contract's prime contractor, Joint Venture Yulista Science and Engineering Services, an Alaskan Native and Small Disadvantaged Business partnership.

"Using contractor support to augment existing government capabilities offers greater flexibility to reconfigure the organization as weapon system requirements shift and the need for a specific expertise diminishes or increases," Whitaker said. "The PIF is a real-world example of how partnering with industry can reduce costs, decrease acquisition lead-times, and increase warfighter readiness. The PIF is partnering with industry to obtain a common goal. That goal is to provide the best possible hardware/software solution as efficiently and effectively as possible while striving, at the same time, to maximize quality and minimize cost."

There are many weapon systems and programs that leverage the facility's capabilities. One example is the Blue Force Tracking-Aviation Program. The program

has managed to maintain an aggressive schedule, resulting in the production and fielding of more than 200 BFT-A systems in less than six months. This success is a testimonial to the agility of the PIF concept and to the ability to horizontally integrate multiple organizational elements (including industry partners), to rapidly get this hardware into the hands of the warfighter.

"The PIF has been an invaluable organization which has enabled us to rapidly fulfill a critical warfighter need for near-real-time situational awareness in an absolutely minimum amount of time," Lt. Col. Tony Potts, BFT-A product manager, said.

When compared to the normal acquisition and programmatic arenas, the organizational and operational concept of the PIF has provided for an unparalleled simplicity. The facility's organizational structure and Rapid Acquisition and Prototyping contract offer virtually unlimited programmatic flexibility and embrace acquisition streamlining and acquisition reform methodology.

Whitaker feels that from its multi-functional, multi-faceted platform integration projects to simplistic machining and fabrication, the PIF is postured for future success. "We offer our customers a 'one stop shopping' and 'turn-key' environment that ensures that the warfighter gets the absolute best technical solution, at the best price, and at the highest quality level," he said. "We adhere to the schedule."

Police bicycles equipped with lights, siren

## Bikes

continued from page 1

On their first day out this season, bicycle patrol officers Sgt. Charlene Booth and Spec. Carl Robinson were given new meaning to "take a bite out of crime."

"We weren't on our bikes five minutes when we got attacked by a three-pack of dogs in north housing," Booth said. "They ran up on us. One got me, one got him (Robinson), and I guess the other dog was waiting for one of us to fall off the bike."

Booth clarified that "got" actually meant the two were bitten by the dogs but they managed to subdue the dogs. "I figured they wouldn't be going after anyone else again but later that afternoon they attacked a 17-year-old girl." The dogs were removed from the home for a day and then returned.

"Patrol cars go from call to call," Sgt. Joshua Lee, NCO-in-charge of the bike patrol, said. "They only deal with the people or victims they are responding to. They can't get out and talk to people. We're very approachable. We can talk to people between point A and point B."

But just because they're friendly doesn't mean the public should take them lightly. Their 21-speed Trek bicycles are equipped with flashing red and blue lights, siren and battery operated handheld radar gun. The officers are trained military police selected out of the Provost Marshal Office for this specialized duty. They carry the same personal equipment as if they were riding in patrol cars, including a radio, weapon, pepper spray, handcuffs and flashlight.

"We respond to calls — accidents, 911, domestic violence," Lee said, recalling an event last summer while on bicycle patrol. "There was a 911 hang up. I happened to be at the right place at the right time. I was only 45 seconds away from the house so I was there right away." The call came from a child at home who dialed 911 by accident. It took about three minutes for other officers to arrive on the scene. "I'm glad it wasn't a real emergency but I was glad I was close enough to get there right away. A lot can happen in three minutes."

Bicycle patrol officers also conduct radar enforcement with a handheld radar unit. While on bikes, most of the radar enforcement is done in neighborhoods, parking lots and on streets with low speed limits. Some may scoff at the idea of an officer on a bicycle trying to stop a speeding vehicle but it is easier than you might think.

While on his way to set up a radar checkpoint, Lee noticed an oncoming vehicle moving well-over the 20 mph posted limit in the housing area. He stepped out into the roadway a little to get the driver's attention and waved him to a stop, warning the driver to slow down in residential areas.

"We're pretty hard to miss in these bright yellow shirts," he said. "When they see us signaling to them and they make eye contact they'd better pull over. If they don't stop, it becomes evading a police officer — a felony charge with a mandatory court appearance. So what would have been a \$50 speeding ticket or a park-



Photo by Sandy Risbeing

**QUITTING TIME—** At the end of the shift, bicycles are secured on a police vehicle for transport back to the office. Bicycle patrol officer Sgt. Charlene Booth secures the radar gun while Sgt. Joshua Lee ties the bikes down.

ing violation or whatever the charge, now becomes a court appearance.

"And it's not like they're going to get away," he said. "We all have radios so we can call for assistance. The smart thing to do is just pull over."

In inclement weather, the bicycle patrol is still on duty, but in police vehicles instead of on bikes. "We usually run radar on those days," Lee said.

The goal of the bicycle patrol is three-fold — law enforcement, public relations and crime prevention.

"We want to persuade people to do the right thing before they do the wrong thing," Lee said. "Being out on a bike gives us the opportunity to see and hear things you might not pick up in a car with the windows up — like breaking glass or a domestic disturbance. But we also want to get to know the people and let them get to know us, that we're out here for them. And it's nice when you see kids doing the right thing, like following biking rules, wearing a helmet, to praise them for their efforts."

In the past, Redstone's bicycle patrol has operated sporadically out of the PMO as manpower has allowed. With the influx of several additional officers to the PMO staff, Lee and his crew, which includes Spec. Carl Robinson, Sgt. Charlene Booth and Pvt. David Furey, have been able to establish a separate office and training building with the hopes of running the program year-round.

In July 2002, while serving on the Arsenal's bicycle patrol, Lee and Robinson attended the Huntsville Police Academy's bicycle training course and became certified by the Law Enforcement Bicycle Association.

"As long as we have the manpower, we will keep the program going," Scofield said. "This is an important program but it's not required."

With force protection issues in flux because of possible war, manpower may need to be adjusted to provide the necessary security which could affect the bicycle program.

During the Child and Youth Services Block Party in April, the PMO will sponsor a Bike Rodeo to teach children bicycle safety rules and conduct bicycle registration. All bikes on post are required to be registered with the PMO.

# Short range air defense concept unveiled for industry



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**CLOCK TICKING—** Col. Richard De Fatta, project manager for short range air defense, talks at Industry Day with Bill Blanchard of Madison Research Corporation.

## Contract to be awarded for system of systems

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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Countdown is under way for launching a short range air defense program.

The Short Range Air Defense Project Office held an Industry Day, Feb. 11 at Rocket Auditorium for business representatives interested in a contract for the Surface-Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile. Some 115 people attended the SLAMRAAM briefings.

"This is really the kickoff event introducing this concept to industry, providing them with a body of information so they can evaluate the requirements and hopefully come back and bid," Col. Richard De Fatta, project manager for short range air defense, said.

SLAMRAAM will combine items that are already in the field with things that the contractor will build. The existing systems include the Advanced Air-to-Air Medium Range Missile, the Sentinel radar and the current short range command and control. The developmental efforts include the SLAMRAAM launcher platform and the Battle Management Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence.

"SLAMRAAM is a large integration effort bringing baseline components and developmental items together to provide a capability for the objective force unit of action as well as homeland defense," Lt. Col. Scott Shifrin, product manager for short range air defense missiles and platforms, said.

A proposal to industry will be released in April and the request for proposals by the end of June. This is a competitive contract, and the Industry Day drew representatives from major corporations and small businesses interested in bidding or partnering in development of the program.

"Industry Day is really focused on informing industry on our vision, transformation, draft statement of work and specifications," Shifrin said. "And we're

asking industry for their questions and comments so we can improve our documents prior to proposal release."

This developmental program represents a multimillion-dollar effort. SLAMRAAM is the first block of the Enhanced Area Air Defense System. "And this is where we will transform short range air defense into an objective force non-line-of-sight network centric capability," Shifrin said.

A contract will be awarded in the first quarter of fiscal 2004. The project office is working with the Research Development and Engineering Center, the Acquisition Center, the Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense, the PEO for Command, Control, Communications-Tactical, the Marine Corps and Air Force.

"This is an Army program but we're bringing in components from across the Department of Defense," Shifrin said.

Two clocks on front of the stage at the auditorium underscored the few months remaining in the program proposal process. The countdown clock on the left represented when industry's proposals are due to the government; and the one on the right was the government's countdown until the Army System Acquisition Review Council led by Claude Bolton, the Army acquisition executive.

"It kind of gets their blood going. They see that their time's clicking," Shifrin said.

Bob Benjamin, manager of business development for General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, came from Washington, D.C., to attend Industry Day.

"I think it's very interesting and very enlightening to hear the SHORAD program office explain an exciting new program," he said.

Bill Blanchard, business development manager with Madison Research Corporation, saw the event as a good start for interaction between government and industry. "I think it's great to have an opportunity to explore possible business ventures like this," he said.

Members of the SLAMRAAM team plan a second pre-bidders conference in March before release of the request for proposals.

# Separation bonus approvals listed

The following people have been approved for Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay, according to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. Four others are pending.

1 Donald Adams	RDEC	77 Linda Livingston	IMMC
2 Cynthia Adams	RMD	78 Martha Long	RDEC
3 Myra Alexander	IMMC	79 Martha Maddox	RDEC
4 Charles Allen	IMMC	80 Dorothy Mangum	TMDE
5 Judith Andersen	TMDE	81 Sandra Marks	ACQ
6 Jerrold Arszman	RDEC	82 Avrine Mayes	CIC
7 Eulyia Balentine	IMMC	83 John McClure	IMMC
8 Ramon Barrera	Corpus Christi	84 Nancy McCormick	RMD
9 John Bateman	DCSS	85 Elaine McDowell	IMMC
10 Robert Benson	CAD	86 Walter McElhane	TMDE
11 John Bequette	CIC	87 Lynne McGinnis	GARRISON
12 Peggy Binning	IMMC	88 Edward McKee	RDEC
13 Herman Black	GARRISON	89 James McKern	SAMD
14 Scott Bland	TMDE	90 Judith McPeake	Corpus Christi
15 Vernon Blanton	SAMD	91 Susan McQuay	RDEC
16 William Bodden	CAD	92 Patrick Miles	SAMD
17 Carolyn Bonin	SAMD	93 Willie Miller	SAMD
18 Eddie Jean Boone	IMMC	94 Robert Mitchell	RDEC
19 Gloria Brown	IMMC	95 Abbie Money	IMMC
20 Betty Brown	IMMC	96 Glenda Moore	IMMC
21 Freddie Bush	LEGAL	97 Ramiro Morin	Corpus Christi
22 Roosevelt Byrd	IMMC	98 Sue Noller	IMMC
23 Eddie Carranza	Corpus Christi	99 Heber Norchauker	RDEC
24 Douglas Carter	Corpus Christi	100 Lum Oakes	RDEC
25 Sammy Chavez	Corpus Christi	101 Arnold Oliver	SAMD
26 Betty Cloud	ACQ	102 Vivian Paschel	SMO
27 Nellie Coiner	IMMC	103 Margaret Patton	GARRISON
28 Charles Cook	RDEC	104 Charles Payne	GARRISON
29 John Cook	IMMC	105 Jimmy Pemberton	RDEC
30 Jose Cortez	Corpus Christi	106 James Phillips	GARRISON
31 Irvin Daniel	TMDE	107 Jimmie Pittman	IMMC
32 Diane Davidson	IMMC	108 Elizabeth Powers	LAISO
33 Janis Dill	LAISO	109 James Putnam	RDEC
34 Maxine Doherty	CIC	110 Marcos Ramirez	Corpus Christi
35 Linda Dowless	RDEC	111 Sam Ramirez	Corpus Christi
36 Willis Drake	IMMC	112 George Reed	DCSS
37 Betty Duke	P&T	113 Michael Reid	RDEC
38 Donald Dunstone	RDEC	114 Stephen Riley	IMMC
39 Richard Eaton	RDEC	115 Royal Ritchey	GARRISON
40 Wilfred Eberhart	IMMC	116 Johnny Salinas	Corpus Christi
41 Uwe Einfeld	RDEC	117 Paul Santistevan	IMMC
42 Eileen Foley	RDEC	118 Ewell Scarlett	Corpus Christi
43 Harrell Foote	P&T	119 Raymond Schneider	RDEC
44 Julie Forbes	SAMD	120 Donna Scofield	RMD
45 James Foster	P&T	121 John Scott	IMMC
46 James Franklin	RDEC	122 Henry Scott	SAMD
47 John Gaffney	RDEC	123 Elizabeth Shepard	RDEC
48 Ricardo Gonzalez	Corpus Christi	124 Jerry Smith	SAMD
49 Harold Green	TMDE	125 Kay Smothers	CIC
50 Latricha Greene	RDEC	126 Nancy Sparrow	TMDE
51 Jesse Griggs	IMMC	127 Judy Springer	RDEC
52 Delores Hall	ACQ	128 Melinda Stewart	TMDE
53 Albert Hartman	IMMC	129 John Strickland	RDEC
54 Sandra Heatherington	sIMMC	130 Barbara Sullivan	RDEC
55 Stephen Hecht	RDEC	131 Sandra Swafford	CAD
56 Julian Heimsness	IMMC	132 Percell Sykes	IMMC
57 Phyllis Henley	IMMC	133 Charles Tedder	IMMC
58 Winslow Hill	LEGAL	134 Robert Thompson	CAD
59 Roldolfo Hinojosa	Corpus Christi	135 Albert Tooley	SAMD
60 Miles Holloman	RDEC	136 Carol Trimble	RMD
61 Gerry Hone	RDEC	137 Sharron Triolo	SAMD
62 Sharron Horton	IMMC	138 Reba Tyler	GARRISON
63 Daniel Howell	RDEC	139 Benjamin Valdez	Corpus Christi
64 Wayne Hudson	RDEC	140 Robert Vanderburg	IMMC
65 Ronald Hulsey	RDEC	141 Deborah Vierdag	IMMC
66 Gilbert Irvin	GARRISON	142 Richard Vierdag	IMMC
67 Gaila Kelso	CDGRP	143 Gay Wallace	RDEC
68 John Kennedy	RDEC	144 Woodrow Wanezak	TMDE
69 William Kennedy	RDEC	145 Jeanine Warren	CIC
70 Dexter Kennedy	IMMC	146 Dian Weller	RDEC
71 Dalford Key	RMD	147 Diane White	IMMC
72 Phillip Kitchens	RDEC	148 James White	RMD
73 John Kolek	RMD	149 Staunis Williams	SAMD
74 Walter Lacy	SAMD	150 Wanda Williford	RDEC
75 Leland Lambert	RDEC	151 Ronald Yokem	RDEC
76 Daniel Langston	IMMC		

# African-American Festival has Restone unity theme

*Eighth annual event scheduled Feb. 27*

The eighth annual African-American Festival is Feb. 27 at 9:30 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"Another capacity crowd will be treated to music and art which highlights cultural experiences," the Festival Planning Committee said in a prepared release.

The Grissom High School Concert Choir, directed by Elizabeth Stephenson, is to sing gospel music. The Stone Middle School Choir will also perform. "Performances by the Save the Youth Mime team will top a day of festivities that is open to all," the release said.

"United We Stand - Team Redstone" is the theme for the event sponsored by the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office. Lee Marshall, of WAFF television channel 48 and

WDRM radio, is the emcee.

The presentation "All Blood is Red" will feature members from Team Redstone. The many door prizes include two gift certificates from Mr. Shoes Men & Ladies Clothing Store, a 19-inch color television with remote control and a DVD player.

African-American art will be displayed from 9-2 that day in the lobby.

"The Festival Planning Committee is gearing up to make this festival unforgettable," the release said. "We invite you to come, sit and enjoy a festival that will be both educational and exciting. The more we learn about one another, the more we grow to appreciate each other's cultural heritage. Not only does this awareness contribute to America's greatness, it allows for a stronger national defense and a stronger 'Team Redstone Standing United.'"

For more information, call Nathaniel Johnson at 876-2116 or Kevin Williams at 876-3564.

## Sports & Recreation

### Youth baseball signup

Youth Services will soon begin registering children ages 5-12 for spring baseball, softball and T-ball leagues. Registration continues through March 7. Cost is \$15 per child or \$35 per family per year for Central Registration at building 1500; \$35 per child for baseball, softball or T-ball fee. Leagues are open to children of active duty and retired military personnel, DoD/Army, contractor and NASA. A birth certificate and current physical must be submitted for each child's registration (if not already on file and current). Anyone interested may register at the Challenger in building 1500 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Practices begin in early April; and league play runs from May through June. Volunteer coaches and assistant coaches are needed. For more information, call 876-3704 or 313-3699.

### Women's golf group

The Huntsville Chapter of the Women's Executive Golf Association will hold its annual Tee-Off Event, Thursday at the Officers and Civilians Club. The entire Team Redstone community is invited. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and conclude by 8. Rosie Jones, an LPGA golf professional and 21-year veteran of the LPGA tour, is the scheduled guest speaker. For more information, call 852-9184.

### Bass anglers

North Alabama Bass Anglers will have a tournament March 1 on Lake Gunterville. Members should be prepared to be in the water 30 minutes before sunrise. The launch ramp is at Seibold. To join call Ed Lawler, treasurer, (256) 998-0278.

### Golfers coffee

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association is ready to begin the 2003 season with a welcoming coffee March 5 at 9 a.m. in the snack bar of the golf clubhouse. All women 17 years of age and over who meet the eligibility requirements for use of the Redstone Golf Course are invited.

## Conferences & Meetings

### Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30 at Redstone Golf Club. For more information, call retired CSM Jean Rose 313-1659.

### Air show concession volunteers

The Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team is to perform March 29-30 at Huntsville Airport. The concessionaire needs 188 volunteers to staff 16 booths each day of the air show. Booths will require 12, 3, 6 or 20 people. This is an opportunity for clubs and organizations on

the Arsenal to earn extra money for scholarships or other worthwhile projects. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Redstone Room at the Challenger Club. At least one representative from each club or organization should attend. Retired Navy Capt. Charles Steckler will discuss details and requirements to staff the various booths and provide an opportunity for representatives to sign up for booths. Steckler can be reached at 882-9524 or e-mail [steckgram@aol.com](mailto:steckgram@aol.com).

### Waiting spouses

Waiting Spouses is a group of ladies who are geographically separated from their husbands. Its next get-together is Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Free child care will be provided; RSVP by Feb. 19. For more information, call Kristi Foster or Tracy Silvia 876-5397.

### Parent council

The Parent Advisory Council will meet Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. at the Challenger Activity Community Center, building 1500, in the Redstone Room. Parents with children in the Child Development Center, Youth Services and School Age Services are encouraged to attend. Parents earn PAC participation points for attending. For more information, call Anita Epps 774-6737.

### Engineer society

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Engineers, will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Fogcutter Restaurant on University Drive. Randy Knott of MACTEC is to speak on "The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Relocation." For reservations call Deborah Walker 895-1602.

### Operations research section

The Redstone Arsenal-Huntsville Military Operations Research Section will meet Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Maj. Gen. John Holly is to speak on "Military Operations Research for Missile Defense." Lunch begins at 11 and the presentation at 11:45. For more information, call Ed Poniatowski 876-8605.

## Miscellaneous

### Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comptrollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. This scholarship is open to high school seniors, undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.asmc.org/national/nationalawards.shtml> or you may call Jan Howard 313-3447 or Debbie O'Neal 842-7501. Application deadline is Feb. 28. These may be mailed to Howard at PEO, Air and Missile Defense, Attn.: SFAE-AMD-BD-SF, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, Ala., 35807-3801 or taken to O'Neal, building 5300, third floor, Sparkman Center.

### Welfare contributions

Every year the Officer and Civilian Women's Club makes contributions to a

variety of organizations. This year a "Welfare Request Form" is being used to standardize the process by collecting the same information from each requesting organization. Welfare Request Forms are available at Army Community Service (building 3338), by mail (OCWC, Attn: Welfare Chairman, P.O. Box 8113, Redstone Arsenal, AL, 35808), and via e-mail from [adlum@knology.net](mailto:adlum@knology.net) or [dbusk@aol.com](mailto:dbusk@aol.com). All requests must conform to the OCWC Welfare Request Form. The request deadline is Feb. 28. For more information, call Angie Lunn 837-3310 or Dede Busk 430-1083.

### National Guard recruiting

The Alabama Army National Guard is seeking motivated individuals for part-time employment. "Start or continue your military career with the best part-time job in America," a prepared release said. If you know someone who needs college money, job training, retirement or just wants to serve their country, call SSgt. Joe Cox 881-2889 or 707-8467 or call Sgt. Mike Alexander 350-1610.

### Reading to children

Become a Redstone community volunteer reader and read to children at the Child Development Center each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Call Shellie or Evelyn 876-7952 to volunteer or for more information.

### Bible study

The Bicentennial Chapel invites all women with access to the Arsenal to participate in a Lunch Time Bible Study every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Bring your own lunch and join them in the assembly room. To reserve your spot, e-mail the following: [newtiques@earthlink.net](mailto:newtiques@earthlink.net).

### Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 scholarship awards to a high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information or a scholarship application, call Patricia Motes 876-9317.

### Spring break registration

Child and Youth Services will accept applications to the Spring Break and Summer Camps at the School Age Services (grades K-5) and Youth Services (grades 6-12) programs from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday through March 14. Spring Break Camps are March 17-28. Application and registration information packets may be picked up at central registration in the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Registration costs \$15 and a current immunization record must accompany registration. Cost is based on family income per DoD regulations. This program is open to children of all military and military retirees, DoD/Army civilians, NASA, and DoD/Redstone contractors. Call 876-3704 or 955-6309 for details.

### Redstone missile reunion

Aug. 18 will mark the 50th anniversary of the launching of the first Redstone missile

at Cape Canaveral. Individuals who were involved in the design, testing or launch of this missile are invited with their families to a reunion dinner on or about Aug. 18 at the Bevell Center in Huntsville. For more information, call Bill Pittman 876-1778.

## Charitable organizations

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from federated groups, charitable organizations or a combination thereof, for participation in the 2003 fund-raising campaign. In accordance with Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 950, an organization must have 501-c-3 status, proof of human health and welfare services, an annual audit/IRS 990 Form, and a board of directors. The open period for acceptance of application packages is March 17 to April 7. Contributions to this fund-raising campaign are received from federal employees, active military personnel, retired federal employees, and governmental contractor personnel from Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. For more information or to obtain an application call Melinda Seigler, CFC director for United Way of Madison County, at 536-0745, ext.108 or the CFC office 876-9143. Local applications may also be downloaded from [www.cfc.gov/cfc](http://www.cfc.gov/cfc) or picked up at the United Way of Madison County, 701 Andrew Jackson Way, Huntsville. E-mail inquiries may be made to: [Melinda.Seigler@uwshsv.org](mailto:Melinda.Seigler@uwshsv.org).

## Veterinary special

"Give your pet a Valentine's Day gift that will last all year," the Veterinary Treatment Facility says in a prepared release. Throughout February, the clinic will offer heartworm tests for \$10 and all heartworm preventive for 15 percent off. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. February clinic days for vaccines and sick call are Feb. 20, 26 and 27 by appointment only, call 876-2441. Special evening clinic will be Feb. 25 from 4-6 p.m. for walk-ins, vaccines only.

## Army dependent scholarships

Applications for the Army Emergency Relief Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund for Dependent Children of Army Soldiers are being accepted through March 3. Dependent children, stepchildren or legally adopted children of soldiers on active duty, retired, or deceased while on active duty or after retirement are eligible. Applications may be printed from the AER web site, [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org). Completed applications with supporting documents must be mailed to headquarters AER and postmarked not later than March 3. For more information call Kristi Foster of Army Community Service 876-5397.

## Master's degrees

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information meeting on its master of business administration program Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at Calhoun Community College, conference room 101E, 102 Wynn Drive. Weekend classes meet in Huntsville

on an 18-month alternate weekend format. RSVP at 800-672-7223, ext. 5026 or [danielag@huizenga.nova.edu](mailto:danielag@huizenga.nova.edu).

## Prayer breakfast

The next Nondenominational Prayer Breakfast sponsored by IMMC is Feb. 25 at 7 a.m. in building 5308, room 8124. No food or drinks will be served but you may bring your own. Nathaniel Otey and Antoinette Franklin of Fellowship Presbyterian Church are to present the program. Everyone is invited. For information call Clifton Canady 876-1587.

## Black History program

Team Redstone invites you to the Black History Month program, Thursday at 9 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Scheduled speaker is Dr. Homer McCall, Alabama A&M University chaplain/professor and pastor of St. John AME Church. The theme is "The Souls of Black Folk (100th Anniversary)."

## Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will have its Mini-Professional Development Institute, March 5-6 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. Select either day to attend; same session each day. The overall theme is "A Balancing Act" with the following topics included: "Keep Your Job, Your Family and Your Sanity" and "Reducing Desk Rage." Lunch will be served at Trinity Personal Growth Center with bus transportation provided. The course is in TIPS

for education credit. Reservations, charged to government IMPAC card should be faxed or e-mailed to Pat Thomas 853-0706 or Kim Jean 876-7208, fax 842-7107. Cost for the course is \$65 for ASMC members, \$75 for non-members. You do not have to be in the financial field to enjoy the seminar.

## Fish meal deal

The Sparkman Cafeteria will have a "fried fish special," Friday from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. For \$5.75 you get two 4-ounce whitening fillets, cole slaw, French fries, hush puppies and coffee, tea or fountain drink. Takeout orders are limited to 10 without prior arrangement. For more information, call 876-8741/8894.

## Farewell to Phil

The Military Personnel Office will hold a retirement ceremony for Phil Fredrich, today from 1-2 p.m. at building 3493 (Military Personnel Office Transition Center). All personnel are invited to come and say goodbye to Fredrich, who will retire Feb. 28.

## Pancake day

The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville will have its annual Pancake Day, March 1 at the Huntsville High cafeteria. There will be all-you-can-eat pancakes and sausage from 6 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5 at the door, or get advance tickets for \$4 from Charles Urban 650-7079. Bring the whole family.

See Announcements on page 17

## Army family team building

"It Takes a Team," Army Family Team Building Level II, will be held March 3-4 and 10-11 from 6-9 p.m. at building 3338 on Redeye Road. Level II is designed for emerging leaders within the Army community — experienced family members who have begun to assume leadership roles within the community and their unit or organization. Courses include Introduction to Effective Leadership, Volunteer Management, Management Skills, and Problem Solving. To complete the entire block of instruction, plan to attend all four nights. Call 876-5397 by Friday to reserve your seat and arrange for free child care.

## Public affairs survey

In an effort to improve the way the Garrison and Aviation and Missile Command's Public Affairs Office does business, the office has developed an online Customer Satisfaction Survey. The online survey can be accessed on the web at the following internet sites: [https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/pub\\_affairs](https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/pub_affairs) or [http://www.redstone.army.mil/pub\\_affairs](http://www.redstone.army.mil/pub_affairs). The Public Affairs Office hopes to receive input from both past customers and potential customers. The survey has 10 questions, half of which may be answered by simply clicking on your desired response. Available responses to these questions range from 1 to 5, Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree. The remaining five questions require answers that must be typed in the space following the questions. When you complete the survey, simply click on the "Submit" button. The survey takes little time to complete. The Public Affairs Office is looking for submissions that reflect honest responses and will use the survey results to improve its services to its customers. By having customers and potential customers respond to the survey, the PAO will better know what its customers expect, what it is doing right or wrong, and how to function more efficiently.

## Astronomical society

The Von Braun Astronomical Society will conjure "Magic of the Cosmos" via professor John Brown, astronomer royal for Scotland, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Werner Von Braun Planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. For non-members, admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12-under. Weather permitting, a star party, using the big VBAS telescopes, will follow. For more information, call Mitzi Adams 961-7626.

## Professional development

The 2003 BIG Professional Development Seminar, sponsored by Blacks in Government, is March 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Motivational speaker Lee Milteer is to conduct the morning session. For more information, call 551-7230.

## Tax assistance center

The Redstone Tax Center, building 3489 off Ajax Road, provides free tax preparation and electronic filing services to active duty and retired military and their dependents. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment

only, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7 for walk-in services. For an appointment, call 842-1040.

## Family action conference

The Redstone Arsenal Army Family Action Plan Conference is Feb. 25-26 at the Officers and Civilians Club. This is a grassroots effort to make a difference. For more information, call Virginia Dempsey or Larry Leggett at Army Community Service 876-5397.

## Book sale

Post Restaurant is holding a book sale, today and Thursday at Sparkman Cafeteria, to benefit the Civilian Welfare Fund. For more information, call 876-8741.

## Black History skit

In honor of Black History Month, youth from the Youth Center will perform the skit, "The Somebody Dun Told You Wrong Show," Friday at 6 p.m. at the center in building 3148. This is a comedic skit about African-American inventors, presented in a talk-show format. For more information, call 876-5437. Everyone is invited to this free community event.

## Airborne recruiting

The Army Airborne Recruiting Team, from Fort Knox, Ky., is visiting through Friday. For more information, call DSN 536-0427.

## Thrift Shop donations

The Thrift Shop is accepting written applications for donations. It can only accept requests from charitable organizations that have a federal tax exemption number. The deadline for requests is April 14. Please include your federal tax number and mail to Redstone Thrift Shop, Building 3209, Hercules Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

## Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9-5. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-3 p.m. "Feb. 28 is the last day we will accept winter items," a prepared release said. "Donations are accepted and tax slips are available." For more information, call 881-6992.

## Retirement reception

A retirement reception for Jim Franklin and Jimmy Pemberton is Feb. 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Port of Madison, Holiday Inn, Highway 20. Cost is \$12.50, which includes dessert, drink and gratuity. If interested call Melissa Amacher 313-0866 or Trina Stenberg 842-7731 today.

## Software courses

Florida Tech will offer the following professional development courses in building 5304, room 4370: Testing Computer Software, March 24-26; and Software Test Automation Architecture, March 27-28. For more information, call 881-7878.

