

Redstone Rocket

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Forces for freedom



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Win or lose



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General asks for workers' patience

More reorganization expected during 2003

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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2002 was a year of change which had a positive impact on how this command supports soldiers, according to Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen.

"I think our workers became much more attuned to what happens at the tip of the spear at the units – the aviation units, the field artillery units," Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said. He saw this as a result of the good will and patriotism after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"In the past I'd call people in and we were just beginning to address the issue. And I call people in now and they already have the issue solved," he said. "And I'm pretty proud of that."

Last year there were reorganizations throughout AMCOM and Redstone, including creation of the Research and Development Command and formation of the Garrison. "At one time or another, every piece of AMCOM and almost every piece of Redstone has been the focus of some kind of relook," Dodgen said. "That puts a tremendous amount of turbulence on the work force."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

IN OFFICE FOR NEW YEAR— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, arrived in September 2001. In his first mostly civilian organization, he says he's been impressed with the workers' dedication.

And the changes continue into 2003. "To the work force, I would just say be patient," Dodgen said. "As we work through these reorganizations, what's fore-

most in the mind of AMCOM leadership is mission and taking care of the men and

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Research Command wants quick turnaround for technology



Harold Garner/Photo Lab

FORMING CONCEPT— Maj. Gen. John Doesburg directs a task force establishing the Research Development and Engineering Command by October.

Getting equipment to soldiers the goal for new organization

By AL SCHWARTZ
Public Affairs chief

Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, commander of the Soldier & Biological Chemical Command, leads a transition team that will create a Research Development and Engineering Command as a major subordinate of the Army Materiel Command.

The intent is to bring together in a single organization the Army Research Laboratory, parts of the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command, the Materiel Systems Analysis Activity and each of the AMC research development and engineering centers. Planning began in December 2001; and the command is to become fully operational Oct. 1.

Doesburg was interviewed by the *Redstone Rocket* before he spoke in Huntsville with Army contractors and employees about the new command.

Q: What is the objective of the RDE Command?

A: "The objective can be put in one sentence... put technology in the hands of soldiers quicker. As we move into the future, the

See Research on page 6

Seat belt requirements clarified

I would like to clarify the child safety seat requirements that were discussed in the Dec. 18 *Redstone Rocket* article on seat belts. In the article, I didn't clearly explain the requirements.

Alabama law requires all children under the age of 6 to be properly restrained using a child passenger restraint system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards. This means children under the age of 4 must be in approved child safety seats. Five- and 6-year-olds may use seat belts installed by the vehicle manufacturer. However, depending upon state child passenger laws as an accurate measure of what is safe for children can lead to a tragedy.

Seat and shoulder belts are designed for adults. They are made to ride over the bony areas of the shoulders and hips. With small children, the lap belt tends to

ride up into their abdomens and the shoulder belt cuts across their necks. In a crash, this can cause serious injuries or even fatal injuries. Also, in a rollover, a small child may be ejected when a seat belt is the only restraint system used.

Safety experts strongly recommend that children should not be moved into regular seat belts until they are 4 feet, 9 inches tall, about 80 pounds and approximately 8 years old. Until then, use booster seats. Children are safest in the rear seat in the middle. If a child must be placed in a front seat, the child may be at high risk from a passenger side air bag. Some models vehicles now have switches to turn off the air bag when a child is riding in front.

Bryan A. Lorge
chief, Operational Safety Division

Contract managers express thanks

The National Contract Management Association, Huntsville Chapter, extends its sincerest appreciation to the following corporate contributors who participated in the recent Toys for Tots Drive on behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve: Computer Sciences Corp., CST Inc., EDAW Corp., ERC

Inc., Intergraph Government Solutions, Mevatec Corp., Morgan Research Corp., Pace and Waite Inc., Sigmatech Inc., Sparta Inc., SRS Technologies, and TecMasters Inc.

Patricia J. Vail
Community Service Committee,
NCMA

An open lane random survey

Do you have a personal goal for 2003?

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



Gaylene Wilson,
assistant sports director

"My goal for 2003 would be to strive to be a better person, to keep a positive outlook on life and to try to make a difference in one person's life each day by just being positive to them."



Felix Milar,
recreation assistant

"Trying to keep my body strong, to stay on the right track and hopefully not to have to go back to chemo. Mentally, I think I can lick this thing."



Rick Gray, supply technician

"Trim down to 3 percent of my body fat so I can compete in Mr. Huntsville in early spring."



SSgt. Stacey Boswell

"To go back to school, off duty education."

Holiday lights shine for Redstone residents

Two Redstone families had a gala holiday season – thanks to their house decorating skills.

SSgt. and Mrs. Timothy Rodriguez won Redstone's first "Gala of Lights Contest"; and SSgt. and Mrs. Kevin Lade finished second. Their homes were judged to have the best seasonal decorations.

Rodriguez, of 514-A Walnut Circle, Columbia Centre, received a \$125 gift

certificate from the Post Exchange, \$25 from Morale Welfare and Recreation, a \$50 gift certificate from the Commissary and a night's stay at Hotel Redstone.

Lade, of 1344-B Jupiter Court, Endeavor Village, received a \$75 gift certificate from the PX, \$10 from MWR, a \$25 gift certificate from the Commissary and a night's stay at Hotel Redstone.

Theft includes personal healthcare information

Thieves made off with computer equipment and files from the Arizona office of a military healthcare contractor Dec. 14, gaining access to some clients' Social Security numbers, according to DoD's Tricare Management Activity.

The contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp., provides services to military beneficiaries in the Tricare Central Region. That region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and part of western Texas.

TriWest indicated the data is the same as that contained on the beneficiary enrollment form. Additional data may include medical procedures, diagnostic codes for medical services, and locations and dates of services. TriWest is contacting all affected beneficiaries with letters

mailed between Dec. 27 and Jan. 31.

Beneficiaries may also obtain information from the TriWest Web site, <http://triwest.com>; by calling a toll-free TriWest information line, (888) 339-9378; or by e-mailing TriWest at computert theft@triwest.com.

The identity and motive of those who committed the crime are not known. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and other law enforcement organizations are investigating the incident. Department of Defense has required all contractors working with the Tricare system to assess current physical and electronic security to ensure such theft does not occur again.

Editor's note: Compiled from American Forces Press Service, Tricare Management Activity and TriWest news releases.

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Honeywell wins contract to support T-55 engines

Five-year award
up to \$149 million

ACQUISITION CENTER RELEASE

The Aviation and Missile Command and Honeywell International, Tempe, Ariz., continue to strengthen their partnership and build a long term relationship to provide support to the warfighter. A Spares Long Term Integrated Product Team was developed to implement a contract strategy to provide for a contractual vehicle for the sole source spares required over the next five years to support the T-55 engines. This effort is a five-year Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity commercial contract that consisted of five separate ordering periods with a maximum value of \$149 million. The acquisition was awarded Dec. 12.

The award includes 83 critical AMCOM managed items and was processed as a commercial contract. The contract vehicle incorporates fixed prices

and maximum flexibility utilizing a pricing model that prices "1 to n" so the Army can procure any quantity required over the next five years. The vehicle encourages establishment of long term supplier relationships. Key objectives are reduced lead time, streamlined processes for ordering and a more efficient use of resources for both parties.

An Alpha concept which is the ultimate teaming arrangement was utilized for evaluation and negotiation of the acquisition effort. This contract provides an overall framework for achieving the highest level of support to the Army. Members of the IPT include all functional areas to include logistics, contracting, pricing and estimating, legal, engineering, business and program operations, supplier management and support from the Defense Contract Management Agency. The success of this endeavor is indicative of what can be achieved through strong partnerships between government and industry.



Russell Moore/Photo Lab

SIGNING UP— Contracting officer Cathy Dickens, seated at left, joins Honeywell's Maura Shaffer in signing a five-year contract for T-55 spares support. Standing, from left, are Marlene Cruze, director of Acquisition Center; Chris Riall, Charles Miller, Laurie Hewitt, Lorenzo Thomas, Claude McClendon, Randy Williams and Freddie Thompson.

Contract awarded for HIMARS program

The HIMARS program awarded a \$13.5 million Long Lead Item production contract Dec. 20 to Lockheed Martin Missile and Fire Control-Dallas.

The LLI contract procures long lead materiel required to support the Low Rate Initial Production 1 launchers and is required to maintain program schedule

and meet the accelerated First Unit Equipped date. Milestone "C" is scheduled for March with an anticipated LRIP 1 contract award scheduled for April.

The LLI procurement maintains the critical Operational Testing and First Unit Equipped dates for the Army and the Marine Corps.

UAH wins contract for aerophysics test program

The Space and Missile Defense Command awarded a \$19.1 million contract Dec. 13 to the University of Alabama-Huntsville for an aerophysics testing program.

The purpose of this effort is to conduct

high velocity impact experiments and analyses to develop lethality criteria for a variety of applications.

The initial amount of this action is \$828,446. The period of performance for the effort is 60 months.

Car wash facility opens at Redstone

There's now a place on post to wash your vehicle.

Wash the wintertime grime off the car or truck in the brand new MWR Car Wash near the corner of Goss Road and Vincent Drive (across from the Commissary).

Just like all other Morale Welfare and

Recreation facilities, the car wash is open to the entire Redstone community at a lower price than in town. Wash your car for \$1 for the first four minutes and 25 cents for every minute after that.

For more information about the MWR Car Wash, call 955-7727.



Courtesy photo

HIGH PRIORITY— The High Mobility Artillery System is a C-130 transportable, wheeled Multiple Launch Rocket System mounted on a truck chassis. It is designed to provide overwhelming firepower to the Army's early entry light forces.

Helicopter crews getting approved personal life support equipment

Product office members finish operational test

Members of the Air Warrior Product Office have successfully completed operational testing of the Air Warrior system. The Air Warrior system is an integrated, modular ensemble of personal life support equipment designed for helicopter aircrews.

Over six months, Army aviators and aircrews from Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Wainwright, Alaska, executed the four operational test phases in the UH-60 Black Hawk, the OH-58D Kiowa, the CH-47D Chinook, and the AH-64D Apache helicopters. The Air Warrior test team monitored approximately 83 test

subjects as they completed 177 day, night and simulator flights totaling more than 469 flights hours.

Testing evaluated the Air Warrior system not only during day and night combat mission flights, but evaluated the system from the perspective of cockpit effectiveness, maintenance operations, effects upon ingress and emergency egress and the aircrew's ability to conduct survival and evasion tasks.

The Air Warrior Product Office is one of two product offices under the command of Col. Ted Johnson, project manager for Soldier Warrior, and Col. James Moran, Program Executive Office, Soldier. Both the program executive office and Project Office Soldier Warrior are located at Fort Belvoir, Va.



Courtesy photo

AIR WARRIOR TEAM— Members of the Air Warrior Test Team include, front row from left, Bill Grubbs, Cathy Farless, Linda Smith, Lud Newton and John Jolly; and back row, Sgt. Derrick Davis, Don Harp, John Heywood, Tim Jones, Clayton Pitts, Lt. Col. Tom Bryant (product manager), Jim Payne and Perry Smith. Not pictured are Maj. James Delaney (APM for Air Warrior), Betsy Dart, Richard Luechtefeld and Mark Murray.

Pakistani border guard wounds U.S. soldier

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A Pakistani border guard shot and wounded a U.S. soldier Dec. 29 during an incident on the Afghan border with Pakistan, Joint Task Force-180 officials said.

The soldier received a grazing wound to the back of the head. He was evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and is listed as stable.

The incident occurred near Shkin. U.S. soldiers were observing Pakistani border guards destroy inert missiles found in the area. The border in the region is in dispute, but U.S. officials said the American soldiers were within Afghanistan.

Officials said one of the border guards approached the U.S. patrol. The American soldiers asked him to go back to his side of the boundary. As he walked back, the

border guard turned, dropped to one knee, and fired on the Americans. The U.S. soldier was wounded at this time. American officials said the other Pakistani border guards in the area helped the U.S. forces.

The border guard ran into a nearby abandoned madrassa, or local religious school. He was the only person observed entering the structure, but U.S. soldiers said they took more fire from the building and called in close-air support. An AV-8B dropped a 500-pound precision guided bomb on the building. The structure is inside the recognized borders of Afghanistan.

Officials said the border guard is in Pakistani custody.

American officials said U.S. and Pakistani troops continue to work closely together to patrol the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

■ 2002 brought technical improvements for war on terrorism

Reorganization

continued from page 1

women that have done the job for so many years here at AMCOM."

Construction projects begun last year included the Von Braun Complex, the first of several segments to move the Space and Missile Defense Command and the rest of the local defense work force onto the Arsenal from leased buildings off post. Officials see this as a way to enhance force protection. Other projects started in 2002 included a new military dining facility and an expanded training facility for bomb technicians. The first of 118 new housing units opened for military families. A car wash is opening on post.

"And then there's a lot of construction being planned for the out years," Dodgen said. "So I think the quality of life is getting better on Redstone Arsenal."

Other accomplishments in 2002 included opening the Prototype Integration Facility, a record year in contracting by the Acquisition Center, another big year for foreign military sales by the Security Assistance Management Directorate, aviation engineering efforts by the Research Development and Engineering Center, and Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment strides by soldiers in the field. Spec. Justin Brown, a 95th Maintenance Company (TMDE) soldier stationed in Germany, was named the Department of Army's first soldier of the year.

"I think maintaining the readiness of our weapon systems in an environment of

funding shortfalls" was a major accomplishment last year, Dodgen said. "It took a lot of diligent planning."

There were also technical improvements for the war on terrorism, including mounting Hellfire on unmanned aerial vehicles.

"It's just been a year of superlative mission accomplishment, at the same time we've actually shrunk the work force. And that's a major accomplishment," Dodgen said.

Some initiatives begun last year will come to fruition in 2003. AMCOM will take over aviation maintenance at Fort Rucker, home of 35 percent of the Army's flight hours, on Feb. 1. RDEC engineers will continue their work in aviation technology. Work will continue on the rotorcraft technology agreement signed last year with the University of Alabama-Huntsville. And Dodgen sees more Aviation Corridor efforts this year.

"So the Rocket City is going to become the Rocket and Aviation City," he said.

As a new year begins, the commanding general expressed his best wishes to the work force and their families during the holiday season.

"I want to thank them for just being good workers," Dodgen said. "I think they have done their job diligently. I think they're in here to get the job done efficiently and not just punch a clock. I appreciate their patience in reorganizations. And I think they're a great work force. I'm always impressed with their dedication to their job."

"Tell them to enjoy the end of the year (2002) because they earned it."

Research

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Army's goal is to field an Army of system of systems rather than to field an Army of individual things. So, the command has two tough missions: put technology in the hands of soldiers quicker; but do it with a system of systems approach so our fighting force remains the premier fighting force in the world."

Q: Why would an RDE command help achieve these objectives?

A: "In the past we had very specific areas in which we focused, whether in systems for lethality such as artillery pieces or missile pieces or in systems to protect soldiers from hazards on the battlefield. We worked in those stovepipes. We developed the next generation of equipment and we inserted that equipment into the fighting force.

"What we want to do now, is focus on a system of systems approach. For example, when we talk about robotics some of us think about robotics as unmanned ground vehicles, some think of robotics as unmanned aerial vehicles, and others think of robotics as an exoskeleton that is attached to a soldier to relieve him of the burden of weight. The core, the base technology, really resides as a computer chip. If we horizontally looked at robotics, in all the different laboratories in the Army and all the different RDECs, what we would want is that base chip to be exactly the same. Because wouldn't it be a great world if that exoskeleton that was on that soldier had the ability to control for the soldier the UAV, the UGV, and all the other robotics that are out there.

"In fact, from a system of systems approach, it makes that soldier the fighting force that we want for the future. We want a similarity, so the soldier can move from one to the other and operate in that environment. Horizontal integration is really one key to this.

"The other key is understanding from a strategic sense what capabilities we want. Instead of looking at capabilities as an individual piece of equipment, we have to look at capabilities as a solution set. For example, lethality is a solution

set... it's a capability we need. Lethality can be armed helicopters, or lethality can be the next generation gun system, but in effect, that and many others are the lethality for the fighting force. So from a strategic sense, we have to understand what each solution set provides to us. We have to maximize as a system of systems, not maximize each one individually, so we have the best lethality or the best survivability that we can have for our fighting force."

Q: What is the current status of the command?

A: "On 1 Oct. '02 provisional orders were signed, so the command is provisional. I'm the task force director for the establishment of the RDE Command. Portions have already moved into this provisional organization - the Edge-wood Chembio Center, the Army Research Lab and the Systems Analysis Agency all at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and the Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass. Over the next few months, the command will take operational control of the other RDE centers within AMC (the AMCOM RDEC is scheduled to become part of the new command in June). We currently operate as a group and have been meeting as a board of directors. The technical directors for all the RDECs have worked out how we're going to work together to meet the goal of putting technology in the hands of soldiers quicker and moving technology horizontally through the commands. We anticipate standing up the command officially on 1 Oct. '03."

Q: Have there been any modifications to the formation of the command?

A: "It is going forward on schedule. Of course, we would like to do things quicker and we will look at options early in 2003. Expectations are high for us and to meet those expectations we sometimes have to move quicker."

Q: Where will the RDE Command headquarters be located and when will that decision be made?

A: "I anticipate that decision will be made by the Army as a corporate organization before 1 Oct. '03."

Q: What is the Agile Development Center?

A: "The Agile Development Center - some people call it a skunk works, but it is more than just that - is very critical to the RDE Command. It has already operated on three projects for the Army... one still ongoing in which the AMRDEC is very involved. The key to the Agile Development Center is that it is a virtual, collaborative environment. I don't have a building and bunch of folks sitting in the building waiting for some breakthrough in technology. What I do have is the ability to reach across all of the RDECs. When an issue comes up, I can put the right people together in this virtual, collaborative environment to solve that particular problem and then because we have the Prototype Integration Facility located here and similar facilities at the other RDECs, to have one of those facilities put together that particular device, thought, whatever it may be, so it can very quickly be put in the hands of soldiers to find out if that's what we want. When you have a fixed site with a fixed number of people, eventually you have a situation where you have more projects than the number of people you need to work on them. By having this virtual, collaborative environment, we have access to all the integration facilities and prototype facilities across all the RDECs. I have literally thousands of smart minds that can be applied against the problems."

Q: Are you working with other federal agencies?

A: "Yes. We have started the process of developing agreements with other federal agencies and organizations. Ideas come from everywhere. In a virtual, collaborative environment, we will reach out to many areas to solve problems and harness intellectual power to support the Army."

Q: How will you share or build a knowledge base?

A: "One of our objectives is to share knowledge across the command. As you know, AMCOM was critical to the success of integrating the Army Hellfire missile on the Air Force Predator UAV - a system used with great success in Afghanistan. As part of the Agile Development Center concept, the folks here at Huntsville reached out to the folks at Picatinny Arsenal (N.J.) and a number of others and showed the problem and solu-

tion as AMRDEC saw it and then asked for ideas that they might be able to apply to that particular solution.

"I was just up at Picatinny, and they have a lot of pride that they were included in the problem. That becomes knowledge sharing. Picatinny probably knows as much about that operation as anyone, even though Hellfire is not a system of theirs, just by the fact that they were involved in the thought process as we solved that problem. And that's critical because now there is a knowledge base both at Picatinny and here at Redstone. And now we can move forward and provide increased capabilities in the future.

"What's nice is that in most cases there is no pride in ownership, there is pride in execution."

Q: What will the role be of AMC commodity commands?

A: "My main focus has been setting up the RDE Command, so I can only address this from peripheral sense. AMC is going through a major transformation, just as our Army is. AMC is transforming to meet the Army of the future. That means we probably won't do business the way we have done it in the past. From my perspective, from the RDE Command perspective, horizontal integration reaches and touches everything that is in the responsibility of AMC. I think if you look at how AMC is going to transform for the future and look at that horizontal integration piece, then that says the role of the commodity commands is going to be imbedded in everything from basic science to the maturation of that science to the field force when it receives it to the sustainment of that field force."

Q: What are your views of the Aviation and Missile Command Research Development and Engineering Center?

A: "I have been very impressed with the work that is done at AMRDEC - the quality of the science and engineering and quality of the folks. One of the things you always do is leverage the best and the brightest and I cannot see anything except a bright future for Redstone and AMRDEC in this transformation. There is no place in our Army that has the capability in aviation or missile fighting systems as in this community - government and industry. There is zero possibility of AMRDEC - work or people - moving."

She's a completely different 'Shaq attack'

Air Force fighter pilot flies missions over Iraq

By SSgt. SHANNON COLLINS
Special to the American Forces Press Service

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey — The thrill of jockeying a high-performance fighter jet took on a new meaning recently for one F-16CJ pilot as she flew her first combat patrol in Operation Northern Watch.

"I saw airbursts explode just about 4,000 to 6,000 feet away from my jet — that was definitely an eye opener," an excited and anxious Capt. Christina "Shaq" Szasz said of her first trip up. "It's so much more real being here and flying over Iraq. When I went out there for the first time, I was really on edge, looking outside all the time.

"The realization came over me that these people down there want to kill me. These people down there are aiming at me," she said. "It really puts you in the game to stay focused on what you're doing, stay focused on the mission and to stay on top of the details."

Szasz volunteered about a month ago to deploy to Operation Northern Watch with her unit's advance team to ensure easier inprocessing for fellow crew members who would follow. Her commander, Lt. Col. C.Q. "Swamp Thang" Brown said this was very helpful.

"She has been a tremendous asset.... Her efforts ensured we were ready to go Day 1 on station. Just like all the pilots in my squadron, she is fully combat-ready and executes the ONW mission extremely well," he said.

The mission of Szasz and the other F-16CJ pilots from the 78th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., known as the "Bushmasters," is suppression of enemy air defenses.

"We do the 'Wild Weasel' mission, where we're the first in and last out. We try to attract the attention of SAM (surface-to-air missile) operators, so that they're looking at us. As soon as they open their radars, if they're looking at us or the other aircraft, once they start radiating, we'll pick that up, and we can shoot our HARM (high-speed, anti-radiation missile) at them," she said.

Szasz didn't shoot any HARMs on her patrols, but she said the pilot training she received with EURO NATO at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, and with the 78th EFS helped her with her mission here.

Szasz said joining the Air Force came naturally.

"I have a very military family. My dad is retired Navy, my two sisters joined the Navy, my older brother's in the Army, my little brother's in the Air Force, and my cousin flies KC-10s for

the Air Force," she said, sitting back in her chair.

Though her brothers and sisters, cousin and father are all in the military, she said her real inspiration came from her grandfather, a freedom fighter in the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. She did a documentary on him while she was in college.

"I loved listening to his stories and just how patriotic he was. He believed very strongly in fighting for freedom, and he always used to instill that into us, as to how it's your job and your duty to do whatever you can to help that cause. Just seeing him and my father serve, it just came naturally," she said.

Szasz's grandfather was imprisoned for eight years for his part in the failed revolt. When her father saw him eight years later, she said, he was scared to death and didn't recognize him. Though her grandfather passed away a few years ago, she said he was very proud of her for joining the military.

"When I was doing the documentary on him, he said, 'You don't know how happy it makes me to know that I was able to be a soldier, my son was able to be a soldier and my granddaughter is able to be a soldier.' That was really nice," Szasz said, her face lighting up.

Though she could have served in any number of career fields, she chose to become a fighter pilot. "I want to be at the tip of the spear. I want to be out there doing something that's going to directly affect saving someone's life or affecting the mission," she said.

Szasz and the other Northern Watch pilots here spent shifts of 12 hours or longer with briefings, pre- and post-flight checks of the jets, flying the sortie, and planning for the next day's mission. While the Iraqis targeted them regularly, she said it was worth it.

"If there's anything I can do to keep America the way America is, then I'd like to do that," she said. "Growing up, I heard stories from my dad and my grandfather about what they had to go through.

"My father said when he was little he was afraid because you never knew when soldiers would come into your house, walk over it and you, and take what they pleased. We're really lucky to be Americans and to have the lifestyle that we do and the freedoms that we do," she said.

Szasz recently rotated home to Shaw as other squadron members arrived for their turns in Operation Northern Watch.

Editor's note: Air Force SSgt. Shannon Collins is attached to the Operation Northern Watch Public Affairs shop at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. Her home station is Barksdale Air Force Base, La.



Photo by SSgt. Shannon Collins, USAF

TOP GUN— F-16CJ fighter pilot Capt. Christina Szasz recently deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, to help smooth the way for her unit, the 78th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. While at Incirlik, she flew her first combat missions — Operation Northern Watch patrols over Iraq.

New year good time to kick tobacco habit

Smoking cessation classes offered at health center

By TAMIRIS CENTENO
Community health nurse

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that tobacco use, particularly cigarette smoking, is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Poor health problems extend beyond smokers to nonsmokers involuntarily exposed to second-hand smoke.

Looking for motivation to help you quit using tobacco? Consider these facts:

- Smoking causes lung and other cancers, heart disease, stroke, chronic bron-

chitis, and emphysema.

- Smoking increases the risk of incontinence, cataracts, osteoporosis, impotence, and infertility. Smoking causes premature wrinkling, yellow teeth and bad breath.

- Pregnant women who smoke greatly endanger the life and health of their developing child. Children whose parents smoke are more likely to become smokers.

- Second-hand smoke can cause lung cancer and heart disease in people who have never smoked tobacco. Young children exposed to second-hand smoke can develop ear problems, asthma, bronchitis and other illnesses.

- Every year thousands of children are hospitalized because of illness resulting from exposure to second-hand smoke. For this reason, smoking is increasingly restricted or prohibited in the workplace and in public places.

Perhaps you are questioning your own desire to quit smoking. If you can quit on your own, you should quit. However, there are many smokers who need assistance from their family, friends and/or health care providers to stop the tobacco habit.

If you are thinking about taking the next step to being tobacco free, review these advantages to attending the Tobacco Cessation Program at Fox Army Health Center. The program is free to all military benefi-

ciaries and Redstone Arsenal civilians. You will learn all the tools and strategies that have helped people stop the tobacco habit. You will be guided to develop your own personal tobacco cessation plan.

You will be in a group support program where everyone is sharing your same experience. Studies show that your best chance of quitting the tobacco habit is joining a support group.

The next class will start Jan. 14 from 4-5 p.m. and thereafter every Tuesday for eight weeks. New classes start each month. For date and times of future classes or to enroll in the Tobacco Cessation program call the Public Health and Education Center at 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Cold weather injuries can be forecast and prevented

Precautions advised for winter activities

By PATRICIA ALBERT
Fox Army Health Center

Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it, soldiers get hurt — especially if that weather is cold. The typical cold-weather victim is a young male. He's an inexperienced pri-

vate or specialist. He either isn't wearing the proper protective equipment or didn't even bring it with him in the field. When the body is subjected to severely cold temperatures, the blood vessels constrict and body heat is gradually lost. As the body temperature drops, tissues are easily damaged or destroyed. All cold weather injuries are similar, varying only in the degree of injury to tissues. The extent of injury depends on such factors as wind speed, temperature, type and duration of

exposure, and humidity. Freezing of tissue accelerates with wind, humidity, or a combination of the two. Fatigue, smoking, drugs, alcoholic beverages, emotional stress, dehydration, and the presence of other injuries intensify the harmful effects of the cold.

The following are the most common types of cold weather injuries:

- Hypothermia: General cooling of the whole body is caused by continued exposure to low or rapidly falling temperatures, cold moisture, snow, or ice. Signs and symptoms include: shivering, the body's attempt to generate heat by repeated contractions of surface muscles; this is followed by a feeling of listlessness, indifference and drowsiness; unconsciousness can follow quickly; shock becomes evident as the casualty's eyes assume a glassy stare, respiration becomes slow and shallow, and the pulse is weak or absent; as body temperature drops even lower, peripheral circulation decreases, and the extremities become susceptible to freezing; finally, death results as the core temperature of the body approaches 80 degrees Fahrenheit. First aid measures include: rewarm the casualty as soon as possible; severe bleeding must be controlled and fractures splinted over clothing before the casualty is moved; replace wet or frozen clothing and remove anything that constricts the casualty's arms, legs or fingers, interfering with blood circulation; if the casualty is conscious, give warm liquids to drink. Never give alcoholic beverages, or allow the casualty to smoke.

- Immersion foot, which also may occur in the hands, results from prolonged exposure to wet cold at temperatures

ranging from just above freezing to 50 degrees F or 10 degrees C. Signs and symptoms include: tingling and numbness of the affected areas; swelling of the legs, feet or hands; bluish discoloration of the skin, and painful blisters; gangrene may occur. First aid measures include: get the casualty off his or her feet as soon as possible; remove wet shoes, socks and gloves to improve circulation; expose the affected area to warm dry air; keep the casualty warm; do not rupture blisters or apply salves and ointments; and transport the casualty as soon as possible to a medical facility as a litter patient.

- Frostbite occurs when ice crystals form in the skin or deeper tissues after exposure to a cold temperature, high altitude and high-wind speed. The exposure time necessary to produce frostbite varies from a few minutes to several hours. The areas commonly affected are the face and extremities. The symptoms of frostbite are progressive. Casualties generally incur this injury without being acutely aware of it. Initially, the affected skin reddens and there is an uncomfortable coldness. With continued heat loss, there is a numbness of the affected area because of reduced circulation. As ice crystals form, the frozen extremity appears white, yellow-white, or mottled blue-white, and is cold, hard and insensitive to touch or pressure. In superficial frostbite, the surface of the skin will feel hard, but the underlying tissue will be soft, allowing it to move over bony ridges. This is evidence that only the skin and the region just below it are involved. Take the casualty indoors; rewarm hands by placing

Command approves early-out window

The second FY '03 Special Restructuring Voluntary Early Retirement Authority/Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay application window will open today through next Tuesday. This window is open to optional (regular) retirement eligibles, Voluntary Early Retirement Authority eligibles, and resignation eligibles.

The Aviation and Missile Command has given authority to announce and approve the remaining 59 allocations received from headquarters Army Materiel Command. Applicants approved during this window must be willing to separate by March 3. Any extensions must be approved by the Command Group, according to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

See Cold on page 10

New site compiles military-specific consumer complaints

By KATHLEEN RHEM
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — DoD and the Federal Trade Commission have teamed up to provide military and civilian personnel of the Defense Department an outlet for consumer complaints.

"Military personnel, DoD civilians and their families face unique challenges every day trying to deal with consumer protection issues," said Charles Abell, assistant secretary of defense for force management policy. Such issues, he said, include nonstandard work schedules, lengthy absences from home, frequent relocations, the privacy of personal information, and remote duty locations far from normal U.S. consumer protection channels.

"Military Sentinel <<http://www.consumer.gov/military>> will help us address

these challenges by creating a database on which scam artists and others who seek to defraud individuals in the military community will be identified," Abell said in a Pentagon briefing with FTC Chairman Timothy Muris.

Muris explained the project has a threefold goal:

It provides an outlet for DoD personnel to make consumer complaints "and be counted." Muris said the complaints are automatically added to the FTC's Consumer Sentinel, an "identity-theft-data clearinghouse."

Data are also available in service-specific breakdowns to military law enforcement and legal agencies and to installation commanders. "In that way, frauds can be identified, shut down and ultimately prevented," Muris said.

The site provides educational materials on consumer protections to military and

DoD civilians and their families. "These include practical, plain-language tips on understanding credit and lending issues, avoiding work-at-home and advance-fee loan scams, and recognizing fraudulent offers whether they come through the mail, the telephone, or the Internet," Muris said.

All these features are available through the Military Sentinel <<http://www.consumer.gov/military>> site at [www.con-](http://www.consumer.gov/military)

[sumer.gov/military](http://www.consumer.gov/military).

Muris said the site is important because it helps protect the people who protect America.

"As we continue to rely on the men and women of the armed forces to protect our liberties, I am proud that the FTC is doing all we can to ensure that they receive the protection they need from unscrupulous businesses and scam artists," he said.

Thirteen soldiers arrive for duty

Thirteen soldiers, including four officers, joined units here during December.

The Garrison provided the following list:

SFC Luis Ortiz, Delta Company; Sgt. Maj. Dimpsey Lovell, AMCOM; SSgt. Myron Gurganious, Delta Company; Cpl. Delroy Scott, HHC 59th; SSgt. Mindy Sturt, Delta Company; SFC Renelle Dupree, Delta Company; SSgt.

James Kock, Headquarters & Alpha; SSgt. Daniel Hine, Headquarters & Alpha; SFC James Edmuns, Headquarters & Alpha;

Lt. Col. Brent Clark, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; Capt. Daniel Jensen, Logistics Support Activity; Lt. Col. Keith Martin, Engineering Support Center; and Capt. John Moreland, Headquarters & Alpha.



Courtesy photo

Leadership honoree

Dr. Steven Messervy, left, of the Research Development and Engineering Center, receives the National Defense Industrial Association's Combat Survivability Award for Leadership. Making the presentation are retired Rear Adm. Robert Gormley, center, chairman of the NDIA Combat Survivability Division, and retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Lawrence Farrell Jr., president and CEO of National Defense Industrial Association. As the former project manager for Aviation Electronic Systems, Program Executive Office for Aviation, Messervy was cited for being an effective advocate for aircraft survivability programs and for planning, developing and fielding all Army aircraft survivability equipment.

Health center warns against cold injuries

Cold

continued from page 8

them under the armpit, against the abdomen, or between the legs; rewarm feet by placing them in the armpit or against the abdomen of a buddy; gradually rewarm the affected area by warm water immersion, skin to skin contact, or hot water bottles; never rub a frostbite area.

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

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

- Chilblains are a mild cold injury caused by prolonged and repeated exposure to air temperatures from just above freezing (32 F or zero C) to as high as 60 F or 16 C. Symptoms are characterized by redness, swelling, tingling and pain of the skin area. Injuries of this nature require no specific treatment except warming of the affected part, keeping it dry, and preventing further exposure.

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

For more information on cold injuries and cold injury prevention, call the Public Health and Education Center, Fox Army Health Center, at 955-8888 ext. 1026.

Editor's note: Patricia Albert is safety manager at Fox Army Health Center.

Pentagon briefing went on in smoke-filled room

Sept. 11 survivor
recalls fateful day

By BOB WHITMER

Special to the American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The events surrounding the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, were a shock to the nation and the world. Never in the previous half century had there been a more catastrophic and monumental series of events that would challenge the fabric and courage of the American people.

Although I knew that as a nation we were not invulnerable to attack, I never dreamed I would witness an attack on our homeland or that I would wind up playing a part in history.

As the chief of broadcast engineering/operations of the Defense Department's press briefing room in the Pentagon, I supervise a team of Army broadcast technicians. We provide audio, video and multi-media support to the American people via the national news media during press briefings conducted by the defense secretary and other senior military leaders.

When you see a Pentagon briefing on CNN, Fox, or any of the broadcast networks, my staff and I are in a glass-enclosed control room ensuring that what you see and hear is top broadcast quality. If things look and sound good — if you can hear the reporters' questions and the secretary's answers — we have done our jobs well.

Like most Pentagon staffers, I knew a terrorist threat existed but was far too busy to give it much thought.

Sept. 11 was a day I will never forget. It began as a normal September day. The sky was blue and beautiful. I had been taking flying lessons in a Cessna 172 and was scheduled to take my first solo training flight that evening. I entered the building that morning looking at the blue sky, eagerly anticipating that flight.

At around 9 a.m., I was walking through the Press Office looking for a fresh cup of coffee. The office was eerily quiet. Walking past the desk of a duty officer, I saw CNN's live coverage of the



Photo by Linda Kozaryn

BROADCAST NEWS— Bob Whitmer is chief of broadcast engineering/operations and staff supervisor of the Department of Defense press briefing room in the Pentagon. He and his team of Army broadcast technicians provide audio, video, and multi-media support during press briefings conducted by the defense secretary and other senior military leaders.

World Trade Center billowing smoke.

I had learned a great deal in my flight training about airport operations and traffic patterns, and I knew the odds of a plane accidentally hitting one of the Twin Towers was very remote.

Later, in my office with my staff, we watched CNN's live coverage and we saw a brief glimpse of another plane followed by another explosion. It took a few seconds to fully process what we had just seen.

Now it was obvious that we were under a terrorist attack. I told my staff that I was sure we would be next. I threw a tape into a VHS machine and began recording CNN news.

By now, the Pentagon was buzzing. Our newly appointed spokeswoman, Victoria Clarke, had been called to Defense

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's office, and duty officers in the press office were called to an emergency operations center to discuss contingency plans. I was on the phone discussing the situation with SFC Tim Magee of the Army Visual Information Center. Before we hung up, I told Magee to keep his head down, as we were probably next.

Being less than a mile from Washington's Reagan National Airport, I suspected that any attack on us would come from there. Since my location in the Pentagon is on the outside E-Ring and very near regular flight departure paths, I didn't like my odds.

I had no way of knowing that in the skies over Kentucky a situation was transpiring that would affect us within minutes. American Airlines Flight 77, a plane bound for Los Angeles, had departed Dulles International Airport earlier that morning. Over Kentucky, we all learned later, Al Qaeda terrorists hijacked the plane, turned it around and headed for Washington.

At 9:38 a.m., we felt a strong jolt and heard a loud noise. It sounded like a dumpster being hit by a baseball bat. We had been hit.

We would learn later that Flight 77 had approached the building from the northwest but was too high to hit the building. To lose altitude, the terrorist pilot passed directly over the Pentagon, circled Reagan Airport and re-approached the building, making impact from the southwest. The plane tore through an area occupied by Army and Navy personnel. Casualties from both services were high.

Had the plane hit the building on its

original course from the northwest, my directorate would have been at the point of impact.

In a lucky break, the plane hit the one side of the Pentagon that had been reinforced during renovations. Had the plane hit another part of the building, the casualties could have been exponentially higher.

Since we had no idea what part of the building had been hit, we started evacuating toward the Mall Entrance, the nearest exit from the building. Once in the hall, however, we saw thick black smoke coming from that direction. People were running out of the smoke toward us and yelling to go the other way.

It wasn't immediately clear whether it had been a bomb that caused the explosion or an aircraft. Once the smoke got closer, however, I recognized the smell of jet fuel and knew what had happened.

Pentagon employees were being directed toward the center courtyard, a large enclosed area inside the innermost ring of the Pentagon.

When we reached the windows overlooking the center courtyard we could see an enormous cloud of dark black smoke billowing from the southwest side of the building. I had seen film clips of the same type of smoke billowing from crashed aircraft at Pearl Harbor. Despite this, I was not experiencing any fear. It was very surreal.

As we followed the crowd, security officers instructed everyone to go into the center courtyard. In certain situations this would be the safest and most logical move, but it seemed like suicide to me.

There was absolutely no way I was going to take my staff into the enclosed center of a terrorist target, especially since further attacks seemed likely. Terry Mitchell, my supervisor and a retired Navy master chief, and I agreed to keep going and try to reach the Pentagon's River Entrance. Much of the crowd had the same idea.

About five minutes after impact, we reached the River Entrance. With thousands of people trying to exit the building through one set of doors, I saw Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz calmly instructing Defense Protective Service officers to open the emergency doors usually kept locked to prevent enemies from entering the building.

Wolfowitz, his foot in a cast from a sports injury, was hobbling his way through the crowd as he helped open the doors.

Wolfowitz was not the only one leading by example. We would learn later that, moments after impact, Rumsfeld personally ran to the crash site and helped evacuate injured personnel.

As we exited the building, we were instructed to get as far away from the building as possible. We got about 150 yards away, crossed Boundary Channel Drive and rallied our group.

We saw victims being carried out of the building, many with head and neck

A nation in need: U.S. forces help restore Afghan health care

By LINDA KOZARYN
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Pictures coming out of Afghanistan show a land seemingly forgotten by time — and modern medicine. After 20 years of war, medical clinics and hospitals are in ruins and in dire need of basic medical supplies and equipment.

With U.S. and coalition aid, the situation is on the mend.

The United States has been "indispensable" in helping to restore health care in Afghanistan, according to Dr. Abdullah Sherzai, director of planning at the Afghan Health Ministry in Kabul.

"Just the presence of the American military creates the security background within which you can work — from nutritional work, to health care, to reconstruction," he said. "The Afghan people understand this and we appreciate it."

Sherzai, a neurologist and a U.S. citizen, gave up his research work at the National Institutes of Health in May to go to Afghanistan. This week, he accompanied Health Ministry officials to Washington to meet with U.S. government leaders.

During a Dec. 10 interview at the Pentagon, Sherzai served as spokesman for Afghan Deputy Health Minister Ferzudin Feroz. Expressing the minister's appreciation for America's help, Sherzai said the Afghan people hope the United States intends to create a long-term partnership with Afghanistan.

"The purpose of our visit is to make sure that the world attention, specifically America's attention, is still kept on Afghanistan," Sherzai said. "We are very thankful for all the help, but there is a lot more needed. We're not even close to resolving our problems."

Afghanistan needs help rebuilding, equipping and supplying its medical facilities, according to Sherzai. The first step toward security is health care. It should be everyone's No. 1 priority, he stressed.

"There's nothing more primary and immediate than health care," he said. "Without health, women aren't able to secure the household and, therefore, society is not secure. Without health, men are not able to work and the household situation falls apart and, again, society is insecure."

The people suffering most in Afghanistan are women and children, he reported. Of every 100,000 pregnancies, an estimated 1,600 women die. In one province alone, 7,000 of every 100,000 pregnancies result in the mother's death.

"We would like your help to change these statistics and help us reverse the calamity that is the health care system for



Photo by Spec. Preston Cheeks

DOCTOR'S OFFICE— U.S. Army Capt. David Gann of the 82nd Forward Support Battalion examines an Afghan girl from the village of Qadzi Kariz during a humanitarian medical aid visit. The 82nd FSB is an element of the 82nd Airborne Division at Kandahar Army Airfield, Afghanistan.

women in Afghanistan," Sherzai said.

The U.S. Defense Department, he pointed out, is helping to rebuild Rabia Balkhi, one of the major women's hospitals in Afghanistan. During the Taliban regime, it was the only women's hospital in operation. The hospital was completely destroyed after the Taliban fell, he said, and now "Americans are the main component reconstructing it."

According to Feroz, about 174 hospitals in Afghanistan need some reconstruction and refurbishing.

Afghanistan's overall health care system right now is "pretty basic," Sherzai said. "We are way below 'zero' at this point. We need a lot of help just to come to an even playing ground."

"There's plenty to be done," he affirmed. "We need a little bit of coordination, and if all our coalition partners and all our friends take one section, we'll be in good shape."

The U.S. military, in particular, Sherzai said, "has been of great help so far — indispensable help."

U.S. medics are providing basic medical care to Afghan men, women and chil-

dren. Military veterinarians are treating Afghan farm animals. U.S. forces have helped rehabilitate clinics around Bagram and completely refurbished and reconstructed one hospital. Troops have also dug several hundred wells.

"The American military has multiple campaigns of immunization, treatment and reconstruction going on right now," Sherzai said. Spanish and Jordanian medical officials have set up hospitals. Other coalition partners have focused assistance in different areas.

The Afghan people greatly appreciate these efforts, Sherzai said, and would welcome more U.S. and coalition medical care beyond Bagram and Kabul.

The DoD, Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Agency for International Development are "an incredible force in Afghanistan," Sherzai concluded. "We appreciate the collaborative nature of their help, and (hope) they'll take a part in the reconstruction of a lot of the clinics in Afghanistan."

"We hope the Defense Department and the rest of the team will help in refurbishing those as well, because no matter how

many clinics we have, when there are obstructive emergencies, the clinics can't take care of that, so there has to be a referral system that takes these patients from the clinics into the hospitals."

U.S. military officials are now seeking guidance from the Health Ministry on what they can do next. "They want to participate in a collaborative, organized fashion in rehabilitating and reconstructing the health care system," Sherzai said. "That's of utmost importance to us."

Helping the ministry gives legitimacy to the government, which is directly related to security, he said. At present, the Health Ministry is "semi-organized."

The ministry has the capacity to receive help and disperse it. "We don't need to have a middle man, or go through multiple levels," Sherzai said. "Hopefully, within a few months, we will have the financial structure to take the money, have accountability and transparency to show that what you gave was directly transferred into a clinic, directly linked to the health care of this woman and this woman and this woman."

Along with U.S. and coalition military forces, he noted, nongovernment organizations also have been an indispensable help.

As the Afghan government restores health care, Sherzai said, the NGOs and others can help in the interim. "They have to come with the realization that they have to work themselves out of business. They have to give capacity to the Afghan government itself and also to the private sector. But even in the next few years, they'll be indispensable. We need to use their help and their capacity building."

American church groups and private U.S. citizens are also doing what they can to help, according to Sherzai.

"The Memphis-Afghanistan Friendship Council has a relationship with us on a continuing basis. They came to educate people. Other Americans are coming to Afghanistan. There are a lot of American church groups that have come to Afghanistan and helped financially."

"Loma Linda University is directly helping our medical school. Tufts University is directly helping our nutrition department. Georgetown University has relations with Afghanistan. Johns Hopkins University is also helping us directly. National Institutes of Health has sent us equipment through Health and Human Services. Nebraska University is helping us with capacity-building and education."

Sherzai said people who want to help could communicate directly with the Ministry of Health by writing to neuron-dr@hotmail.com.

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injuries. Some were bloodied but walking out under their own power. Others were walking with the assistance of co-workers. Some were being carried out on stretchers. With ambulances from the entire Washington metropolitan area pouring in, those of us who were not injured directed incoming ambulances to the wounded.

After a few moments, we received word that more planes had been hijacked and were headed for the Pentagon. We were told to get even farther away from the building. I was glad we had opted against the center courtyard.

I told Terry that we needed to find some cover away from the crowd. In my thinking, a terrorist would be tempted to fly his plane into a huge crowd of people rather than an empty building. Being in such a crowd, without protective cover and with nowhere to run did not appeal to me in the least.

A friend, Marine Corps Capt. Riccoch Player, was thinking the same thing. As we were trying to move away from the crowd, he told me that in all his years of preparing for combat he never dreamed that when it finally came he would be without a flak jacket or M-16, and armed with nothing more than a cell phone.

About 15 minutes after the attack, we heard two very loud "booms" and were certain that we were under some sort of further attack. A few seconds later, however, we realized the sounds were sonic booms from two F-16 fighter jets deployed from Langley Air Force Base in southern Virginia. They had been scrambled moments before impact and were just reaching the area. Watching those jets streaking across the sky at Mach 1 was extremely reassuring, despite warnings that more hijacked planes were moments away.

Our group found a suitable location about 250 yards from the building that was concealed from the air by some pine trees and sheltered from the building behind a natural berm.

We would learn later that the second hijacked plane we were expecting, United Airlines Flight 93 bound from Newark to San Francisco, had crashed in Shanksville, Pa.

However, the warnings about more inbound planes were still coming and at one point we heard the sound of jet aircraft overhead.

We were advised to take cover and brace for impact. Seconds later we saw that the source of the noise was not a hijacked jet liner, but instead the most beautiful sight we had ever seen. Screaming overhead were several more fully armed Air Force F-16s and an E-3 Sentry airborne warning and control system plane. Knowing our forces had control of the sky was a very good sign!

Since our mission at DoD Public Affairs involves providing up-to-the-minute information to the American public, we immediately started preparing to do just that. Rear Adm. Craig Quigley,

deputy spokesman, and the director of the Press Office, Navy Capt. Tim Taylor, had done some reconnaissance and located a site for a temporary public affairs headquarters.

We all headed to a Citgo gas station west of the Pentagon. Camera crews from the broadcast networks had already taken positions there because it provided a direct camera shot of the damaged portion of the building.

On the walk to the Citgo station, my associate Patricia Toombs was right on Taylor's heels. "Okay, Sir," she said, "Let me see if I have this straight. We've been attacked by air, the Pentagon is on fire, there are more planes likely inbound to attack us again and cause more explosions, and you're taking us to a gas station?"

As we made our way to the Citgo station, the damaged portion of the Pentagon became visible. It was a sickening sight to see smoke pouring from a huge blackened segment of our building. Dead and wounded were still being pulled from the burning ruins by fire and rescue personnel.

Once inside the station, we saw televised coverage of the scene in New York. The World Trade Towers had collapsed killing untold numbers of people. Despite the chaos, we were completely numb to pain or anguish. We were doing our jobs. None of what had happened seemed real.

Terry and I were given the task of finding a place in the parking lot to brief the press. We found a suitable location, roped it off, and prepared a spot for reporters and network video camera crews. Within minutes, Quigley came out in front of the cameras to brief the press.

While my staff and I are normally responsible for performing audio and video during Pentagon news briefings, all our equipment was in the burning building. We were now acting as security, making sure the media didn't become unruly and storm forward.

Our standing there proved valuable in an unforeseen way. Many friends around the world who still did not know our fates learned from that televised broadcast that we were alive and well.

Quigley's brief opening statement indicated that the secretary and deputy secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff and service secretaries were all safe, and that the entire United States had been placed under Force Protection Condition Delta, which meant that the nation was officially under terrorist attack. Then he took reporters' questions.

Yes, it had been confirmed that we were attacked. No, we did not know who attacked us. No, we didn't know if more planes were inbound. No, we didn't have any firm casualty figures. No, we had no reports of American aircraft shooting down civilian airliners.

Throughout the day, we briefed the media several more times. It was difficult to separate actual information from rumors that Chicago had been hit, that U.S. military jets shot down a plane in Pennsylvania, and that further attacks were imminent.

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Horn of Africa group meets with regional leaders



USMC photo by Cpl. Andrew W. Miller

SHARING INFORMATION— Donald Yamamoto, U.S. ambassador to Djibouti, and Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa commander Maj. Gen. John F. Sattler talk together Dec. 30. Yamamoto and a 12-member delegation, headed by Maj. Gen. Fathi Ahmed Hussein, met with Sattler at the CJTF-HOA headquarters.

By Maj. STEVE COX

Special to the American Forces Press Service

ABOARD THE USS MOUNT WHITNEY — Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa commander, Marine Maj. Gen. John F. Sattler, met with officials from Djibouti on Dec. 30 at the CJTF-HOA headquarters aboard USS Mount Whitney in the Gulf of Aden.

Maj. Gen. Fathi Ahmed Hussein, commander of Djibouti's armed forces, headed the 12-member delegation. U.S. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto accompanied the delegation.

The sides discussed a wide range of topics focused primarily on Operation Enduring Freedom and the ongoing global war on terrorism. Both sides agreed on the need for cooperation in terms of security, information sharing and commitment to defeating terrorism and establishing the conditions necessary for long-term stability throughout the Horn of Africa.

Since arriving in the region Dec. 12, task force officials have met with coalition military commanders and host-nation officials, establishing a dialogue with key leaders throughout the Horn of Africa region.

The Dec. 30 meeting with leaders from Djibouti follows Sattler's visit to Yemen. While there, Sattler met with Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Salih. The two discussed the mutual goal of defeating terrorism and ways to enhance ties between Yemen and the command.

Sattler also held talks with Yemen's Interior Minister Rashad al-Alimi on security cooperation initiatives and with Defense Minister Abdullah Ali Eleiwah on military cooperation between Yemeni

forces and the task force.

The combined joint task force has also hosted French and Spanish military leaders. Sattler had productive meetings with Lt. Gen. Jean-Patrick Gaviard, director of operations for the French Joint Staff and with Rear Adm. Juan Moreno, commander of Combined Task Force-150. CTF-150 is the coalition naval flotilla made up of French, Spanish, German, British and U.S. warships patrolling the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean areas around the Horn of Africa.

More meetings with other coalition partner leaders within the region are planned in January.

The task force mission is to detect, disrupt and defeat transnational terrorist groups in the Horn of Africa. The command will also work closely with coalition partners to establish conditions leading to long-term stability within the region, thus denying the opportunity for reemergence of terrorist networks.

The headquarters staff is comprised of approximately 400 members from all branches of the U.S. armed forces, civilian representatives and coalition partner personnel. The combined joint task force has nearly 900 personnel stationed ashore at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti and a small number of liaison personnel working in other parts of the region.

U.S. Central Command formed the Horn of Africa headquarters to oversee operations in the region in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The headquarters sailed for the region from Morehead City, N.C., on Nov. 14 aboard the joint command ship, USS Mount Whitney, home-ported in Norfolk, Va.

59th advances to preseason tournament final... again

Team awaits opponent from losers bracket

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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HHC 59th is tired of finishing second. So 59th coach Jerry McIntyre hoped to start the year off right in the preseason basketball tournament. The 59th advanced to last night's final by beating AMCOM 75-46 on Dec. 18 at Pagano Gym.

"We are defending preseason champions and unlike football we're gonna try to hold onto this one," McIntyre said. The 59th lost to Delta in the flag football final and fell to Bravo in last year's postseason basketball final.

"We're playing like a hungry team right now," said 59th center Laevrmonde Watts, who had 22 points and five steals against AMCOM. "We're coming for what should've been ours last year."

Patrick Perry added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the 59th. "We just had good ball movement on offense and played good defense," the point guard said. "That's all it was. Just came out and played our game."

The 59th led 46-17 at halftime and wasn't threatened the second half.

"Defense was the key," McIntyre said. "A lot of players working, running the press. The score was indicative of all nine players that were dressed out tonight being focused on the same goal."

Michael Gola scored 14 points and Lorenzo France had 12 for AMCOM.

"Defense fell apart," AMCOM guard Jerrod Mike said. "Turnovers and bad shot selection."

The 59th awaited the outcome of the losers bracket games Monday night. Charlie played Alabama A&M ROTC and then AMCOM faced the winner. The final was scheduled last night at 6 (and 7 if necessary) at Pagano Gym.

Here are the other results Dec. 18:

- **Charlie 44, Bravo-1 35:** Curtis McNeill had 16 points as the Wolfpack eliminated Bravo-1. Chris Thomas had nine for the Bulldogs.

- **Alabama A&M ROTC 64, Headquarters & Alpha 49:** Rod Woods scored 28 points as A&M eliminated the Gators. Amos Jackson had 12, John Landers 11 and Julian Evans and Timothy Hyde 10 apiece for Headquarters & Alpha.



Photo by Skip Vaughn
RAISE UP— The 59th's Jermaine McGee goes up for a shot in the second half as AMCOM's Lorenzo France (4) defends. The 59th won 75-46.

Legal assistance information available online

Office's web site adds resources

By Capt. WILLIAM CARPENTER

Legal assistance chief

The Redstone Arsenal Legal Assistance Office has greatly improved its web site, which can be accessed online at the following address: <http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/legalassist.html>.

While clients can access general information related to office hours, client eligibility, and appointment policies, our office's web site now has a variety of office publications that can be down-

loaded. Our web site now has more than 40 online links to additional online sources dealing with Military Resources, Alabama Resources, and Consumer Protection Resources.

While the Legal Assistance Office has improved our web site by adding additional publications and online resources, another major change that is perhaps just as important is that our office's web site is now much more easily accessible from a variety of locations. For example, anyone who visits Redstone Arsenal's main Internet homepage at <http://www.redstone.army.mil> will now find a prominently displayed link for "Legal Assistance Services" that will direct visitors to our Legal Assistance Office's

web site. Furthermore, people who visit Redstone Arsenal's "New Arrivals/Community Information" will find a link to "Legal Assistance (AMCOM)." Visitors of Redstone Arsenal's Aviation and Missile Command link will find a link to Legal Assistance under the link "Community Info Redstone Arsenal," and anyone viewing the AMCOM "Organizations" link will also easily find a link to the "Office of the Staff Judge Advocate." The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate web site is located at: <http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/staff-jag.html>. The OSJA web site provides links and information to each of the office sections within the OSJA, which include: the Legal Assistance Office, the Claims Office, the Administrative Law Office, the Military Justice (Criminal Law) Office, and the Tax Center Office.

Visitors of the Legal Assistance web site can download Legal Assistance Office publications in a Microsoft Word format, which will allow them to learn more about topics such as Adoption, Divorce in Alabama, Child Support in Alabama, Making Someone a Military Dependent, Debt Collection, or the Fair Credit Billing Act, to name a few. Clients can find a great deal of information about topics involving military issues such as NCOER Appeals, OER Appeals, Casualty Assistance, or federal statutes such as the Uniform Servicemembers Employment and Reemployment Rights Act or 16 other common topics involving military resources. Moreover, clients can also find helpful information under "Alabama

Resources," including but not limited to, the Alabama Attorney General's Office, the Alabama State Agency and Organizations Directory, and Alabama City and County Government web site directories.

Clients frequently have questions involving a wide range of consumer protection law issues. The "Consumer Protection" section of our Legal Assistance web site provides helpful information regarding issues such as Identity Theft (including a downloadable PDF file for a "New ID Theft Affidavit"), and links to the Federal Trade Commission and accompanying FTC web sites for the "FTC Consumer Sentinel" and "Military Sentinel" initiatives. For example, if a client needs a consumer protection complaint form from the Alabama Attorney General Office's Consumer Protection Division or an FTC Online Complaint Form, then they can easily access these consumer complaint forms by visiting the "Consumer Protection" section of the Legal Assistance Office web site. Our web site contains many other useful resources that are available for your assistance.

The Legal Assistance Office is continuing its efforts to further improve our office's web site, which we hope will prove very helpful for clients and visitors of our web site. The Legal Assistance Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eligible clients who need legal assistance should call 876-9005 to schedule an appointment.

Tax assistance center ready for business in early February

Free preparation service provided by volunteers

By Capt. WILLIAM CARPENTER
Tax assistance officer

The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center will be open from Feb. 3 to April 15. The Tax Center will provide free tax preparation and filing assistance to eligible clients, which include active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents.

Last year's Tax Center saved more than \$185,000 in tax preparation fees and helped obtain almost \$1.3 million in refunds.

Volunteer tax assisters will provide both computer-assisted tax preparation and direct electronic filing of federal returns. Preparation and electronic filing of state tax returns will be available as well. In addition, for those who wish to brave "the code" on their own, federal and state tax forms will be provided in the Tax Center's lobby. Once again, all active duty and retired servicemembers and their dependents are eligible for tax assistance. Reservists or National Guard servicemembers who are on active duty orders for more than 29 days (and their dependents) can also take advantage of this free service.

The Tax Assistance Center will be located in building 3489, just off Ajax Road. Trained IRS volunteers will serve as income tax assisters under the supervision of the Staff Judge Advocate. The officer-in-charge will assist with more complex tax returns on a case-by-case basis and reserves the right to refer clients to a private tax preparation service. Specifically, the Tax Center will not handle tax preparation involving complicated and advanced investment or rental property issues or matters concerning private businesses other than on-post family child care providers who are certified by Child and Youth Services. All tax assistance is strictly limited to personal tax returns.

The services provided by the Tax Assistance Center provide eligible clients several distinct advantages over commercial tax preparers. First and foremost, Tax Assistance Center services are absolutely free. In contrast, the national average for commercial tax preparation and filing fees is well over \$100 per return. Second, the Tax Assistance Center is conveniently located on Redstone Arsenal. Lastly, clients will not be confronted with the temptation of refund anticipation loans. These costly loans are traditionally offered by commercial tax preparers and involve extremely high interest rates. While clients can get money immediately with a refund anticipation loan, it will generally cost them a large portion of their refund. By using the Tax Assistance Center, a client will get the entire refund in approximately seven days.

The Tax Assistance Center will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, with tax return preparation offered by appointment only. Hours will be extended on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7 to accommodate those in need of services after normal duty hours. Walk-ins will be welcomed during the extended evening hours only. For an appointment or more information, call the Tax Assistance Center at 313-5727. Appointments will not be made until Jan. 29.

The 2003 Tax Assistance Center volunteers will also be announced in an upcoming issue of the *Rocket*. Any additional persons interested in volunteering their time at the Tax Assistance Center should call Capt. William Carpenter at 876-9005 or e-mail him at this address: william.carpenter@redstone.army.mil.

The Tax Center would also like to acknowledge Army Community Service for its generous financial support in providing needed Tax Center supplies.

The Tax Assistance Center looks forward to serving the tax preparation needs of Redstone Arsenal in 2003.

Survivor recalls Sept. 11 attack

Pentagon

continued from page 15

Later I left the gas station and was looking into setting up a more suitable briefing location at Henderson Hall, a nearby Marine Corps facility.

At about 6:30 p.m. I received a call to report immediately back to the Citgo station. When I arrived, media and essential Pentagon personnel were being loaded onto two Metro buses. I was told that per Rumsfeld's orders, we were going into the Pentagon for a news briefing.

The acrid smoke in the Pentagon stung my eyes and burned my lungs, but as I unlocked my office, I was euphoric to find everything operational. It was wonderful to be "home" again.

To my surprise, the lights were still on and the phones were still working. I did a quick function check of all my audio equipment and was very pleased to see that everything was working properly.

The Pentagon's designers had developed redundant power systems to ensure the building could still function if part of it was damaged. Thanks to their foresight, we were still in business.

Within minutes, Rumsfeld, Sen. John Warner, and several other top officials walked into the smoke-filled briefing room. The secretary wanted to show the world that we had taken a blow, but were still standing. The building was still very much on fire and almost totally deserted, the recovery of the dead had only begun, but there we were, conducting a news briefing before a live, worldwide audience.



Sports & Recreation

Racquetball tournament

MWR Sports and Fitness is holding a racquetball tournament for the entire Redstone community. Signup continues through Jan. 13 at the Redstone Fitness Center, building 3705 on Aerobee Road. Cost is \$10 singles, \$18 doubles. Prizes will be awarded to the top three individuals/teams in each category. Luncheon play will be available, and notification is necessary upon registration. Tournament play runs Jan. 20 through March 31. For more information, stop by the fitness center or call 313-1202/1203.

Endurance athletes

CSM Lawrence Rogers, the Garrison command sergeant major, is looking for eight well-conditioned determined individuals to walk or run 26.2 miles in the desert of White Sands, N.M. There are two basic categories in this Bataan Death March competition, light or heavy. Training began Jan. 7 at 5:30 a.m. in front of Bicentennial Chapel. Be prepared to train at least three days during the week with Saturdays (not every) morning as a long walk/run day. This year's event is March 30 at White Sands. For more information, send an e-mail to lawrence.rogers@redstone.army.mil.

Girls club

The Youth Center is offering a "Go Girl Go Club," for girls in grades 6-12, beginning Jan. 14 from 4:15-5 p.m. It will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Youth Center, building 3148 off Goss Road. Go Girl Go Club emphasizes sportsmanship, physical fitness and a positive self-image. Any girl who wishes to participate must be registered in Child and Youth Services. For more information call Yashica Smith, program coordinator, 876-5437 or Carolyn 313-3609.



Conferences & Meetings

Airborne association

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

Florida A&M alums

The Alumni of Florida A&M University invites all alumni and friends to an interest meeting to establish a local chapter of the FAMU Alumni Association. For more

information, call Robert McCoy 858-0830 or Wendell Johnson 427-7043.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League will meet Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 237, Drake Avenue.

Education meeting

The Garrison education meeting will be held Jan. 15 at noon at Westlawn Middle School, 4217 Ninth Ave. The meeting will cover issues relating to Redstone-affiliated children and their educational needs. For more information, call Pam Berry 955-6309.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Jan. 16 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Redstone Golf Club. For more information, call retired CSM Jean Rose 313-1659.



Miscellaneous

Catholic pilgrimage

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

Apprentice program

The Science and Engineering Apprentice Program is held each summer to give academically talented high school and college students research experience with mentors at the Aviation and Missile Command. Applications are available from high school senior counselors or college placement services; and the deadline is Jan. 31. For more information, call Betty Duke of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center 313-4790.

Weather closings

If inclement weather causes Redstone Arsenal to close or delay its opening, tune in to any of the following stations for the most current information: Radio - WAHR, 99.1FM; WDRM, 102FM; WEKR, 1240AM; WEUP, 1600 AM; WGSV, 1270AM; WJAB, 90.9FM; WLRH, 89.3FM; WRAB, 1380AM; WRSA, 97FM; WTKL, 1450AM; WVNN, 770AM; WWIC, 1050AM; WZYP, 104.3FM; Television - WAAY (Channel 31), WAFF (Channel 48) and WHNT

(Channel 19). Two additional methods have been implemented to provide current information about delays or closures. You can call 955-8445 to hear a recorded announcement or you can log on to the Team Redstone Internet site (www.redstone.army.mil) and click the button for weather information.

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club is accepting applications for Merit Awards to help offset the cost of tuition, books and related fees. Applications are available at OCWC board meetings and luncheons, and the deadline is Feb. 1. Applicants must: be a member, spouse of a member, or dependent of an OCWC member in good standing as of last Oct. 1 and live within 50 miles of Huntsville. Candidates may compete in one of four categories — high school senior, undergraduate, graduate and member/spouse. Previous winners may compete in succeeding years, but may win only once in each category. Students receiving full scholarship may not apply. For more information about Merit Awards call Diane Moore, merit awards chairman, 864-2670.

Ebony fashion fair

Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. will sponsor the 45th annual Ebony Fashion Fair, "Simply Spectacular," Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Proceeds from the fashion show will benefit scholarships and other community projects. Ticket prices are reserved \$30, general \$25, and students (K-12) \$15. Persons purchasing general or reserved tickets are entitled to a year subscription to EBONY magazine or a six-month subscription to JET magazine. Student ticket purchasers are entitled to a year subscription to EBONY magazine only. For tickets call 852-9325 or 755-9196.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Compilers 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.

Management training

The South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center is offering a regional training opportunity for managers, supervisors and team leaders. A two-day course titled "Management Skills — The 7 Attributes of Excellent Management"

will be presented by Craig Stevens of Westbrook Stevens, Jan. 15-16 at the Sparkman Center on Redstone Arsenal. The cost is \$170 but the course is limited to 25 participants. To enroll follow your organization's procedures for training approval before having your credit card holder complete a Payment Authorization Sheet provided by the SC CPOC. Enrollment closes Friday. For more information or the Payment Authorization Sheet, call Louise Olszewski 842-6540 or Charanne Harris 842-4545.

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, Ala., 35808), and via e-mail from adlunn@knology.net or 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.

Fashion benefit

The eighth annual Designers Against Breast Cancer/Runway Extravaganza is March 1 at the Senior Center auditorium. The reception, auction and exhibits begin at 6 p.m., and the fashion show at 7. Tickets are \$20 each. Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Interested exhibitors, and silent auction contributors, should call Ms. Smith 539-0001.

Drill sergeant of year

The 59th Ordnance Brigade Drill Sergeant of the Year luncheon is Jan. 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. For tickets and information, call SFC Lopez 842-6861 or Sgt. Maj. Battle 842 9767.

Army family team building

Wouldn't it be great if someone could explain why the Army does what it does — the whole concept — in simple, clear terms? Army Family Team Building can. Enroll now to attend "The Big Picture," Jan. 28-30. This three-evening session (Army Family Team Building, Level I) is provided free of charge by certified Army Family Team Building instructors. Classes will be held in building 3338 on Redeye Road from 6-9 p.m. Space is limited. Call 876-5397 by Jan. 17 to reserve your seat and arrange for free child care.

Phone book recycling

Old Bell South telephone books will be collected starting Thursday at the building 5302 loading dock and in the parking lot at building 3240, the former post gas station at Vincent and Goss Road. A portion of the proceeds from their sale will go to area public schools. BellSouth directories and Talking phone book directories are both accepted for recycling in this program — not the Redstone phone books because they use different paper.

Language lessons

English as a Second Language classes will start in January at Army Community Service for military family members. Classes are free and all materials are provided. A morning class will begin Friday from 9-11 a.m. at building 3338, Redeye Road. For more information or to register, call Mary Breeden 876-5397.

Garden plot assignments

Soldiers, retirees and DoD civilians should submit an annual request for the use of individual garden plots by March 10. Individuals wishing to retain their same garden plot should contact SFC Pate, the Housing NCO-in-charge, from Jan. 30 through Feb. 14. Those failing to notify Pate by the prescribed dates are subject to assignment of a different garden plot. Priority of issue is as follows: first, active duty military request their plots Feb. 15 through March 1; second, retirees request their plots March 2-16; and third, DoD civilians make their requests March 17-31.

Art auction

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will hold its 31st annual Art Auction Feb. 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Officers and Civilians Club. The exhibition is presented by the Perry Berns Gallery. Tickets are \$10 per person and include hors d'oeuvres and dessert with a cash bar. The auction begins at 7. With your reservation the dining room will be open at 5, offering a buffet dinner just before the auction. Tickets are on sale now. For tickets or more information, call Katherine Sorensen 837-3772 or the Officers and Civilians Club 830-2582.

Growing pains

Child and Youth Services will hold a free class for children and parents of children with emotional conflicts Jan. 15 from 2-4 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, Redstone Room, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Scheduled speaker is Dr. Greg Smith, family and medication counselor, Unicorn & Associates. For more information, call Carolyn at 313-3609.

Toilet training

A toilet training class will be held Jan. 15 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the ChildWise Neighborhood Center, building 1413 on Nike Street. To register for this free class, or for more information, call 876-2798. Parent participation points are awarded for attendance.

King birthday seminar

The Missile and Space Intelligence Center will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's

birthday with a seminar Jan. 22 at 9 a.m. in MSIC's auditorium, building 4545. G. Eric Gordon will present "Avoiding the eight critical mistakes that will short-circuit your career." For more information, call Authurine Shackelford 313-7318.

Butler High alums

The 1968 and 1969 classes of Butler High School will hold a reunion this year. For more information call Jeannie Sharpe King 772-1963, Glenda Swafford Anderson 837-9789 or Bill Baker 533-7234.



Courtesy photo

House building

Rachel Bradley and her daughter Lauren decorate a gingerbread house at ChildWise Play Morning.

ARMY POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS REDSTONE ARSENAL AND HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA AREA

ANNOUNCEMENTS	POSITION TITLE	CLOSING	ORGANIZATION	PAY PLAN	GRADE	POT	PAY RANGE	WHO CAN APPLY?											
		DATE	LOCATION	& SERIES	LEVEL	GRD	(FROM - TO)	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	R	T	V	U

THE FOLLOWING ARMY ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.CPOL.ARMY.MIL

02BK0135458MW2	Electronics Engineer	9-Jan-03	AMRDEC	DB-0855	3	3	54,495 - 84,241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0150091FM2	Electronics Technician	9-Jan-03	AMRDEC	DE-0856	3	3	41,384 - 70,841	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0146841FM2	Mechanical Engineer	9-Jan-03	AMRDEC	DB-0830	3	3	54,495 - 84,241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0141671VW2	Oper Research Analyst	10-Jan-03	SMDC	GS-1515	13	13	64,803 - 84,241	X							X							
02BK0142096MR2	Supvy General Engineer	13-Jan-03	SHORAD PO	GS-0801	15	15	90,078 - 117,105	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0144784FM2	Electronics Engineer	13-Jan-03	AMRDEC	DB-0855	4	4	76,850 - 117,105	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0144915SH1	Human Resource Asst	13-Jan-03	SMDC	GS-0203	6	6	27,645 - 35,941	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0147846KJ2	Secretary (OA)	13-Jan-03	PEO Aviation	GS-0318	5	5	22,737 - 29,559	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCBK03144974	Emp Development Spec	16-Jan-03	SC-CPOC	GS-0325	11	11	46,878 - 60,946	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0141678FM2	Mechanical Engineer	17-Jan-03	AMRDEC	DB-0830	3	3	54,495 - 84,241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0102614VW1	General Engineer	21-Jan-03	SMDC	GS-0801	13	13	64,803 - 84,241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0140489MS1	General Engineer	30-Jan-03	PEO Aviation	GG-0801	14	14	76,580 - 99,552	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0137726OD2	Lead General Engineer	30-Jan-03	AMRDEC	DB-0801	4	4	76,580 - 117,105	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0148742OD2	Lead Materials Engineer	30-Jan-03	AMRDEC	DB-0806	4	4	76,580 - 117,105	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK0140770BM1	IT Specialist (PLCYPLN)	31-Jan-03	CIC	GS-2210	14	14	76,580 - 99,552	X	X													
SCBK03140534	Supvy General Engineer	2-Feb-03	TMDE	GS-0801	14	14	78,953 - 102,642	X	X													
02BK060779JH3	Equipment Specialist (Gen)	27-Feb-03	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	54,275 - 70,555	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
02BK066825JH3	Equipment Specialist (Air)	27-Feb-03	IMMC	GS-1670	12	12	54,275 - 70,555	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0665	Audiologist/Speech Pathologist	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0665	11-13	13	44,668 - 88,770	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0683	Dental Lab Technician	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0683	5-7	7	25,467 - 42,083	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0603	Physician's Assistant	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0603	11-13	13	46,689 - 88,770	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0682	Dental Hygenist	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0682	5-7	7	25,467 - 45,493	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0681	Dental Assistant	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0681	5-7	7	25,467 - 42,083	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0680	Dental Officer	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0680	12	12	55,958 - 74,648	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0662	Optometrist	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0662	11-13	13	46,689 - 88,770	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0668	Podiatrist	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0668	11-13	13	46,689 - 88,770	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MD-DH-02-0610	Registered Nurse	30-Sep-03	MEDCOM	GS-0610	9-12	12	38,588 - 74,648	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

THE FOLLOWING OPM/DEU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOBS.OPM.GOV

X-LW-03-4599-LW	Electronics Engineer	8-Jan-03	Office Sec of Army	DB-0855	3	3	54,495 - 84,241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X-SP-03-4581-ST	Supvy General Engineer	9-Jan-03	Office Sec of Army	GS-0801	15	15	90,078 - 117,105	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X-JB-03-4670-RD	General Engineer	14-Jan-03	Office Sec of Army	DB-0801	2	2	24,802 - 84,241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X-LW-03-4626-RD	Electronics Engineer	17-Jan-03	Office Sec of Army	DB-0855	4	4	76,580 - 117,105	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X-SP-03-4662-ST	General Engineer	22-Jan-03	Office Sec of Army	GS-0801	13	13	64,803 - 84,241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X-SP-03-4657-ST	Supvy General Engineer	22-Jan-03	Office Sec of Army	GS-0801	15	15	90,078 - 117,105	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)

- A - Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees serviced by Redstone CPAC.
- B - All Army permanent competitive service employees and certain Army excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required).
- C - Compensably Disabled Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF-15 and other documentation required).
- D - All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD excepted service employees (SF-50 documenting service required)
- E - Executive Order 12721 eligibles. (Former overseas family member employees who meet eligibility requirements)
- F - All Federal Employees
- H - Severely handicapped persons (Documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Service required)
- I - Interagency Career Transition Assist Plan (ICTAP). (Non-DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by RIF.)
- R - Reinstatement eligibles (former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirement.)
- T - Transfer eligibles (non-Army Federal competitive service employees) (SF-50 documenting service required)
- V - Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under VRA or VEOA programs (DD-214s or proof of service required).
- U - All U.S. citizens

NOTE: If you are interested, carefully read the announcement for the official area of consideration, qualification requirements, and application procedures.

NOTE: The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e., Cashier, Food Service, Custodial, Bartender. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the web at www.redstonemwr.com, or you may telephone 876-7772.