

Redstone Rocket

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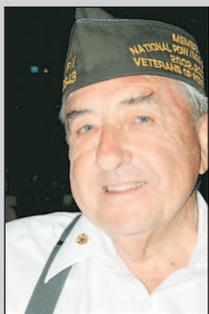
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Summertime's over for school kids

Redstone youngsters
end their vacation

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Redstone youngsters weren't exactly looking forward to today.

It's the first day of school in Huntsville, marking the end of summer vacation. At least there's a committee to help Redstone youngsters and their parents adjust to the new school year.

The Garrison Education Committee tries to keep the Redstone community informed about the Huntsville city school system, according to Pam Berry, the youth education support services director/school liaison officer. The 20-member group meets monthly from September to April; and parents in the Redstone community are invited.

"There is some great information that is exchanged in this committee meeting as far as education issues," Berry said.

See **School** on page 11



Photo by Skip Vaughn

READY TO ROLL— Elaine Johnson, a motor vehicle operator with Northrop Grumman, stands next to the Redstone school buses that will transport children to the four core schools in Huntsville beginning today.

Germany-based soldiers, Iraqi contractors renovate Baghdad police station as team

By Sgt. JEREMY LEE
Army News Service

BAGHDAD — Celebrating the product of a month-long working relationship with local citizens, two Germany-based units conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Al-Jezaer police station here July 23.

After the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, the station was looted and vandalized. When both the engineers and the military police began renovating, they found that they had taken on a real challenge.

The 18th Military Police Brigade, headquartered in Mannheim, Germany, was overseeing the reconstruction of this city's Iraqi police force. They were responsible for repairing, reopening, helping to staff and man police stations, and conducting operations and training in concert with Iraqi police.

But when it came to renovating the station at Al-Jezaer, they had to call on some more experienced help. That help came from the corps' 94th Engineer Battalion, based in Vilseck, Germany.

While V Corps units have worked on several police stations here, the Al-Jezaer station is the only one renovated by an Army engineer unit in coordination with local contractors.

Renovating the station, located on the southwestern edge of Al-Sadr City — formerly known as Saddam City — is just one of the many jobs completed by the 94th Engineer Battalion.

See **Station** on page 11



Photo by Spec. Kristopher Joseph

CEREMONY— Soldiers from V Corps's 18th Military Police Brigade and 94th Engineer Battalion join an Iraqi policeman and contractor to cut a ribbon July 23 celebrating the renovation of the Al-Jezaer Police Station in downtown Baghdad. The project was a collaborative effort between the MPs, engineers and Iraqi police and contractors.

Best friend misses buyout

I would like to know the criteria used by Personnel and Management to decide who gets a financial award when they retire.

My best friend has decided to retire after 32 years of service. She is no longer part of "AMCOM" so she will not be "offered" the VSIP. The situation is this: She worked for AMCOM for 30-plus years but when her directorate was reorganized, she ended up being placed in a "non-AMCOM" position. Supervisors eligible for retirement were not moved to the non-AMCOM positions. These supervisors have already retired within the last year or will retire in the next six months. These supervisors will receive Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay.

Why wasn't the same consideration given to my friend so she, too, could benefit from VSIP along with these supervisors?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Personnel and Training Directorate provided the following response. "Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address the use of voluntary separation incentive pay. VSIP is not an award nor is it an employee entitlement. VSIPs (also known as buyouts) are lump sum payments of up to \$25,000 paid to encourage permanent employees to resign or retire. Buyouts are targeted at employees in specific grades, series or

locations to help avoid reductions-in-force or minimize involuntary separations due to reduction-in-force, base closure, transfer of function, reorganization or other similar action. VSIPs can also be authorized to restructure positions to meet mission needs, such as to correct skills imbalances, revitalize the work force, or reduce the number of high-grade, managerial or supervisory positions. In FY '03 the Aviation and Missile Command was given authority to offer VSIPs in both circumstances, i.e., to negate the need for a RIF and for restructuring purposes.

"AMCOM managers are responsible for assessing their organizational and mission requirements and determining the need to offer separation incentives. The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center then announces the VSIP opportunities to affected employees. Multiple applications for a given VSIP opportunity are processed for approval in the order of seniority, using the leave service computation date.

"Regarding your best friend who has decided to retire, there is insufficient information to address the issues you raise. However, if you have more specific information to share with us, you may contact us directly. We will be glad to address those concerns, ensuring that we do not violate the Privacy Act. Your point of contact is Aleck Hernandez, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, at 955-6105."

Outpouring restores family's faith

On May 8 my husband, Wayne, my 13-year-old daughter, Tiffany, my 9-month-old son, Jonathan, and I were forced out of our home in New Hope by the rising flood waters of the Tennessee River. While the damage to our house and surrounding property was extensive, it was the loss of our family heirlooms and personal effects that was the most truly devastating.

The response of my friends and co-workers on the Redstone Arsenal installation support services contract, both those employed by Northrop Grumman as well as those employed by Chugach Management Services, was immediate

and sustained. Their compassion, invaluable assistance and profound generosity enabled us to return to our home with our spirits renewed and our faith in our fellow man restored.

On behalf of my family, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your thoughts and prayers, as well as for your monetary gifts and donations of food, clothing and essential personal items. Your dedication and hard work is sincerely appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Sherri Henry
Northrop Grumman
Technical Services

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

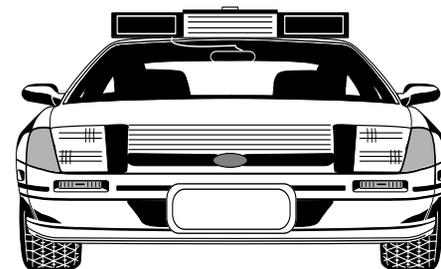
July 25 — A soldier reported that she was harassed at her quarters by an individual who she refused access to. The individual then began harassing the soldier by phone. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

July 25 — A contractor operating a riding lawn mower across the parking area at building 130 accidentally struck the bumper of a parked truck resulting in serious injury. The contractor was transported to Crestwood Hospital where he was admitted with a compound fracture to his leg.

July 26 — A soldier reported that someone removed a Craftsman lawn mower from his quarters which was left unsecured under his carport. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

July 26 — An individual was charged with trespassing and damaging government property when it was discovered she had driven her vehicle through a perimeter fence near East Martin Road. The individual was transported to Crestwood Hospital for minor injuries and mental confusion. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

July 28 — A soldier reported that someone damaged his vehicle while it was parked and unattended at his quarters. The vehicle sustained damage to the passenger side rear door and window molding. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.



July 29 — An individual was issued a violation notice for operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license when he was stopped for making an improper turn on Patton Road.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 9; parking violation, 3; driving with a suspended/revoked/canceled driver's license, 1; driving while in violation of limited driving privileges, 1; and reckless driving, 1.

Quote of the week

'A gifted comedian who entertained audiences for decades with his unique talents, Bob Hope brought joy and laughter to our nation.'

— President Bush

in a special proclamation July 28, the day after Hope died at age 100.

An open lane random survey

How do you feel about gun control?

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



Spec. Spencer Carney

"Everyone has the right to a firearm under the Bill of Rights. I don't think gun control is right."



Jenny Myrick, retired military

"It's a hard situation. I am for it in some ways and not for it in some ways. You can't blame the gun. It's the guy holding it. It's too easy to get guns."



Pat Woods, volunteer

"I feel that it takes away our right to bear arms or own a gun on one hand, but on the other one it gives the ones that are irresponsible the right to shoot somebody else."



Oriol Velez, student

"I don't like guns and I don't think people should take them to work."

Redstone Rocket

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School enrolls plan for training future soldiers

Campus concept envisioned for Ordnance University

By AL SCHWARTZ
Chief of public affairs

“Our students come to us for Advanced Individual Training after nine weeks of Basic Combat Training. These soldiers are volunteers. They’re energetic and smart,” Col. David Hafele, commander of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, said. “They have high expectations.”

Instruction is provided to about 1,000 students at any one time during the year in several specialty areas.

“The school has evolved over its 50 years at Redstone Arsenal,” Hafele said. “Our focus had been missile and munitions maintenance. But it has become more and more high-tech and the focus is more on electronics maintenance.”

The school is also very involved in homeland security and anti-terrorism training. It instructs the technical escort officers who are responsible for identifying and transporting biological and chemical material, teaches how to render safe various explosive devices and munitions; and for the FBI, the school provides the instructors and facilities to train local, state and federal public safety bomb technicians.

Facilities and infrastructure

Taking facilities that are 45-50 years old and adapting them for modern training can be a challenge.

“We have to plan to replace the facilities. We have great instructors, staff and soldiers,” Hafele said. “Now we need great facilities and infrastructure.”

Under Hafele’s direction, the school has developed a 15-year master plan that would replace yesterday’s buildings with modern training facilities and housing and improve the quality of life for students as well as the staff. The school headquarters would be moved deeper on post, to Vincent Road. New training buildings would each contain about 60,000 square feet of space and consist of classrooms and high-bays. The plan calls for green space, new barracks and a parade ground. Traffic patterns would be changed and perhaps most important – there would be room for expansion.

“The cost will be significant,” Hafele said. “But the long-term results will also

be significant. We’ll have fewer buildings, more efficient use of space, reduced overhead costs and increased safety and force protection. We would make the school more campus-like – an Ordnance University for the Army.”

The school is based at Redstone Arsenal, but has units at four other locations – Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and Forts Gordon, Ga., Sill, Okla., and Bliss, Texas.

“I would really like to consolidate the school here. Some training would continue at Eglin and Fort Bliss because of the specific on-site training we perform there, but we could clearly relocate training from Forts Sill and Gordon,” Hafele said. “That would bring another 600 students here at any one time and another 230 permanent party.”

Quality of life improvement

The first building in the construction plan would be to support the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, a wheeled variant of the Multiple Launch Rocket System. HIMARS is an all-weather precision fire, deep strike weapons system for early entry and objective forces. “We need a building in place by fiscal year 2010 to support that project,” Hafele said. That means the money would need to be appropriated in FY ‘07 and the facility built in FY ‘08 and FY ‘09.

Hafele’s vision to improve training and quality of life extends beyond the school. He has been working closely with Col. Bob Devlin, garrison commander, to develop plans that include other changes.

“The new dining facility and bowling center that Redstone has under way will significantly improve life for soldiers and instructors,” Hafele said.

“We also want to construct a centralized in/out processing center for soldiers, build a new troop sales store for uniforms and other items closer to the barracks area, and partner with a commercial entity to bring a first-run movie theater on post,” he said. Other improvements include a replacement to the old gymnasium in fiscal 2007, a munitions training facility in FY ‘06 and a Technical Escort training facility in fiscal 2007.

“We’re really excited about the Ordnance University master plan,” Hafele said. “We need to make the case to the Army leadership and if the Army sees its value, then it will go to Congress.

“It’s just a plan right now,” he said, “but it could be a reality tomorrow.”

DoD salutes Korean War veterans' service, sacrifice

50th anniversary of armistice observed with gala event

By GERRY GILMORE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Fifty years ago on July 27, the signing of an armistice ended three years of bloody fighting on the Korean peninsula - a conflict in which almost 37,000 U.S. servicemembers gave their lives.

On July 26, the Defense Department paid tribute to the fallen troops and the war's survivors in a gala event at the MCI Center here. That event would be an entertainment venue to the official commemoration the next day at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall.

North Korea's campaign to forcibly subjugate its southern brethren under a communist regime was stopped in its tracks as a result of the 1950-53 Korean War. United States' troops and those from 19 other United Nations countries and Italy, a non-U.N. member at the time, fought North Korean and Communist Chinese forces to a military draw.

The result: South Korea to this day remains a prosperous, free and democratic society. In contrast, North Korea's economy is nonexistent — since most resources are directed to the military —

and its impoverished people regularly experience famine and other hardships caused by their Stalinist-styled government.

Veterans attending the salute to their wartime service looked back on their service 50 years ago. Roland Gendron, 70, was one of hundreds of U.S. Korean War veterans present.

The North Koreans invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950. Gendron recalled that he had arrived in Korea in the fall of that year as a 17-year-old enlistee in the U.S. Marine Corps. The then-private first class noted that Gen. Douglas MacArthur's September 1950 amphibious landing at Inchon had netted a good portion of the invading North Korea army, while driving the remaining North Korean forces into retreat.

U.S. and allied troops closely pursued the fleeing enemy northward into North Korea, noted Gendron, a bulldozer driver who then served with the Marines' 7th Motor Transport Battalion.

"We were hauling howitzers — and everything — up to the line," he explained.

In November 1950, Gendron said his unit was about six miles south of the Chosin Reservoir — news reports at that time predicted hostilities would be over by Christmas.

However, the Communist Chinese, worried about United Nations' troops nearing their border, had other ideas. The Chinese decided to enter the war in support of North Korea and were about to launch mass assaults on the U.S. and allied troops.

Attacking U.S. forces around Chosin Reservoir the night of Nov. 27, the Chinese troops had "split the line open" by early December, he noted, "and we had to come south."

A brutal, 11-day, 70-mile, wintertime retreat ensued, Gendron said. "The conditions were horrible — it was 35 degrees below zero — and we were not dressed for it."

Frostbite ran rampant among the troops, he recalled, adding, "it was so very cold ... mind-numbing; you couldn't think straight."

Gendron attributed his survival to luck and "faith and my training in the Marine Corps — we never give up and we never quit."

MacArthur, who wanted to expand the war into China, was relieved from duty as overall U.S./U.N. commander in Korea on April 11, 1951, by President Harry S. Truman. U.S. and other U.N. forces eventually beat back the Chinese assault and the war continued back and forth for another two years, with major hostilities ending with the July 27, 1953, armistice.

The Korean War is sometimes referred to as "the forgotten war," according to veterans who attended the MCI Center event. Some pointed out, for example, the absence of large victory parades following the armistice.

Some veterans observed that the South Koreans had been saved from communism, but the fighting had ended in stalemate. And, according to Gendron, the war

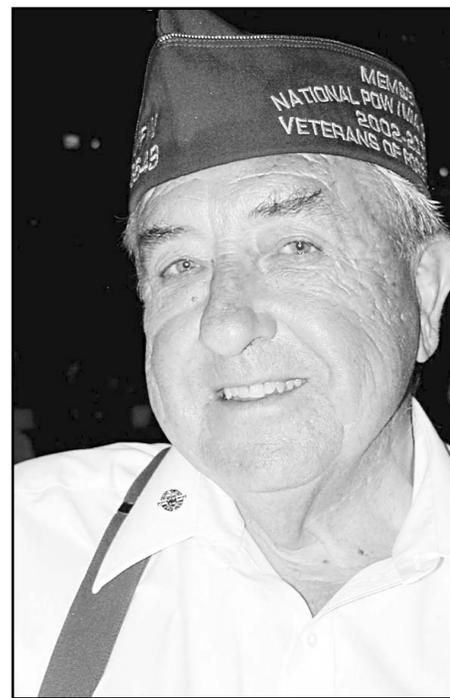


Photo by Gerry Gilmore

VETERAN REMEMBERS— Former U.S. Marine Roland Gendron, 70, recalled American forces' December 1950 retreat from the Chosin Reservoir at the DoD-sponsored salute to Korean War veterans at the MCI Center in Washington July 26.

occurred not long after the conclusion of World War II, a much broader conflict that claimed many more American servicemembers' lives.

"They tucked Korea under the carpet for a while," acknowledged Gendron, who today lives in New Bedford, Mass.

See **Veteran** on page 5

Veteran

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Yet, Gendron, a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6643 in Freetown, Mass., noted, “We went over there and did our job.”

And regarding the Korean War vets salute, Gendron noted: “I am absolutely impressed and so very, very happy to be here ... I can’t believe that we were thought of (in) this way.”

Paul H.E. Wallace, 72, recalled being drafted into the Army and arriving in Korea in November 1951 as a 23-year-old private first class, trained as a heavy weapons operator.

He noted, however, that he spent his time in Korea as a truck driver. Wallace, an African-American, also noted that he remained at that rank during his year-plus Korea tour, while other soldiers were being promoted to sergeant. Such circumstances, he observed, smacked of “injustice.”

Yet, Wallace, who retired from the Army as a sergeant first class after 20 years of duty, declared that he was proud of his military service. During his day, he said it was the duty of every male American citizen to spend some time in the military.

Today the Washington, D.C., resident observed that he’d departed Korea in February 1953 before the armistice was signed.

Dermot Ryan, a 74-year-old New York City native, recalled that he was also drafted into the Army as a young man, eventually showing up in Korea in 1951 as a heavy weapons infantryman with the 187th (Airborne) Regimental Combat Team.

Ryan was relatively subdued about his time in Korea, but he did say he was proud of his 12 years of service in the Army.

“I’m a patriot,” he declared.

Television star Ed McMahon, himself

a Marine Corps pilot during World War II and the Korean War, was the master of ceremonies. Other participants included Korean folk dancers dressed in colorful costumes and performances by country singer Randy Travis, and ‘50s and ‘60s groups such as the Cornell Gunter Coasters, the Elsbeary Hobbs Drifters and the Platters.

McMahon also introduced vintage black and white film clips of comedian/entertainer Bob Hope with U.S. troops in Korea during the war. Little did anyone imagine that the legendary figure would die the next day, July 27, at age 100.

The event’s host, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi, noted, “We gather to express America’s love and thanks to all who stood for right and justice” during the Korean War, adding that those “men and women whose rightful pride in their service in that far-off land is shared by their countrymen and all who live in freedom throughout the world.

“And today,” the veterans affairs secretary added, “we also celebrate the memory and honor the sacrifice of the nearly 37,000 young Americans who gave our country the last full measure in devotion while serving in Korea.”

Retired Army Gen. Edward C. Meyer, a former Army chief of staff and Korean War veteran, read the famous order by Gen. Matthew Ridgway, who replaced MacArthur, to the troops explaining why U.S. forces were fighting in Korea.

And actor and author James McEachin, who had served as an Army infantryman during the Korean War, shrugged off an illness to read narratives about the war and a salute to America’s military.

The courage of U.S. troops fighting in Korea 50 years ago “helped to preserve the Republic of Korea as it is today — a beacon of freedom powered by the human spirit,” Principi noted.

Protestant congregation planning rally at chapel



Courtesy photo

THAT'S GOSPEL— The Christian Brothers gospel quartet will perform for Rally Day, Aug. 17 at Bicentennial Chapel.

Members of community welcome to annual event with gospel concert

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

Members of the Redstone community are invited to Bicentennial Chapel for fun and fellowship at Protestant Rally Day, Aug. 17.

The Christian Brothers gospel quartet will perform. The annual event is held to celebrate faith and to reintroduce the community to what the chapel has to offer.

"We want to get people into the chapel that may have come to the installation over the summer," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Penney said. "We hope that they'll consider coming, not just for the concert, but making it their spiritual house of worship for as long as they're here. We want to draw the new people, but also let the other people know that we're doing special things, too."

Some of those special things include a youth choir and children's church program. A children's club is planned to begin in September.

"We're a lot more active than we were even a year ago, in my opinion," Penney said. He suggests community members take a look at the changes at Bicentennial Chapel; and Rally Day offers that opportunity.

The event kicks off with the morning worship service at 11; and attendees are invited to come early for Sunday School activities. During the service, the Christian Brothers will give the audience a taste of what to expect at the concert later in the day. Although a new group, several members have received acclaim as members of other gospel quartets, including appearances in the Old Time Gospel Hour Quar-

ter and In Harmony. This will be its first Alabama appearance.

After the morning church service, attendees are invited to have lunch at Bicentennial Chapel. Box lunches, provided by Quiznos Classic Subs, will be served along with pot-luck style side dishes and desserts. Lunch will be served in the assembly room.

The concert will begin at 1 p.m. and should last an hour and 15 minutes.

"The bass is one of the most impressive in the gospel music industry," Maj. John Hughey, vice president of the parish council, said of the quartet. "These guys are really, really good. They're all young guys and they bring a lot of energy and a lot of class."

In addition to singing, the quartet will also speak and provide testimonial. For those wishing to take the music home with them, sales of Christian Brothers CDs are planned. Details for other activities including games and a special children's ministry are being worked out. Child care during the worship service will be available. Penney is looking into also providing child care during the concert.

"We also want to align this with summer vacation being over for the regular parishioners. It's time to get back in the chapel," Penney said. "People go away on vacation and a lot of the time even take a vacation from their spiritual side."

Members of the Redstone community, and those in the surrounding area with access to the Arsenal, are invited to Rally Day.

"It's open to anybody who can access us. We would really love for them to consider joining us. If they can't make it for the 11 o'clock service because they're at their own service, we're inviting them to come just for the concert," Penney said. For more information, call Hughey at 876-9017 or Penney at 842-2174.

■ School liaison officer invites issues from parents

School

continued from page 1

From last December through March, the committee members toured schools attended by Redstone children. "And it was a good exchange of information with the schools," Berry said. The committee will have its first meeting of the school year Sept. 15 from noon-1 at the Redstone Room of Challenger Activity Center, building 1500.

"The first meeting of course will be an orientation, and then we'll go ahead and schedule" the school tours, Berry said.

Committee members include garrison commander Col. Bob Devlin, the senior member; Berry and representatives from Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Army Community Service, Education Center, bus transportation, chaplain, Child and Youth Services, Directorate of Community and Family Activities, Huntsville schools, Legal, local school representatives, Provost Marshal and Fox Army Health Center.

"We look forward to the Education Committee starting back up," Devlin said. "It is our primary means of interacting with school administrators to make sure that we are providing them the support they need. And, as a forum, it has worked well ... for example, allowing us to match our audiovisual teams with Butler students as mentors on how to make a film, and to establish a study program that complements high school programs that support students preparing for exit exams. We encourage all members of the

Redstone community to join us and be part of making our schools even better."

"It's great because it keeps me informed of what is happening with the Education Committee and the community," Yvonne Lister, director of the Youth Center, said.

There are 481 children from ages 5-18 on post, according to Cynthia Ziegler, chief of housing management. Most attend the following four core schools: J.E. Williams Elementary/Technology Middle, New Century High, Westlawn Middle and Butler High.

By July 28, some 314 children were registered for school bus transportation. This includes 296 who will be transported by Redstone buses to the core schools and 18 others who will ride Huntsville city school buses to magnet schools, according to Don Olsen, director of logistics.

"The Garrison Education Committee is a way for sharing information, keeping everyone informed, ensuring that we can service the youth," Berry said. Most of her calls from parents lately have dealt with magnet school issues.

"This time of the year, I'm swamped (with calls)," she said. "The good part for me, as far as my job is concerned, I know who the contacts are to take care of it."

Committee meetings are scheduled Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 26, Feb. 16, March 15 and April 19. Parents who want to attend, or raise a school issue, should call Berry at 955-6309.

"Usually I'm able to put a smile on their face," she said. "I try really hard to do that."

■ Police station rebuilt in Baghdad

Station

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Led by 2nd Lt. Jessica Durbin, a platoon leader in the 94th Eng. Bn., the unit's carpenters, masons, electricians and plumbers began work on the station June 15.

The Americans and Iraqis worked side-by-side on the station while sharing and learning construction techniques. The Iraqi contractors were pleased to learn that the U.S. troops had skills other than soldiering, and were willing to use them to renovate local facilities, officials said.

Throughout the project, soldiers and contractors worked hand-in-hand. For example, while an Army electrician installed a light fixture, an Iraqi electrician was wiring it in. As the work progressed, the engineers formed solid professional working relationships with many of the Iraqi contractors.

The language barrier was another big hurdle, said SSgt. Erik Faris, an engineer in Company B, 94th Eng Bn.

But there were even more hurdles to jump. To complete the project, the engineers had to "work around" the Iraqi police officers and soldiers of the 307th Military Police Company who work at the station. They also had to endure rolling power blackouts and tool shortages.

Americans and Iraqis alike said the job was a great learning experience. Faris commented that the Iraqi contractors were better at masonry than their multi-tasked U.S. counterparts. Due to their vast experience, Faris said, the Iraqi masons could "run laps around" the engineers in plastering the station's walls.

"This is not only about building a police station — it is about building relationships," Durbin said.

Editor's note: Sgt. Jeremy Lee is a journalist with V Corps in Iraq.

Doug's Deli staff bids farewell at Sparkman Center

Snack bar continues with new operator

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

It was a day for goodbyes. Some hugs, some tears. The snack bar just won't be the same.

Doug Bosarge of Doug's Deli in building 5304 and staff members Sarah Quick and April Fortner finished their work here last week. The snack bar will continue with a new operator, Buford Watson.

Bosarge, who opened it March 1995, left to become the cafeteria manager at St. John's Catholic in Madison. Quick and Fortner returned to school.

"Kind of sad actually," Fortner said of

her feelings about leaving. "I grew up around here. We've had this place since I was 12. I'll be 21 (Aug. 7). So it's kind of hard to say goodbye to some of these people."

She plans to attend Calhoun College in January. "And in the meantime, I'm going to find another job," she said.

Edna Dye, the Sparkman Center building manager, presented Bosarge a picture of the Sparkman Center signed by friends throughout the complex and a cake as goodbye presents. The reception was held at the snack bar July 30, the day before the ex-operator's last day.

MSgt. Frank Rose of Logistics Support Activity was among the many customers who shared cake and hugs with Fortner at the reception. He visited the snack bar almost every day, he said. "They know my order by heart."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LAST GOODBYE— April Fortner, departing staff member at the snack bar in building 5304, gets a hug from MSgt. Frank Rose, a frequent customer at Doug's Deli.

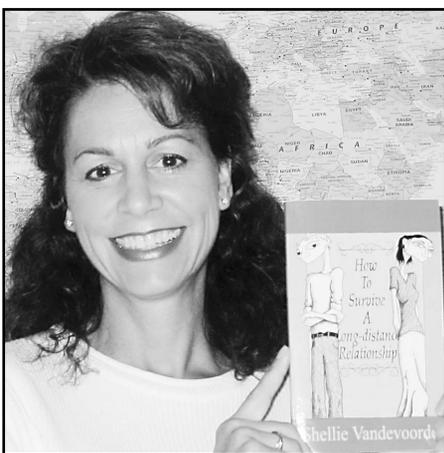
Relationships can grow despite geographic separation

Book by military spouse gives advice on survival

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

A military wife in Georgia had a good reason for writing a book about surviving a long-distance relationship.

"I found out there was no book out there for the military wife," Shellie Vandevoorde of Rincon, Ga., said. Her brother suggested she write one; and the result was the 95-page paperback titled "How to



Courtesy photo

SELF-HELP TOOL— Shellie Vandevoorde of Rincon, Ga., wrote her book to help military spouses cope with geographic separations.

Survive a Long-Distance Relationship."

"It's not the technical side. It's more the emotional side we go through, like the child care and the finances," said Vandevoorde, who finished the book in December 2000.

The Louisville, Ky., native interviewed many people, male and female, who have been married at least seven years and have loving, working relationships. Chapters in her book include Departure, Communication, Financial Hardship: A Long Distance Budget, Infidelity, Children, Career, Homefries, Homecoming, and Prayer.

"The book is self-help. Not every chapter pertains to everyone," Vandevoorde, 40, said. "One of those chapters hopefully will speak to everyone and help them understand what they're going through. When you understand, you can make it better. The whole message of the book is you can grow through the separation of deployment. If you make a commitment, surround yourself with positive friends, your relationship can grow. It really makes you appreciate each other."

Soon after the book became available, a chaplain reviewed it and then ordered 250 copies for the family group in his unit, according to Vandevoorde. Her husband, who has been to Redstone for training, is assigned out of Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. They have a 12-year-old son. Vandevoorde herself served six years in the Army in the communication field.

The book has been published by 1st Books (www.1stbooks.com). More information, including the first three chapters

and a discount order form, can be seen online at www.whizbang.net/survive.

"I've had people say when they read it

they realize they're not the only ones that go through what they're going through," Vandevoorde said.

Army approves digital photos for official military files

Soldiers' selection board pictures available for review within a day

By EVETTE BROOKS

For the Rocket

The digital age has arrived for official military photographs.

The Army's new Photograph Management Information System uses worldwide web technology to receive digitized, official photographs from DoD photo labs throughout the world. The new system affords greater capabilities to the Army Selection Board System and career management activities.

This system also enables soldiers to review and approve, by way of the Army Knowledge Online 'What's new' page, their photos within 24 hours. After three days, if a photo has not been accepted or rejected by a soldier, DAPMIS automatically accepts the photo for the Personnel Command.

Official photos in DAPMIS apply to those in the ranks of staff sergeant and above, chief warrant officer 2 and above

and first lieutenant to colonel.

"Soldiers still go to the Photo Lab at building 4489 on Martin Road to get their photos taken," Scott Huther, personnel service's clerk, said. "DAPMIS saves time and money. Plus, soldiers don't have to worry about their photos getting lost."

Soldiers who will be, or anticipate that they will be, in the zone of consideration for a selection board in 2003 are encouraged to call the photo lab at 876-2133 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins present workload schedule difficulties and should be avoided so that photos can be uploaded on a timely, coordinated basis.

Although slated for elimination in the future, hardcopy photographs are still being sent to a soldier's military personnel office.

Soldiers can access their submitted photos at <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil>.

In accordance with 640-30 paragraph 4-4, for soldiers assigned to Redstone Arsenal, the photo lab will take photos, hand carrying hard copies to MILPO. No hard copies will be provided to soldiers assigned to Redstone.

Best yards on post harvest awards

The Yard of the Month program rewards landscaping efforts in the housing areas on post throughout the summer.

Here are the winners for July:

- Area 1, Columbia Centre – SFC and Mrs. Bobby Jones, 543-A Willow Circle.
- Area 2, Challenger Heights – SFC and Mrs. Ramon Ortiz, 1036 Hof Circle.
- Area 3, Saturn Pointe – Willie and Maj. Watrina White, 44 Ripley Drive.
- Area 4A, New Endeavor Village – SSgt. and Mrs. Delbert Francis, 603 Weson Circle.
- Area 4B, Endeavor Village – SSgt. and Mrs. Johnny Kennedy, 628 Dyer Drive.
- Area 5, Freedom Landing – Capt. and Mrs. Todd Cline, 418 Rice Drive.
- Area 10A, Apollo Landing – SFC and Mrs. William Cox, 475-A Cooke Drive.
- Area 10B, Pathfinder Pointe – Maj. and Mrs. Tim Hall, 490 Cooke Drive.
- The unit winner is HHC 59th, building 3300.



Mary Petty/Photo Lab

AMONG WINNERS— Darrell Brewer, deputy to the garrison commander, presents one of the Yard of the Month awards to Carmin and SFC Ramon Ortiz of 1036 Hof Circle.

Teledyne Brown wins subcontract to produce PAC-3 missile trainers

TELEDYNE BROWN RELEASE

Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc. has been awarded a \$2.9 million subcontract from TFab, a limited liability corporation composed of Anchorage based Tyonek Fabrication Inc. and SESI Inc. of Maryland.

The TFab /Teledyne Brown team will provide the government with rapid response on the design, manufacture and delivery of 26 missile round trainers to be used in Army PAC-3 training and operational units for training purposes as well as significant cost savings.

Teledyne Brown's manufacturing plant will produce the trainers after demonstrating an efficient and cost effective design. The trainers are designed to mirror the physical characteristics of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 firing unit but will

not contain actual missiles. The trainers will be used to instruct soldiers on the set up and loading of the PAC-3 missile. Use of this equipment for training assists the Army with its goal to improve the efficiency and safety of the loading process.

"This contract showcases how Teledyne Brown, teamed with an outstanding small business, can deliver cost-effective products and services to our valued Army customer," Jim Link, president of Teledyne Brown Engineering, said. "The work is unique and will utilize Teledyne Brown's full range of capabilities from design through development and fabrication. The contract also represents an outstanding opportunity to perform value engineering on an existing product for the Lower Tier (Patriot) Program Office as well as for the PEO Air, Space and Missile Defense."

Construction work continues for communications upgrade

The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program construction project continues to expand its work locations, according to Richard Mathena, I3MP team leader in Directorate of Information Management.

Construction crews are scheduled to start excavation on the corner of Vincent and Goss Road. Work at this site is estimated to be completed in three weeks, depending on the weather. During this construction time, the southbound turning lane from Goss to Vincent Road will be closed from the north entrance of the Shopette to the turning lane at the traffic light on Vincent. Also, the outer southbound lane on Vincent Road will be closed from the traffic light to the east

entrance of the MWR car wash. Caution should be taken in this area to avoid safety hazards. Military police will be monitoring speed and controlling traffic in the construction area.

Crews continue to work near the Sparkman Center excavating manhole and trenching outside of the walking trail. Delays are expected as a result of weather and underground utility requirements with work to be completed by Aug. 30.

Several digging routes into the Sparkman Center are temporarily on hold because of engineering change issues. The contractor is resolving these issues and work should resume soon.

For more information, call Mathena at 876-0020.

Army signs up for software consolidation agreement

Microsoft products centrally funded

GARRISON RELEASE

The Army is centrally funding Microsoft products through the new Army Enterprise Software Consolidation (Microsoft) Agreement.

In June a moratorium letter was signed and distributed by the CIO/G6 freezing all Microsoft purchases. This action is a direct result of the Information Technology E-Commerce and Commercial Contracting Center in conjunction with the CIO/G6 and Army Small Computer Program, contract award (May 31) to SoftMart Government Services Inc. The Army has contracted for both desktop and server software and upgrades over the next six years.

Authorized license distribution is scheduled to begin Sept. 1.

The six-year Armywide enterprise agreement for Microsoft products applies to all Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard Bureau agencies and Army authorized contractors.

Systems operated in a joint organization (e.g. Central Command, those covered under an educational license (e.g. West Point), and those contractually obligated under existing contracts until contract expiration (e.g. MEDCOM) are not currently affected. Agency impact

If your organization needs the MS Windows operating system or MS Office product, then the Redstone Directorate of

Information Management will provide free of cost. If you need other Microsoft products, you will order and MIPR funds to ASCP and then the directorate will provide the software upon approval of ASCP. If you are in a category to which the contract refers, Microsoft cannot be purchased with a credit card, through contract actions or any other means. Instead, you will take advantage of the SoftMart contract for your Microsoft product requests. The installation end user's primary point of contact will be the DOIM, who is the only authorized organization to order and receive software. For all program executive offices, program managers and end-user agencies not on the installation, information can be obtained on the ASCP web site at: <http://pmscp.monmouth.army.mil>. Army's intent

Establishing large contracts takes advantage of economies of scale and standardization. As the Army progresses toward transformation consolidation, the Enterprise Software Consolidation (Microsoft) Agreement supports the Army's enterprise efforts, the "One Army" approach. In addition to the benefit of lower total cost of ownership and core enterprise server management, the Army expects to improve the security environment by bringing all Army enter-

prise elements to a common software managed baseline. Standardize equipment/software in preparation of upcoming project implementations such as Active Directory will establish an asset management database so the Army knows what it has and where it is. This initiative will provide the Army Information Technology Infrastructure with office automation, enterprise servers, and core enterprise IT services.

To assist the Redstone community, the Directorate of Information Management will provide a briefing on the ASCP Army Enterprise Software Consolidation (Microsoft) Agreement to the Redstone Garrison Configuration Management Board on Aug. 7, and the Redstone Garrison Configuration Working Group on Aug. 14.

For more information, the web link to view policies and products provided in the agreement can be found at http://pmscp.monmouth.army.mil/contracts/aei_esc_ms/aei_esc_ms.asp. This web site is designed to assist customers in obtaining information about the ASCP and about Information Technology Contracts and Blanket Purchase Agreements. Your Redstone point of contact for information concerning the Microsoft agreement is Kay Wrenn at 876-9069, kay.wrenn@redstone.army.mil.

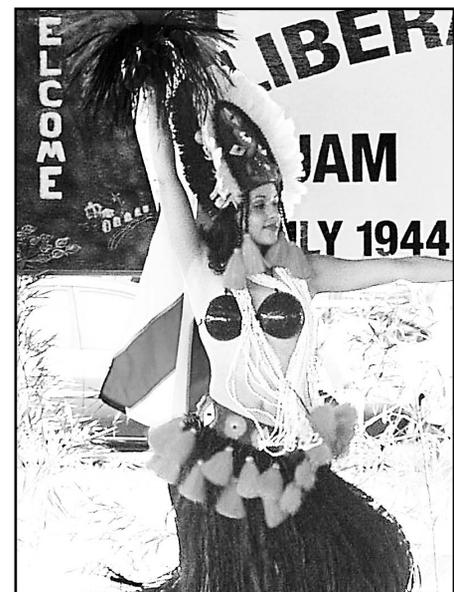


Photo by Kelley Lane

Celebrating liberty

Island dancers were just part of the festivities at the Guam Liberation Celebration, July 26 at Kalea Park in Meridianville. The afternoon of fun and food marked the 59th anniversary of Guam's World War II liberation from occupying Japanese forces by the American military. Several veterans of the battle attended the event which included raffles, games and music.

CID increases reward to \$50,000 in murder case

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – The Criminal Investigation Command has increased its reward from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of anyone responsible for the murder of PFC Amanda Gonzales in Hanau, Germany.

The body of Gonzales, 19, was found Nov. 5, 2001, on the floor of her barracks room at Fliegerhorst Kasern after she did not report for work. The manner of death was ruled a homicide by asphyxiation.

"Increasing the reward is symbolic of

the determination we have in solving this case and bringing the person or persons responsible to justice," Special Agent Russell Davidson, lead investigator on the case, said.

Gonzales was a cook assigned to Headquarters Supply Company of the 127th Aviation Support Battalion at the time of her death.

"I'm convinced someone out there knows something that could help us crack this case," Davidson said. "We encourage anyone who has any information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, to come forward. That information may just

be the final piece of the puzzle required to bring the responsible person or persons to justice."

Anyone with any information regarding this case should contact the closest CID office or contact the Wiesbaden CID Office at 49-611-816-2481, 49-611-816-2485 or DSN 336-2481/2487/9725. Persons wishing to remain anonymous will be honored, and information will be held in the strictest confidence allowable under the law.

Editor's note: Information provided by CID Public Affairs.



Courtesy photo

Lou Gramm jams

The 2003 Miller Lite Army Concert Tour is coming to Redstone Arsenal Saturday, featuring Ted Nugent and Foreigner lead singer Lou Gramm at the post activity field. This concert is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate for this "dual-headliner" act. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com and these outlets: Recreation Center ITR (building 3711 on Patton Road), Sparkman Cafeteria, Hotel Redstone, Officers and Civilians Club, Post Exchange customer service, or by phone at 876-4531.

3ID 'Sledgehammer brigade' returns from Iraq

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

FORT BENNING, Ga. – It's calm in Kelley Hill's Kefurt Gym, but the hill itself is hopping again with soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division.

The gym was the site of what might be called the "mother of all welcome home ceremonies." In a series of reunions over a nine-day period, beginning July 10, the gym was decked in red, white and blue, strewn with confetti and balloons, and plastered in posters that read, "Welcome home, heroes."

Despite the oppressive heat, hordes of friends and family members packed the gym to greet the 3,700 soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, returning from the Persian Gulf, where they spent 13 of the last 15 months.

3rd Brigade soldiers fought at Tallil, Samawah, Karbala, Baghdad and dozens of other sites with unfamiliar names. It was 3rd Brigade's soldiers who helped secure a key bridge over the Euphrates and cleared the way for a quick and decisive advance on Baghdad.

"For all that they have accomplished, we want to make sure you know we recognize your great sacrifice, because without your support, we couldn't have done what we did," said the brigade's new commander, Col. Steven Salazar, who spoke for the first time to 3rd Brigade families July 17. He thanked the families for their support, a sentiment his soldiers echoed with a resounding "Hooah," before launching into "The Dog-face Soldier," the 3rd Infantry Division's theme song.



Sports & Recreation

Fall bowling leagues

Redstone Lanes is gearing up for fall bowling season. Leagues are open to the Redstone community — anyone who works on, lives on or can access Redstone Arsenal. Leagues include Monday Military League, 6 p.m.; Tuesday Night Mixed, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Night Mixed, 5 p.m.; Wednesday Night Men's, 7:30 p.m.; Thursday Morning Ladies, 9:30 a.m.; Thursday Night Mixed, 5 p.m.; Friday OCWC Ladies, 9:15 a.m.; and Friday Night Mixed, 6 p.m. To register or for more information, call 876-6634.

Rocketman triathlon

The 10th annual Rocketman Triathlon is Aug. 24 at 7:30 a.m. at the Col. Hudson Recreation Area. For information call Bob Mulkey 883-7399.

Ten-miler tryouts

Redstone will have tryouts for its Army Ten-Miler team 7 a.m. Saturday and Aug. 23 on a 10-mile course that begins and ends in the parking lot at Sparkman Fitness Center. The team will have six military and four civilian members. The annual race is Oct. 5 in Washington, D.C. For more information, call Skip Vaughn 876-1500 or Alexander Steel 876-3867.

Youth baseball

Central Babe Ruth League will hold reg-

istration for the 2003 Fall Ball season Saturday and Aug. 16 from 9 a.m. until noon at Brahan Springs Recreation Center. Players age 13-19 and living in southwest Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal are invited. Bring a copy of your birth certificate and a parent or guardian to fill out the registration form. For more information call 533-9350, e-mail bgambrell@knology.net or call BSRC 883-3710.

Golf benefit

The third annual Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Foundation charity golf tournament is Aug. 23 at Redstone Golf Course. There will be a hole-in-one contest and many prizes. Barbecue and refreshments will be provided. Proceeds benefit local charity. For more information, send an e-mail to sbraz@knology.net or call 533-3643. The sign-up deadline is Aug. 15.

Boating safety class

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct Boating Safety Classes beginning Aug. 14 through Sept. 25 on Thursday evenings at 6:30 in building 3305, Stillwell Hall, Zeus Drive, room 215. There is a \$22 fee to cover text and materials. This boating safety class will satisfy requirements for the state boating operators license and can reduce the cost of boat insurance. For more information, call Tom Kunhart 885-7096 or 830-6621.

Volleyball league

Youth Sports is offering youth age 9-15

the opportunity to participate in a volleyball league. Due to the late notification of this sport, interested players must call to pre-register. When enough youth are registered, teams will be formed and will enter the City of Huntsville League. Pre-registration continues through Aug. 15. Age groups are 9-10, 11-12 and 13-15; and this is open to all youth in the Redstone community, including contractor dependents. There's a minimum of eight players per team; and cost is \$40 per player. Play begins Sept. 8. Coaches are needed. For information call 876-3704 or 313-3735.

Inline hockey

Child and Youth Services will have an inline hockey clinic with its annual inline hockey league Sept. 8 through Oct. 30 for ages 6-17 at the CYS Inline Hockey Rink on Goss Road. Cost is \$100 for dependents of active/retired/reserve military, civilians, Redstone contractors and NASA personnel. Cost is \$125 for non-government affiliated dependents who wish to play in this league. CYS Registration fee is \$15 per child or \$35 per family per year. A current physical and a copy of the child's birth certificate are required at registration. Registration will be held Aug. 18-30. Youth affiliated with Redstone Arsenal personnel will register at CYS, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. All others may register at S&V Sports, 3190 Leeman Ferry Road. To register or for more information, call 883-9917 or 876-3704.

Youth bowling

Redstone Lanes will hold a Youth Appreciation Day, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for ages 5-21. There will be free games with instructional coaches on hand, free hot dogs, hamburgers and sodas. Sign up for the Young American Bowling Alliance League and receive a free T-shirt or bowling towel. For more information, call 876-6634.



Conferences & Meetings

Alcoholics anonymous

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

Acquisition career workshop

The Southern/Western Region, Army Acquisition Support Center's Career Development Day is Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. This workshop should answer your questions about competitive opportunities, the competitive board application process, new Acquisition Corps policy changes and how they impact you, position certification and the request process, how to develop and maintain your automated career management tools, etc. There will also be one-on-one counseling sessions available by appointment with PERSCOM and local ASC acquisition career managers. For more information

and to register, log on to the Southern/Western Region web site at <http://southernregion.redstone.army.mil/>. You may also call Alexis Holden 955-2554 or Jeanne Berry 955-2785.

Federal retirees

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees will meet Saturday at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Scheduled speaker is Sandra Moon, member of the Huntsville City Council. Refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10. For more information, call 881-4944 or 881-3168.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Controllers will hold its monthly meeting Aug. 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center on Airport Road. Tim Grey, director of personnel and training, AMCOM, is to speak on the future work force. For tickets — \$9 members, \$10 non-members — call Virginia Moore 955-6262, ext.165.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League detachment 820 will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 12 at the American Legion post on Drake Avenue. All present, former and retired Marines are invited.



Miscellaneous

Logistics course

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics is offering a 50-hour Logistics Management course. The course provides a comprehensive review of logistics, preparing interested students for the next CPL exam scheduled Nov. 1. For more information, call Joyce Bilodeau 842-9968.

Army concert tour

Redstone Arsenal MWR is once again hosting the Miller Lite Army Concert Tour featuring Ted Nugent and Foreigner lead singer Lou Gramm on Saturday at 8 p.m. Get your tickets early at www.ticketmaster.com and these outlets: Recreation Center ITR (building 3711 Patton Road), Sparkman Cafeteria, Hotel Redstone, Officers and Civilians Club, PX Customer Service, or by phone at 876-4531. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate. Go to www.redstonemwr.com for more information.

Travel course

South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center is offering a Civilian Travel Regulation course Aug. 12-13. The target audience is anyone involved with authorizing, approving, processing, auditing and paying for travel in accordance with the JTR-Vol. 2 for civilian employees with DoD. The cost per person is \$240. For more information or to register, call John Bentley 876-2760.

Interpersonal relationships

South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center is holding a Maximizing Interpersonal Relationships workshop

Aug. 19. The target audience is anyone wanting to build productive teams, develop effective managers, improve customer service, or ease frustration and conflict. There is a \$25 investment per person to cover the cost of the participant's workbook and self-assessment instrument. For more information or to register, call John Bentley 876-2760.

Thrift shop

Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesdays 9-5 and Thursdays and Fridays from 9-4. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-12:30. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. "During the month of August we will only accept non-seasonal items, military items/apparel and children's non-seasonal clothing sizes 0-16," a prepared release said. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. More volunteers are sought for Thursdays and Fridays. For more information, call 881-6992.

Officer and civilian women

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club will have its combined Fall Newcomer and Signup Coffee, Aug. 12 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The Newcomer's Coffee will be in the Twickenham Room at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Signup Coffee at 10:30 in the ballroom. Light refreshments will be served. All active duty and retired officers and their spouses, as well as all active and retired federal

employees, grade GS-9 and above, and their spouses are invited to attend. No reservations necessary. For information or if you would like to be a vendor, call Jennifer 716-0107.

Male singers

The Rocket City Barbershop Chorus invites all male singers to join it for a musical tribute to the fallen heroes of Sept. 11. This program is dedicated to the families and victims of the terrorist attacks - New York, Pentagon, American Airlines Flight 11, United Airlines Flight 175, American Airlines Flight 77 and United Airlines Flight 93 - and to all the heroic emergency service personnel and volunteers who gave of themselves unselfishly to aid them. This tribute will be performed Sept. 11; and rehearsals are being held at 7 p.m. every Thursday in the fellowship hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 12901 Bailey Cove Road southeast. For more information, call John Gonzalez 852-2408 or Gerald Roberts 881-3762.

Benefit cookbook

As part of its Community Projects Program, the Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of American Society of Military Comptrollers will publish a fund-raising Cookbook for members to sell for charitable purposes. The chapter wants your favorite recipes. If you would like to be a part of this cookbook, submit your favorite recipe, your name and organization, to becky.lake@redstone.army.mil. If you

have handwritten recipes or reproduced copies you'd like to submit, let Becky Lake know to make arrangements to include those. Recipes are also welcome from ASMC friends and family members. Submit as many as you would like and the chapter will use what it can. Deadline for recipe submission is Sept. 1. For more information, call Lake 955-0053.

Johnson High reunion

Johnson High's Class of 1983 will hold its 20-year reunion Oct. 17-18. For more information, call Sheila Luck (Smith) 536-0341.

Huntsville High reunion

The Huntsville High School Class of 1978 will hold its 25th reunion Sept. 20. "There are still a number of classmates we are seeking," a prepared release said. "Are you one of them or know their whereabouts?" For more information, visit the reunion web site: <http://www.78hhs.com>.

Children's center

Child and Youth Services is accepting applications for its Child Development Center (ages 6 weeks to 5 years), School Age Services (kindergarten through fifth-grade), middle school and teen (grades 6-12), and Family Child Care (4 weeks to 12 years). Items needed for registration include completion of the registration packet, current shot record and current

See Announcements on page 22

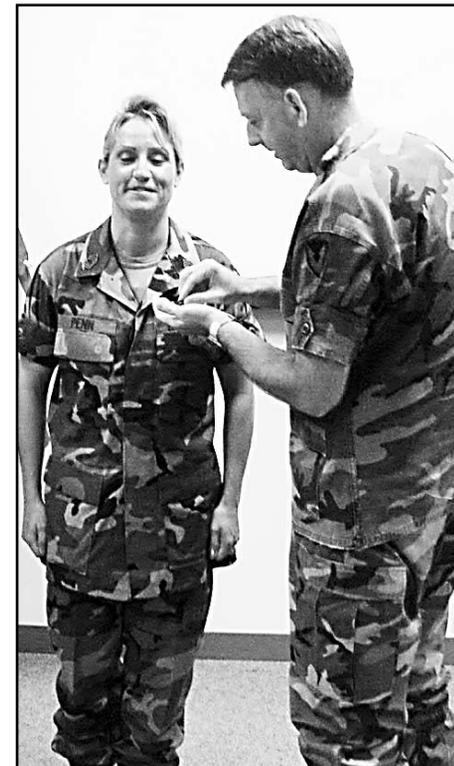


Photo by Sondra Roper

New rank

SFC Mickelle Penn is promoted to master sergeant July 29 by Col. Kurt Weidenthal, commander of Logistics Support Activity. Penn was assigned to LOGSA last September and supports field training missions in the Soldiers and Systems Support Division.

