

Female warriors deserve respect

This is regarding a letter that appeared in the Nov. 12 *Rocket* titled "Veteran changed by experience."

The gentleman who wrote this letter should be commended for the sacrifice he made for our great country, a true hero. However, his views on the subject of today's Army are misguided. I am a recently retired first sergeant, and proud to say that I served with the young people (men and women) of today's Army. I will address the gentleman's misguided views as they appear in his letter.

Women have changed the military, a true statement. Change is inevitable in every aspect of life; the military is no exception. The military has always been a reflection of American society.

He is correct that women are physiologically different than men. I have had several female soldiers that could pass the male Army Physical Fitness Test. Taking into account those physiological differences, these female soldiers had to work twice as hard to perform to the male standard. One of these female soldiers attended the Air Assault school that is conducted by the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. She was an honor graduate out of approximately 150 soldiers from all specialties to include Infantry. The only reason she

did not make distinguished honor grad is that she placed second in the Road March competition. By the way, she was a 27-year-old single parent of two, and was working after duty hours on a degree in business.

I would suggest this gentleman go to the Army web site and read some of the stories from the soldiers that are currently serving in Iraq. One is of a female soldier from the 1st Armored Division that subdued (wrestled to the ground) a male Iraqi that was spotted with a grenade at an Army checkpoint. Another female soldier was credited for saving two fellow soldiers in an ambush. Sounds to me like front line stuff.

Just ask the female company commander, who was in command of an Apache helicopter company just a few miles south of the Iraq border on the eve of the war, if she was feeling any stress.

As I stated at the beginning, this gentleman should be commended for his commitment to our great country, and has my utmost respect, but we must give credit where credit is due and not underestimate the commitment that our young soldiers, both men and women, have to our country.

Linden Faulkner

Tribute to true soldier

Please print the following letter which I sent to CWO 2 Gabe Torney in appreciation for his dedication to our country. Gabe is the son of retired CWO 4 Jim Torney, who works on Redstone in the LSF Facility. I'm sure Jim is very proud of his son.

"I am very grateful that you took the time during your visit home to brief the Aviation Systems Project Management Office at 2 p.m. Nov. 10 regarding your experiences flying the Kiowa Warrior in Operation Iraqi Freedom operations. I wanted to approach you after your briefing to shake your hand and give you my personal thanks, but I was so deeply moved emotionally at the time that I didn't think I'd be able to speak without crying. Yes, something you said in your briefing moved me to tears. I had to remove my glasses and wipe my eyes because the tears were rolling down my face. In fact, while I was driving home from the office after work, my eyes kept filling up.

"In your briefing, you mentioned that after flying in the downdraft of anti-aircraft shells on the first day of battle, you told yourself that night that you shouldn't still be alive. Then you mentioned that the second day was 10 times worse. But when you followed that with your statement that when you heard about the peril the ground troops of your unit were in, all you wanted to do was to get back out there to help them, I could no longer control my emotions. Perhaps part of the reason is that my son is still in Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division, 1-10 Cavalry. Your willingness to risk your life to help reduce the danger for other soldiers was very overwhelming for me to hear. Perhaps that is how you were trained, but it tells me that you are a very dedicated, patriotic soldier. I'm very proud to have been in attendance at your briefing.

Mark R. Fuqua
chief, Program Management Division
Scout/Attack Helicopters

Growing concern seen

When driving into the Sparkman Center off Burrose Road, you reach a stop sign or a yield sign, depending on whether you are turning left or right. Before I go any further with that, did you know the average person (between 5-foot-5 and 5-foot-8) sit-

ting in a car can see at a height of approximately 46-49 inches in a midsize car? Did you also know that the overgrown bushes (if you are turning left) at this intersection are approximately 38-40

See **Concern** on page 4

Leave status revisited

This is in response to the Nov. 12 letter titled "Managers endure policies" and the CPAC's response.

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center should have mentioned that for those who are exempt from the Fair Labor

Standards Act — generally 13s and above — there is additional criteria that applies to travel. It can get complicated, but one of the basic requirements for

See **Status** on page 4

Dangerous traffic flow

I would like to bring to notice a dangerous condition on Martin Road East and a possible simple solution. As those who use Gate 1 know, Martin Road is one-way heading west in the morning, two-way during mid-day, and one-way heading east in the afternoon. In the

afternoon, pylons near the Patton Road intersection direct both eastbound lanes into both lanes of the two-lane portion of Martin Road. However, during mid-day, when traffic on the road is two-way, the

See **Traffic** on page 4

Quote of the week

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."
— Ferris Bueller's Day Off

An open lane random survey

What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory?

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



Patricia Lewis-Goss
DoD civilian

"My favorite memory is cooking and preparing the meal for all of my family and friends. For years I've done that. I

enjoy being close to all of them and just being thankful."



Marty Martin
DoD civilian

"It would have to be a big Thanksgiving dinner with the family."



Janice Nash
contractor

"One Thanksgiving it had snowed really good and we were all sitting around playing Trivial Pursuit. Every time I think about

Thanksgiving, I think about that. You could look outside and see how crisp and clean the snow was, and the family sitting around playing this stupid game. It was so much fun."



SSgt. Bernard Gray
Missile System
Training Department

"Blessing the meal and having all my family together."

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Getting to know you

By KIM MASON
Staff writer
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Name: Mansel Brown

Job: Industrial specialist (missiles)
Research Development and Engineering
Center

Where do you call home?
Cuba, Ala.

What do you like about your job?
I know the job. It is very versatile and interesting. I can see where my efforts fit into the hardware that goes into the field. The people I work for at RDEC and Close Combat Weapon Systems give me the freedom to do the job.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
As an ordained minister for Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church, I do various evangelism in the community as well as



work with the Madison County prison ministry. I also share a lot of time with my 'bodyguard,' my 8-year-old grandson.

What are your goals?
Doing my share to make this world we live in a better place to live.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Nov. 7 — An individual reported that someone damaged her vehicle while it was parked and unattended in the Commissary parking lot. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 7 — An individual reported that his vehicle was stolen from his off post residence. Attached to the windshield was a Redstone Arsenal decal. Investigation continues by the Huntsville Police Department.

Nov. 10 — An individual stopped on Vincent Drive for a traffic violation was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Nov. 10 — A soldier was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during a routine inspection at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

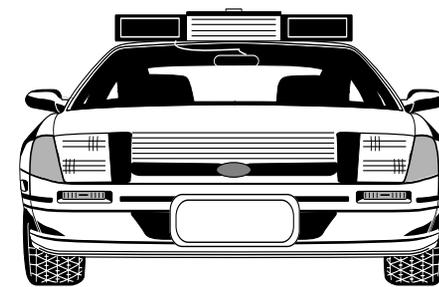
Nov. 11 — An individual reported that while he was operating his motor vehicle on Goss Road, his vehicle was struck by a

golf ball. The vehicle sustained only minor damages.

Nov. 12 — A soldier reported that he lost his Common Access Card while shopping at Madison Square Mall. A search of the area met with negative results.

Nov. 13 — An individual reported that someone damaged his personal vehicle which was parked and unattended at building 7578. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 29; operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license, 2; and illegal parking, 2.



Commentary: It's never just a number

Casualty reports have human side

By RICHARD M. ARNDT
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — As the body count of U.S. servicemembers killed in Iraq continues to climb, I fear the American public will begin to see those brave souls as mere numbers in a tragic tally.

News anchors introduce stories with phrases like, "As the number of American dead in Iraq continues to rise ..."

The stories that air on the evening news seem remarkably similar ... a rocket-propelled grenade here ... a sniper's bullet there. It all becomes familiar, expected after a while.

The families left behind, though, do not expect it. The young wife, who was looking forward to a lifetime together with her husband, does not expect it.

Neither do the sons and daughters, who never really got a chance to know their dad. And the mother and father certainly never expect to outlive their child.

I know the families don't expect it, because I once had the task of bringing a family the news. It wasn't during the Iraq conflict. In fact, it wasn't during any conflict at all. It was 1996, and I had the task of informing a couple that their son, an Army NCO, had been murdered.

Those servicemembers will never be numbers to me, because I know that for every one of them, there's a Mr. or Mrs. Smith, who will get that knock on the door by a man or woman in uniform, bearing the news that their son or daughter, brother or sister, husband or wife, is dead.

I was an Army sergeant first class at the time, stationed at Fort Meade, Md. I came down on the detail roster for casualty notification duty just as all the other NCOs in the battalion did. I attended my two hours of training on Friday and went home for the weekend, never expecting to get the call.

The call came at 6 a.m. Saturday. I shook the sleep from my head as I showered and shaved, and I was already starting to get nervous as I donned my Class A's. I'd never done this before. How was I going to face this family?

My trepidation only got worse as I drove to the post. The casualty affairs NCO on duty must have seen it written all over me as I picked up the brief-

ing packet and address in his office. I still remember his words: "You're going to do this just fine, Sergeant Arndt," he said. "This is a fellow NCO's family. He needs you to do this."

The parents I had to notify lived near Frederick, Md., so I had a good bit of time during the drive to compose myself. I rehearsed the words over and over again as I drove: "The president of the United States regrets to inform you ... The president of the United States regrets to inform you ... The president of the United States regrets to inform you ..."

The small town where the family lived was a long way from the nearest highway, and I had to pull the government sedan into a gas station to ask directions to the street. The attendant, suspecting the reason for my visit, asked me whom I was going to see. When I told

See Commentary on page 4

■ Relatives don't expect death of their servicemember

Commentary

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her I wasn't at liberty to say, her only reply was a quiet "Oh my God ..."

I pulled into the short driveway leading to the small, single-story house. A neighbor was working on his car in the driveway next door. He was a graying man ... old enough to recall a time when other soldiers in uniform had knocked on other neighbor's doors. He eyed me up and down, and asked, "Their son's alright, isn't he?" When I didn't respond, he turned visibly pale. "Oh no ..." he said.

I knocked on the door with my hat in my hand and my heart in my throat. The door opened, and a 50-something lady looked out at me. She knew the minute

she opened the door what my presence meant. The look of horror on her face made me stammer as I asked, "Are you Mrs. 'Smith'?" She nodded, a tear forming in the corner of her eye. "I have news about your son," I said. "May I come in?"

The rest of the words I said that day are a blur, despite the number of times I rehearsed them. I remember Mr. and Mrs. Smith sitting together on the sofa as I told them the news. I remember Mrs. Smith's sobs and tears, and Mr. Smith's stoic resolution to be strong for his wife, even as his heart was breaking. I remember my own tears, shed despite my best efforts, as I struggled futilely for words that would help ease this family's grief.

After the initial wave of tears, I began telling the Smiths some of the details that they could expect over the coming days,

of people who would be calling them, of chaplains who were there to help them, of the casualty assistance officer who would be helping them through the process of resolving their son's death.

As I was explaining these things, Mrs. Smith looked at me suddenly, and asked if I knew her son. When I told her that I did not, she asked me why I was chosen to notify them.

I explained to the couple that the Army always notifies families in person, and that since her son was an NCO, I was chosen from a pool of NCOs to conduct the notification. She then asked if this was my job all the time. I told her that my normal job was an Army journalist, and this was the first time I'd had to notify a family of a soldier's death.

"So you were just ordered to do this?" she asked.

"Yes Ma'am," I replied.

Her eyes filled with tears once more as she leaned forward and hugged me. "You poor thing," she said. "What an awful thing to have to do."

I was shocked. I had just told this woman that her son was dead, and she was feeling sympathy for me for having to be the one to break the news. I struggled for a response.

"It's my duty, Ma'am," I managed. "It's the least I can do for your son."

She leaned back and looked at me. "Thank you," she said.

Some moments in life you never forget. Every time I hear a news report about a servicemember killed in Iraq, I remember Mrs. Smith. I remember the horror, the profound sadness and the sympathy in her eyes.

Those servicemembers will never be numbers to me, because I know that for every one of them, there's a Mr. or Mrs. Smith, who will get that knock on the



Photo by Kim Gillespie

On parade

The Veterans Day parade grand marshal, retired Col. Lee Mize, a Korean War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, shares a ride with Redstone's Soldier of the Year, Spec. Ha Thu Tran, as they recognize well-wishers at the event downtown Nov. 11.

■ Intersection bushes need trimming

Concern

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inches high and with the curb, you need to add another 6 inches (this has all been measured from the white stopping line)? Is anyone visualizing what I'm describing?

A taller person in a midsize car can find it difficult to see over the bushes; a shorter person in a midsize car probably wouldn't be able to see over the bushes; and a person in a compact car or a sports car probably can't see over the bushes at all which means they have to pull up into the crosswalk to see around the bushes. For safety reasons, since many people walk the perimeter of the Sparkman Center, wouldn't it be wise to either keep

the bushes cut low or move them to another location?

Joyce A. Scharf
IMMC

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "We appreciate you bringing the problem with bushes blocking the intersection view to our attention. The present condition does appear to be a problem for those with a low vantage point, or those in a small car as was mentioned. In order to eliminate any potential traffic problems, our grounds maintenance contractor has been instructed to remove the first row of bushes on the east end of the island and to trim the remaining ones. Thanks again for your concern."

■ Additional criteria applies to travel

Status

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payment of overtime or compensatory time, is that the exempt employee must actually be working and not just "traveling." This also applies in the case of "holiday pay" — the employee must actually be working, not just traveling, in order to receive "holiday pay." There are few instances that meet that criteria and

supervisors should get advice from their servicing CPAC specialist.

A note for the manager who said the employee would be carried in a "leave without pay" status if they did not report to work — supervisors cannot carry an employee in a LWOP status, unless the employee requests it. The appropriate charge would be AWOL if the employee does not report to work as scheduled.

Name withheld by request

■ Confusion can cause collisions

Traffic

continued from page 2

pylons are tossed uselessly to the side of the road. Drivers unaccustomed to using the road during mid-day often use the far left lane by habit. This places them directly into oncoming traffic. I have personally witnessed three near-collisions as motorists made this mistake.

It would seem a simple matter to use the tossed-aside pylons to divert the east-bound traffic into a single lane. This would give drivers the visual cue they would be less likely to overlook than the two-way traffic sign on the roadside nearby. I called the MP office about this issue, and was told it would be discussed, but I have seen no action taken yet. It has been several weeks. It is my fear that if nothing is done, someone will be seriously hurt.

Name withheld by request

door by a man or woman in uniform, bearing the news that their son or daughter, brother or sister, husband or wife, is dead.

For those who haven't known a Mrs. Smith, those news reports may seem like numbers. Those who have seen the human side of the reports know that they're not. I can only hope that the American public knows the difference ... for the sake of all our servicemembers — and their mothers.

Editor's note: Richard M. Arndt is editor of the Belvoir Eagle newspaper.

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for your concern in making Redstone Arsenal a safer place to work and live. The location on Martin Road near Patton Road has been operating in much the same manner for approximately 30 years without an accident at that location. However, due to your concern after witnessing some near collisions and after conducting an analysis of the location to include observing traffic flow, we understand the possibility for confusion for those not familiar with Redstone Arsenal. We have developed a new configuration using existing traffic cones to assist traffic transition from two lanes to one so as not to allow travel into the oncoming lane of traffic. We will continue to survey this location to ensure a safer traffic flow."

Air defenders eye future battlefield needs

Commanders confer at Fort Bliss summit

Army air defenders from around the world got a look at the future of air defense during the 2003 Air and Missile Defense Commander's Conference held in October at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Hosted by Maj. Gen. Michael Vane, commander of the Air Defense Artillery Center and School and Fort Bliss, the focus of the conference was on jointness, a network-centric approach to fighting, and concentration on the "warrior ethos."

Vane pointed out that air and missile defense must change in order to adapt to the future battlefield — one in which cruise missiles and short-range ballistic missiles will pose a greater threat. He

emphasized the need for more network-focused, rather than stovepiped, capabilities; elevated sensors, a "plug and fight" capability; and the ability to cue weapons off other services' sensors.

"We must leverage the power of the network, not stovepiped, but modularity — that's a big piece of missile defense and joint operations," he said.

This "system of systems" approach is what the future of air and missile defense must become if the Army is to win battles, and it must be a change in mindset as well as technology, Vane said. Technology must enable the soldier, leaders must be trained to adapt to the environment, and combat training centers must become more relevant to joint environment.

He also referred to the visions and requirements put forth by the president,

secretary of defense, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and the chief of staff of the Army, all calling for fundamental change in the way future wars will be fought, from recognizing that soldiers will face a different enemy to calling for a fundamental change in thinking. The biggest change will be "the one between the ears," Vane said.

He also presented his vision for air and missile defense transformation: "We will provide joint and combined arms warriors with mission-tailored capabilities to dominate, enable and exploit the third dimension battlespace and integrate theater operational protection in support of UA (unit of action), UE (unit of employment) and joint commanders in the future operational environment."

Vane said there were lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom that must be part of the ongoing cultural change in air and missile defense is to evolve. "Patriot is not mobile or maneuverable enough ... We need to look for a MEADS-(Medium Extended Range Air Defense System, the eventual replacement for Patriot) like solution-air and missile defense tailorable to the modular task force," he said.

Vane also predicted that future battles will be heavy on short-range and large caliber rockets — cheap assets that give air defenders less time to react. He summed up his talk with a statement of intent: to shape the branch vision and establish a roadmap in order to meet the requirements of the Army and the joint forces.

Cost reduction programs still showing value

Command achieves goal for 18th straight year

VALUE ENGINEERING OFFICE RELEASE

The Aviation and Missile Command's Value Engineering and Operations and Support Cost Reduction programs have once again had an outstanding year in cost cutting initiatives.

"A key part of getting soldiers what they need is in optimizing resources and that is where VE and OSCR excels," Tom Reynolds, the command's VE/OSCR program manager, said.

Fiscal 2003 VE efforts saved \$207 million, attaining 192 percent of the savings goal of \$75 million. "This is the 18th year in a row that Team Redstone has surpassed its VE goal," Reynolds said. "Also, 18 of the 30 aviation and missile elements participated with one or more VE actions and 12 achieved their assigned VE savings goal with a total of 87 VE Initiatives settled during the year."

The annual VE/OSCR awards ceremony is Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium.

The Army Materiel Command VE Achievement Awards will be presented to the following Team Redstone organiza-

tions/individuals for their VE accomplishments: field command — Aviation and Missile Command; contractor — Parker Hannifin and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation; program executive office — SHORAD Project Office; and special — Vicki Loewen, AMCOM Value Engineering Office.

The following AMCOM/PEO/BMDO organizations will receive VE award plaques for achieving their fiscal '03 savings goals: Lower Tier Project Office, Integrated Materiel Management Center, THAAD Project Office, Research Development and Engineering Center, Fixed Wing Product Management Office, SHORAD Project Office, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office, Common Missile Project Office, Utility Helicopters Project Office, Comanche Project Office, Corpus Christi (Texas) Depot and Letterkenny (Pa.) Depot. Value Engineering certificates will also be presented to VE coordinators and contracting personnel for their accomplishments.

Fiscal '03 was another good year for the AMCOM SMA-OSCR program. Eleven projects were funded with a total initial investment of \$8.1 million. Field savings for these projects are estimated to exceed \$232 million over the next 10

years. Currently 82 projects have been funded in the SMA-OSCR program since fiscal 1996. This includes \$35.2 million invested in redesign funds with 10-year projected field savings of \$892 million. In fiscal '03, six SMA-OSCR projects were implemented with a projected 10-year field savings of \$24.1 million. To date there are 36 completed SMA-OSCR projects with a projected 10-year field savings of \$251 million.

The following AMCOM/PEO/BMDO organizations will receive OSCR award plaques for their fiscal '03 accomplishments: Lower Tier Project Office, Precision Fire Rockets and Missiles Project Office, SHORAD Project Office, Integrated Materiel Management Center and the Utility Helicopters Project Office. Operating and Support Cost Reduction certificates will be presented to key OSCR personnel for their accomplishments.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

First look

Becky Pillsbury, center, wife of Brig. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, future Redstone commander, gets a community overview at Army Community Service Friday. Sitting with her is Dan Ahern, director of Community and Family Activities, and Sue Padlock, ACS director.

Former military policeman finds niche as veterinarian

Active duty captain fills full-time role

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

Capt. Vince Hawley is a recent veterinary school graduate, a newly promoted officer and the most recent addition to the Veterinary Treatment Facility staff, but he's no newcomer to the world of animals or the Army.

Hawley was raised on a farm in Arkansas and spent eight years as an enlisted military policeman. His story is what every recruiter promises from the Army — experience, skills, education and opportunities — and Hawley brings each of these positive characteristics to his new job.

Hawley arrived in mid-October, with leave available to find housing and get moved to Huntsville with his wife, Anne, and 9-month-old daughter, Camden. But

There are only about 400 Army veterinarians stationed worldwide, and Army veterinarians also serve the Navy and Marines.

Hawley couldn't stay away from his new office and the beckoning workload, and he is already hard at work. The Vet Treatment Facility has not had a full-time veterinarian in more than a year, and has used both a reservist and contracted veterinarian to staff the office.

There are only about 400 Army veterinarians stationed worldwide, and Army veterinarians also serve

the Navy and Marines. Veterinarians are a much needed and much appreciated commodity throughout the military services.

"Many Army veterinarians don't provide patient care at clinics — instead they do research and development in laboratories or work on the food inspection side," Hawley said.

He expressed admiration for those in his profession because of their knowledge and commitment, and admits he feels lucky to work in a field which people feel a kinship. "It is a profession that ranks second to the clergy with the public's trust," he said.

Hawley admits he did not always want to be a veterinarian. "I had a football scholarship for college and then I suffered a knee injury. Without the scholarship, I decided to wait on school, and I enlisted in the Army to give myself some time," he said.

He became a military policeman and worked with a sniper/hostage rescue team; and he enjoyed his job. But after eight years, he knew he needed to leave the Army if he wanted a career change. So Hawley left the Army and went home to work on his family's farm and go to

school using the GI Bill. The animals on the farm meant frequent interaction with a local veterinarian — which led to an interest in the profession. Hawley also transferred to Oklahoma State University hoping it would give him a better shot at being accepted into its program.

"I applied for both vet and med schools because it is so hard to get into a vet school," Hawley said. But he was accepted into Oklahoma State's School of Veterinary Medicine; and it was a school administrator that suggested he take another look at what the Army had to offer. "I was told about how many vets the Army used, and when I talked to the recruiter he told me about three four-year scholarships the Army had. There were only three and I didn't get one of those. He then urged me to try for the three-year scholarship."

Hawley received a one-year scholarship and he can't begin to say enough good things about what it offered. "Even a one-year scholarship is a fantastic deal. It really pays for about everything," Hawley was commissioned as a second lieutenant while still in school, and is now a captain as he begins his career as a military officer.

Hawley admits his transition from enlisted to officer has also been an eye-opener. "The grass is always greener on the other side" is how he summed it up. But Hawley admits the differences in responsibilities have made him appreciate the roles each group plays in the operations of the Army.

Hawley is excited about both the job at the Vet Treatment Facility and living in the Huntsville area.

"Since we will continue to have our contracted vet available two days a week, I'm hoping that we can now have a vet available four days a week. I also expect to take care of the horses MWR has — this office has not been able to provide that service over the past year," he said. Hawley is also adamant about keeping the office up-to-date with new equipment and technology. "We want to continue to provide good service for food inspection, the Provost Marshal's working dogs, and our other customers' pets," he said.

The North Alabama area reminds him and his wife of their native Arkansas. "The people have just been so friendly and helpful, too," he said. Hawley is also impressed with his staff. "I am so lucky to come into an office with such a knowledgeable staff, and my commander, Lt. Col. Kathleen Miller (at the Army Medical Department at Fort Campbell, Ky.), has been very supportive."

Hawley also credits the Army with providing so many opportunities. "The Army really likes for those with advanced degrees to continue their education so I hope to go back to school to pursue a Ph.D. in toxicology or become board certified in laboratory animal medicine," he said. "I've seen so much good that comes from research and development that I would love to be a part of that."



Photo by Kim Gillespie

ON DUTY— Capt. Vince Hawley works in the laboratory of the Veterinary Treatment Facility where he is now the staff veterinarian.

Acquisition Center does more than double duty

Workers meet requirements in record year for contracts

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Many offices at Redstone have had an increase in workload and operational tempo over the past year. Most could not begin to count the extra hours and output from their individual offices. But the Logistics Support offices of the Acquisition Center's Sustainment and Operations can put a dollar amount to their added workload.

They have placed more than \$3 billion in logistics requirements on contract, up almost two and a half times from last year's total.

Ensuring that such high demands are met can be tricky when everything else is going smoothly. Logistics Support had a few hurdles to overcome. The office has been divided into two groups, one for parts and refitting and the other for new equipment. That has seen a lot of internal shuffling and reorganization.

"It wasn't just that we asked them to do two and a half times or so in contracts," Randy Richardson, associate executive director of Sustainment and Operations, said. "In the spring they were a single organization. We split them into two, moved them around, gave them two and a half times the workload they had and while they were doing that we asked them to be on the front lines, too, of implementing the command's non-industrial lean initiatives."

Richardson said their praise is well

deserved. They have put forth the extra effort needed to ensure that what is needed is not only found, but delivered.

"They really are the guys on the front line from our part of the business," Richardson said. "The spares have got to get to the field. You've got to have them to operate."

The total also represents Logistics Support's sense of teamwork. Having families and outside obligations, all personnel could not be available around the clock. Richardson credits their unity and willingness to help each other with a large part of their success.

"They're individuals and they have family crises, tragedies and soccer games — things they need to do," he said. "What was amazing about the group is that when one of them was going through something like that, the others took them by the hand, helped them along and took care of the program, no matter what it took."

Logistics Support's banner year is part of a \$10 billion total for the Acquisition Center as a whole. Richardson put the amount into perspective. "To spend \$10 billion in a year means you've got to spend just over a million dollars an hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all 365 days of that year," he said.

Richardson said such a high total is a first for him in his 27-year career. He believes it may be the largest contracting program in the Army, with the possible exception of some of the Corps of Engineers projects.

"It's a huge year for the command," he said. "Every challenge we've put out there they just did wonderfully. You can't help but be proud of them."



Photo by Kelley Lane

CONTRACTS WORK— From left are **Cathy Dickens**, director of Maintenance and Special Projects Directorate; **Randy Richardson**, associate executive director of Sustainment and Operations; and **Bud Bowersox**, director of Logistics Spares Directorate. Dickens and Bowersox took charge of the newly divided Logistics Support offices in February.

Enrollment open for homeschool program

By **PAM BERRY**
Child & Youth Services

Child and Youth Services has a homeschool program at Redstone. The homeschoolers are from various groups and meet each Tuesday from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. They participate in physical education and technology lab activities.

In our physical education activities, the children and youth work on sports and fitness activities both as a group and individually. In our technology lab, the children and youth have a large selection of software to choose from whether it is on the "Oregon Trail," Sim City, or expanding their math, science or language skills.

As the number of attendees

increase, we will be expanding our program to include arts and crafts and other instructional programs.

The Homeschool Program is for those children/youth in kindergarten through grade 12. The program is available for those children/youth affiliated with military, retired military, Department of Defense, Department of Army, contractors or NASA employees.

The items that are needed for registration are: completion of the registration packet, current shot record and current physical. The cost is \$15 per child or \$35 per family. The registration fee is current for one year.

For more information on the CYS Homeschool Program, call Pam Berry at 955-6309 or e-mail her at pam.berry@redstone.army.mil.

Volunteers on a roll with ramp repairs



*Husband and wife
CASA team fix
wheelchair ramps
for homebound*

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

On this cool November morning, Richard Dougherty and his wife, Karan, unload slabs of plywood from their van, carry them across the yard and stack them neatly next to the crumbling wheelchair ramp outside the home of Eddie Oliver.

It takes a little more than an hour for the pair to rip out the rotting planks and replace them with new, freshly painted wood that allows the elderly Oliver safe passage to enter and exit his home.

There are other places the couple could spend their holiday together. They could be out on the golf course (a family passion) or joining in the Veterans Day parade and activities, quite appropriate for a retired chief warrant officer. But there isn't anyplace these CASA volunteers would rather be.

"We want to give back to the community," said Richard, who works in the business management division, Aviation Hardware at Redstone. "We've been working with CASA for about three years. First we winterized homes, then last year we started repairing wheelchair ramps. We do everything together. Always have. She's a great helper."

When the couple first put down roots in the United States after fulfilling a military career spent mostly overseas, the Doughertys landed in Alabama and bought a house in Harvest.

"It's a nice new home, the first one we've had really," Richard said. "As soon as we got settled we started looking for some way to serve the community. I'm good with my hands and we looked at Habitat for Humanity but somehow we got started with the Temp\$ program (at Care Assurance System for the Aging and Home Bound) and things just went on from there. CASA has a lot of great programs, lots of need for support and volunteers. This was something we could do together."

The Doughertys do make it a family affair. While most of the time Karan accompanies

Richard when they do ramp repairs, a few weeks ago their son, Richard, was home on leave from his Army duties at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and it became a father-son project.

"He went with me to do assessments," Richard said. "I go out and look at the ramps, see what needs to be replaced, take measurements, and then I do most of the prep work at home in the basement."

It takes about five hours to complete a repair. Richard picks up plywood from the CASA warehouse, takes it home, cuts the wood to size, paints it to match the existing ramp in either gray, brown or white, and then adds a textured top coat to provide traction on the painted surface. Then he's ready to go back to the house and install the new wood.

"I don't feel like I do all that much," said Karan, who works for the Corps of Engineers in Huntsville. "I just kind of hand him stuff, go and get tools ... and I guess I supervise a little, too."

They both chuckle at that last statement but it's their sense of humor that makes a day spent repairing ramps as much fun as a day on the golf course. And when their daughter, Nanetta, a paralegal in the Air Force, stationed in Germany, comes home for a visit, she'll get in on the fun, too.

The Doughertys have repaired about 12 ramps this year, double the number they did last year but still nowhere near what's needed in the community.

"One thing that makes it better," Richard said, "is this company, American Alloy Fabrication Inc., that designed and donates metal caps for the end of the ramps to reduce wear and tear on the bottom edge and extends the time for repair by several years. That really makes a difference."

"And we always need more volunteers," Karan said. "There's lots of work to be done. Some specialty stuff, like installing hand rails in showers and fixing roofs. Money is needed, too. We donate through the (Combined Federal Campaign) but that campaign will be over soon. People can come right down to the Senior Center and make a donation to whatever program they want to support. They can find a place to work if they want to, too."

Photo by Sandy Riebeling

REPLACEMENT PARTS— CASA volunteers Richard and Karan Dougherty, both federal workers, spend Veterans Day serving their community by replacing rotten wood on a wheelchair ramp.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Farewell, Leslie

Leslie Dodgen, right, wife of post commander Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, greets Phyllis Montgomery, among the 130 attendees at her farewell reception Nov. 12 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The event was sponsored by the Officer and Civilian Women's Club.

■ Commanding general gives heartfelt thanks

Ovation

continued from page 1

Dodgen, 54, is a New Orleans native who received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University in 1972. He also holds a master's in public administration from the University of Missouri and a master's in

national security and strategy from the U.S. Naval War College.

From June 1989 to December 1991, he commanded the 8th Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery; and he led his battalion into combat in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm.

His wife, Leslie, has volunteered in the Redstone community with organizations such as Army Community Service.

112,000 servicemembers tapped for Iraq

Troops to replace deployed forces

By Spec. BILL PUTNAM
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — About 112,000 servicemembers — including more than 37,000 National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers — should be headed to Iraq and Kuwait early next year to replace the forces already on the ground, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced.

In addition, more than 3,700 reserve-component soldiers should be headed to Afghanistan by then as well, he said at the first of two Pentagon news conferences Nov. 6 about Iraq and Afghanistan deployments.

The bulk of the troops have already received their alert orders, Rumsfeld said, but additional alerts can be expected in the near future.

Starting in January, the rotations in and out of Iraq will be completed by April, Rumsfeld said.

Rotation plan

The rotation plan, first announced in July by then-acting Army Chief of Staff Gen. Jack Keane, is still grounded in the Central Command requirements for security in Iraq, Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard B. Myers said at the news conference.

The goal for this next deployment of U.S. forces is to reduce the overall footprint in Iraq, Rumsfeld said. The plan as it stands now is to decrease the U.S. divisions in Iraq from four to three and 17 combat brigades to 13, he said.

More units — like mobile infantry and military police — that are appropriate to deal with the current situation will be brought in, Rumsfeld said.

“But it’s important to note that numbers do not necessarily equate with capabilities,” Rumsfeld said. “This much is certain, the overall capability of the security forces in Iraq will increase.”

Active-duty troops headed in are the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas; the 1st Infantry Division from Germany; the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and, elements of the U.S. Marine

Corps’ 1st Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The 1st Cavalry will replace the 1st Armored Division, currently in and around Baghdad. The 1st Infantry will replace the 101st Airborne and the 4th Infantry Division. The 1st Marine Expeditionary and an Army brigade will replace the 82nd Airborne Division in western Iraq.

Combat support

Two multi-national divisions, led by the British and the Polish armies will remain in the southeast and southern portions of Iraq, said Air Force Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz, director for operations, J-3, Joint Staff, during the press conference.

Two National Guard combat brigades, the 30th Infantry from North Carolina, and the 39th Infantry of Arkansas, will augment the 1st Infantry and 1st Cavalry.

A third Guard brigade, the 81st Armor Brigade from Washington state, will relieve the National Guard 53rd and 76th Infantry Brigades that are already in and around Baghdad.

A majority of the units scheduled for Iraq are combat support and services, Schwartz said.

In addition, 1,000 sailors and 2,000 airmen from the Navy and Air Force will be sent to Iraq to take over specialty jobs like engineering.

In Afghanistan, the 25th Infantry Division, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, will replace the Fort Drum, N.Y.-based 10th Mountain Division in April.

It was announced Nov. 6 that when the 25th Infantry arrives in Afghanistan that tours there will be one year long. Until now, the tour length was six months. When the 10th Mountain took over, their tour was extended to nine months.

The complex environment in Iraq also forced the Army to change the types of units they deployed to Iraq, said Army Lt. Gen. Richard Cody, deputy chief of staff, G3.

Most units going in now will go in as motorized infantry, mainly using Humvees, he said.

Because of this change, the training they get at the Army’s combat training centers at Hohenfels, Germany, Fort Polk, La.; and, Fort Irwin, Calif., will be tailored to those new missions and tactics.



Photo by PFC Joshua Hutcheson

PATROLLING IRAQ— Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) detain a man who was seen leaving the house of a suspected arms dealer.

Iraqi input

The eventual goal is to hand over the security mission to the Iraqi people. Currently there are 118,000 Iraqis forming and participating in various internal security units, Rumsfeld said.

That makes them the second largest contributor to forces in Iraq behind the United States.

That number may be surprising to some people given the short length of time those forces have been organized in.

Before Operation Iraqi Freedom, the reserve alert and mobilization system “was broken,” Rumsfeld said. “It wasn’t sufficiently respectful to the

troops, their families or their employers,” he said.

The goal now is two-fold. The first is to give the longest possible notice to them. The second is to limit Iraq tours to 18 months, with up to 12 months spent on the ground.

The earlier notification will also give those reserve units time to train up for their missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But the system hasn’t been perfected, Rumsfeld said. Some units may have several months to prepare while others will have at least four weeks. Other units with unique missions may have to be remobilized or extended.

Images from Iraq



Photo by Sgt. Justin Harris, 982nd Signal Company

Capt. Elizabeth Scioletti, attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), talks with a group of orphaned Iraqi children as other soldiers prepare to give out school supplies and gifts from soldiers and American sponsors. The soldiers visited two locations in Mosul, Iraq, Nov. 9, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by SSgt. Jeffrey A. Wolfe

In a small village in northern Iraq, Capt. Barry Seip of Task Force 1-63 Armor, inoculates a villager against tuberculosis during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by SSgt. Suzanne M. Jenkins

Spec. Kate Kimes with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, visits with children at an orphanage in Kirkuk, Iraq, Nov. 12. Soldiers and airman from Kirkuk Air Base brought gifts of candy and soccer balls to the 17 children at the center.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Houghton, U.S. Air Force

Maj. Jeffery McKone with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, plays with Iraqi children at a park in Baghdad, Iraq, Oct. 30. Members of the 422nd are restoring the park and working on other community improvement projects to help provide a clean and safe environment for residents.



Chief counsel cares about clients' needs

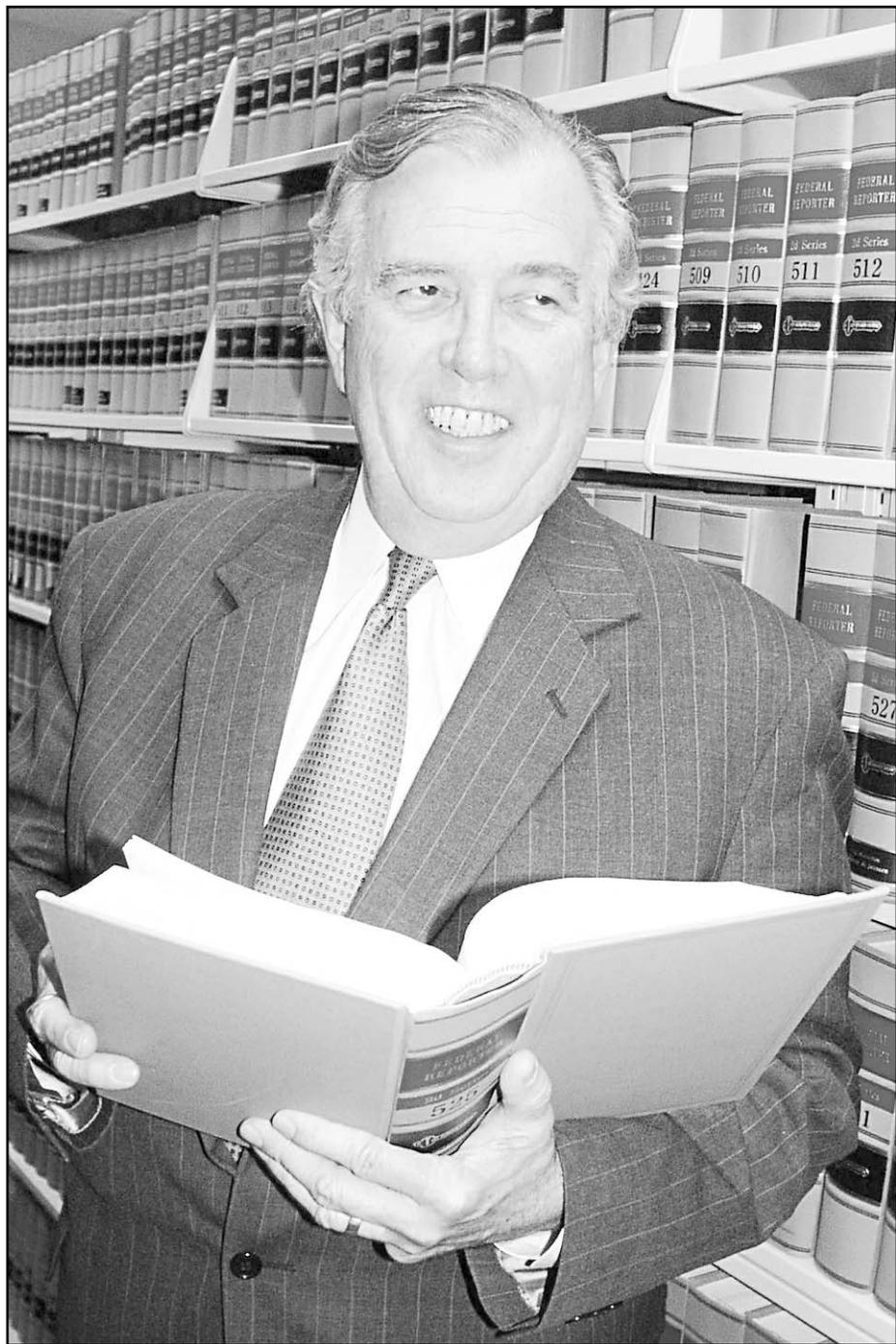


Photo by Skip Vaughn

LEGAL EAGLE — Fred Allen is newly appointed chief counsel for the Aviation and Missile Command.

Fred Allen's brush with tornado deepens his appreciation of life

By **BETH SKARUPA**
For the Rocket

Fred Allen was shopping at a store on Airport Road when the deadly Huntsville tornado hit 14 years ago. It was Nov. 15, 1989. He'd just gotten out of his car and walked into the store, aware of some lightning and wind although he said it seemed "rather calm" outside. Then the windows blew in and the tornado touched down, destroying the store and everything around it.

When Allen was pulled out of the 20 feet of rubble he'd been buried under, he promptly turned around and helped pull others out. Anyone who knows Allen, the newly appointed chief counsel for the Aviation and Missile Command, would expect nothing less. During his 35 years working in the legal office, he has continually put the needs of others in the forefront.

"He's a superb lawyer and one who very passionately believes in equal justice for all of us. He's also a very compassionate human being," co-worker Ray Stephens said. "As a person, I don't know of anyone with higher ethical standards. As a professional, he's a true professional in everything he does."

Although Allen doesn't think his experience with the tornado dramatically changed his outlook on life, it did make him realize "how mortal and fragile we all are" and deepened his appreciation for life. "It's like an epiphany when you realize you're not immortal and that you're here by grace. I'm very grateful to have been spared," he said.

Originally from Alexander City, he earned his undergraduate degree from Auburn before attending law school at Alabama. "I'm pretty much an Alabama fan but it was a hard transition to make," he said, laughing. He served a summer law clerkship at what was then MICOM, working for chief counsel Frank Buckley. He subsequently accepted a job in the legal office upon graduation and has "been here ever since."

He was attracted to the high level of responsibility and initial opportunities he was given when he first began working for the government.

"I've been fortunate in that the chief counsels, at the previous MICOM and the AMCOM legal office, have been outstanding people to work under. They always showed confidence in me and allowed me to handle matters I may not have been able to in other industries," he said. "I've enjoyed doing significant work for the Army and the government under their mentorship."

Some of that significant work includes working in every phase of the acquisition process and spearheading the development and fielding of the Multiple Launch Rocket System as well as the first NATO project office — the NATO Medium Extended Air Defense System Management Agency.

Allen speaks highly of his predecessors, the "only three chief counsels that have served at this command," Frank Buckley, Verbon Black and Art Spazzarini. "They set fine examples. They were very successful in what they did, all fine men with a great ability to deal with people and with their clients," he said. "They made a point to realize that their clients' interests were best served when they concentrated on the resolution of their problems rather than waiting until there was a crisis."

He added that he's very proud to have been chosen for chief counsel and would like to express his appreciation to those who had the confidence in him to continue in the position. Allen has served as acting chief counsel since Spazzarini retired last year.

"He's been acting chief counsel for almost a year and has performed, in my view, admirably and he'll continue to do just that," Stephens said. "I think the selection officials did the best job in choosing him. He's just a true asset to the legal profession and I don't have enough to say about him."

Allen's major goal as chief counsel is "to assure that the legal office's clients in the Army receive the best legal advice in a timely fashion." This will allow those clients to continue providing the soldier in the field with the needed services, supplies and equipment to perform his mission as a warfighter. Another goal is to maintain a trained, capable work force of lawyers who can meet their clients' needs.

"I'm 59 right now, so retirement is not in the far, far distance, but I'm not looking forward to it yet. This is a major milestone for me, to become chief counsel of this office, and I hope to make a success of that during my time in the work force," he said. "We deal with a lot of people affecting a lot of change, so I hope to keep up with those changes, continue to serve our clients and to keep people constantly improving their own career opportunities."

When he's not busy working, he enjoys reading, travelling, cooking and collecting antiques. He counts himself fortunate to share a lot of these same interests with his wife of 35 years, Ann Baugh Allen, who worked as an English professor at Alabama and then the University of Alabama-Huntsville before retiring three years ago.

"We both like literature, to read and then see the places we've read about," he said. They've traveled to many countries in Europe including Italy, France, England and Greece. They also enjoy travel in the U.S., most recently "wandering around the Mississippi delta" following the "blues trail" after reading about it. They enjoy entertaining family and friends and cooking them "not necessarily an elaborate but a full dinner with courses and wine." They also collect French pottery and antique furniture.

Allen and his wife have two sons who live in Birmingham. Wendell Allen is a lawyer who is married and expecting his first child this month and Berry Allen is an artist who creates iron and ceramic sculptures.

Bolton: Fielding new equipment top priority

Assistant secretary of Army recalls combat incidents

By ERIC CRAMER
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Changing the way the Army acquires new technology will drive the future force, said Claude Bolton Jr., assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

Bolton spoke to about 150 Army and industry leaders attending an Institute for Land Warfare breakfast Nov. 13. Lockheed-Martin and the Association of the U.S. Army sponsored the breakfast.

Bolton said rapid acquisition of new technology is already affecting troops in combat. As an example, he showed those attending the event a picture of the Army's Interception Body Armor.

"This armor weighs about 16.4 pounds. Its predecessor weighed about 25 pounds. I met a soldier at last fall's symposium who still had the plate (the ceramic plate that lines the armor vest). It had three dimples on it from where the AK-47 had hit him right over his heart," Bolton said.

'There is no natural law that says the United States will be the most powerful country in the world. No natural law says that. What makes that happen is people.'

— *Claude Bolton Jr.*
Army assistant secretary

About 25,000 of the new armor vests are now manufactured each month, Bolton said.

"Our goal is, if you're in the area of operations, and you're getting shot at, you've got it," Bolton said. "The next goal is to equip everyone in the Army, and then everyone else who wants it."

He said multiple contractors are working on producing the armor, but they serve the FBI and other government agencies in addition to military contracts.

Bolton said his office created a Rapid Equipping Force about 18 months ago to examine the needs of the soldiers in the field and find the fastest way to meet those needs.

He said the equipment currently being fielded includes "Pac bots," small robots used to examine caves in Afghanistan; a

"well camera" that can be lowered into wells to seek caches of weapons; door shims to allow troops to open doors without damaging locks, and several other items.

"When the robots first went to field, there was some resistance to them," Bolton said. "But when the colonel who took them over there went to bring the prototypes home, the soldiers said 'no.' The colonel came home and the prototypes stayed in the field."

He said he is working to change not just the acquisition process, but also the philosophy behind it.

"In the past, you looked at acquisition, testing and fielding, what you might call 'little A.' My view is you don't do that first. First you look at the need. Otherwise, you don't need the acquisition. I will challenge your requirements until I see exactly what you want and then I'll get to that 'small A' acquisition process. You can change your requirement, but change that piece of paper," Bolton said.

He said the acquisition process should begin with an assessment of the needed capability, move through the "small A" of acquisition and testing, then go to operations, maintenance and upgrading, and finally move on to retirement.

Bolton said the executives present would drive the creation of the future force in the military.

"There is no natural law that says the United States will be the most powerful country in the world. No natural law says that. What makes that happen is people," Bolton said.

He described several incidents from combat in which a combination of equipment and skills helped service-members survive, finishing with the collision between an American surveillance aircraft and a Chinese fighter plane in 2001.

"The pilot, Lt. Shane Osborn, of Nebraska, recovered the plane and landed on Chinese soil. We ultimately got the plane back, in pieces, but we got it back. Where is the Chinese plane and the Chinese pilot? Remember that you can make a difference," Bolton said.

Following his comments, Bolton showed a video that depicted how the future force may use technology, including advanced uniforms that harden into armor, information technology linking soldiers and their equipment and advanced communications and non-lethal weapons. He then took questions on the use of nanotechnology, infrared technology, building information networks robust enough for the combat environment and the interaction of small businesses with the acquisition process.

Research center finds gold in greening

Training program gives big picture

By JIM BOWNE
For the Rocket

How do you get new hires to become more productive sooner and make fewer mistakes? Dr. Bruce Fowler asked himself this very question about a year and a half ago, and the answer turned out to be a "win-win" situation.

Fowler is the chief scientist and chief of Information, Advanced Systems Directorate at the Research Development and Engineering Center. His idea was to develop a course that would teach new hires about how the Army works as a whole, and how the RDEC works, in particular.

"The world has changed," he said. "I felt we needed to make a positive effort to teach young adults how the Army works. Life used to be simpler — all salaries were paid out of mission accounts, and we all knew we were working for the soldiers. But it doesn't work that way anymore."

Fowler, who began his government career nearly 30 years ago, is passionate about developing the best materiel for the soldier in the shortest time possible. He is also passionate about helping new hires become smarter faster.

"When I first started (working for the government), it used to take us about two years to get productive in the workplace," he said. "We made a lot of mistakes. We had no real training program."

Although the RDEC training program, called "The Big Picture," was his idea, Fowler credits Michael Schexnayder with making it happen. Schexnayder is RDEC's associate director for aviation and missile systems.

"Mike put the resources against it — he set the requirement that all new hires have to take the course," Fowler said. "Without Mike's backing, we wouldn't have the greening course."

Another partner in the project was the University of Alabama-Huntsville. "UAH has been wonderful to work with," Fowler said. "They are the ones responsible for teaching the curriculum."

The training program's keystone is simple: There are certain people who pay for things, and there are certain people who use the product. "The Big Picture teaches new hires how the Army works and how they, as employees, fit into other components of their environment, for example, Team Redstone," Fowler said. "Of course, as things change, and organizations seem to be changing a lot lately, we modify the course."

"We get a lot of interns. About two years ago, we had 200 coming in; the following year we had 100. Two-thirds of them come to us right out of college. The other third comes to us from private industry."

Two 2-week courses have been completed, with the first class graduating Aug. 14. Some 56 of 63 students enrolled have received certificates of completion.

"The students receive 5.6 continuing education units for successfully completing the course," Jo Ann Jones, associate director for professional development in UAH's Continuing Education Department, said. "The topics covered are varied and include the history of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command and the Research Development and Engineering Command. We also spend time on why RDECOM exists — its mission, vision and values. And we talk about identification of the 'customer,' as well as other directorates and centers with whom we interface, military and civilian personnel organization, R&D funding and other topics."

The classes also cover technology transition, the labs, matrix assignments, sustainment, retirement, and Program Executive Office relationships and processes.

"We also try to let students know 'where they fit in,'" Jones said. "We also give them a lot of information on the acquisition process for a product, contractor interaction, legal issues, security and what lies ahead. Of course, we also have team projects and presentations, and special guests."

Course topics are changed occasionally to reflect changes in organizations, missions and visions. "We've learned to adjust the time devoted to certain topics either up or down, depending on the content and determined need for less or more

exploration," Jones said. "We've also identified a couple of topics that could be added in brief, which would improve the overall outcome without lengthening the course."

"The greatest benefit appears to be that the students have a much better overall grasp of the 'big picture' of their work environment, and how to quickly become effective members of the overall team,"

she said.

Fowler agrees. "The big benefit is that the training program provides us with new hires who are more effective sooner," he said. "This is a great advantage to our organization, as well as to others with whom we partner. The result is greater productivity more quickly, and with fewer mistakes made. So, it's truly a win-win situation."



Courtesy photo
CAREER DAY— Chief scientist Dr. Bruce Fowler speaks to a third-grade class on career day last year.

Your money and health can go up in smoke

Here are five facts about smoking

By TAMIRIZ CENTENO
Fox Army Health Center

You are a soldier. You wear the uniform proudly as one of America's best: smart, tough, and good at what you do. You are an Army of One.

But not everyone thinks that. Some companies are more interested in taking your money at the cost of your health. And that's what is happening to you and a lot of your buddies. If you smoke, you are

being taken for all you've got — your money and your health. So listen up, I'm going to tell you five facts about smoking that ought to make you want to kick tobacco.

● **Fact 1:** Smokers are not addicted to tobacco; they are addicted to nicotine. Nicotine is a drug that occurs naturally in tobacco. Puffing a cigarette is the way to give you the biggest dose of nicotine you can get in just a few seconds so that anyone who smokes cigarettes will get addicted to nicotine.

● **Fact 2:** Nicotine is very addictive. The American Lung Association puts it right up there with cocaine and heroine.

Most people who begin smoking start to feel addicted after just a few packs; after a carton, well, you're hooked.

● **Fact 3:** If you are addicted to nicotine, and since smoking cigarettes is the best way to get nicotine, then those who want your money will provide you with cigarettes, for a price of course. Because you're addicted, your money and your health go up in smoke (literally) one pack at a time.

● **Fact 4:** A soldier can quit smoking if he or she wants to. You have the right to quit! Your commander wants you to quit! Your family wants you to quit! But it doesn't matter who else in your life wants

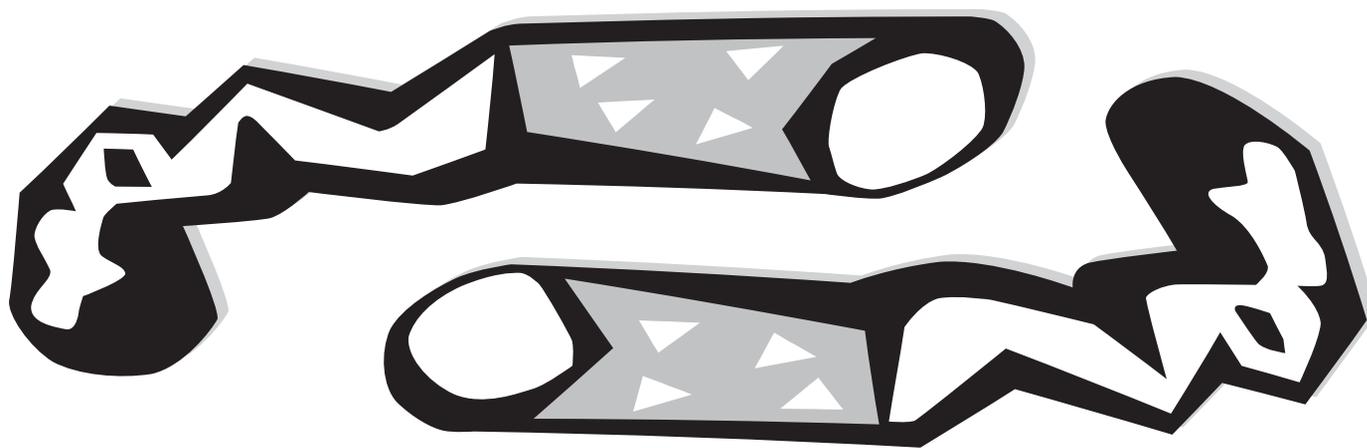
you to quit, it's up to you. You have to want to quit. You can quit smoking and use your money and your time for a lot better things. You decide. Quitting is hard. But, if you decide to quit, there are some proven ways to succeed and there are some folks at the health clinic who will help you succeed.

● **Fact 5:** You may not believe that you should quit smoking. You may not be convinced that nicotine addiction is sucking out your money and your health. Well try this. Thursday is the 2003 Great American Smokeout. Quit for a day, just that one day. See how you feel as the day goes on. If you are irritable, fidgety, can't concentrate and feel like you need a smoke to just settle down, then you'll know that you are not in control anymore, that you are addicted to nicotine. And you'll know that you need to make a plan to quit smoking.

Think about it. You decide. Make the right choice. Quit smoking for a day on Thursday. And then, make a plan to quit for good.

For more information on this topic visit the following sites on the web: http://www.drugabuse.gov/NIDA_Notes/NNVol13N3/tearoff.html, <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/5myths.htm> and <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco>.

Editor's note: Tamiriz Centeno is health promotion director at Fox Army Health Center's Public Health and Education Center.



Troop flag football playoffs have fast start

**2117th edges AMCOM
14-12 in first round**

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

First-round playoff games usually don't hold much suspense. But this was an exception.

AMCOM, the fourth seed, faced sixth-seeded 2117th on Thursday's opening night of the flag football postseason tournament. The teams had a tight battle in the regular season with AMCOM winning 20-18 on a touchdown pass with 20 seconds left Oct. 15.

"To beat them, we've just got to be effective in our passing game and play a complete game," 2117th quarterback Bryan Christa said before the playoff tilt. "We've just got to play both sides of the ball real well."

"Consistency, you have to be consistent and maintain your bearing," 2117th defensive tackle Sherman Prad said. "You've got to stay with your plays and running plays."

The difference in the regular season game was "they had more running plays," Prad said. "And our defense, we were

short of players and I guess just got tired."

The 2117th prevailed this time with a 14-12 win. The 2117th improved to 5-5 while AMCOM fell to 6-4.

In the regular season game, AMCOM's Marshall Hicks caught a 20-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Lorenzo France for the win.

"That was a lucky game, we pulled that one out," AMCOM wide receiver/cornerback Michael Gola said. "They've got a good team. They're probably going to be the sleeper in the tournament if nobody's careful."

AMCOM right guard Eric Moe was just looking forward to the postseason. "I just go out to play and have fun," he said. "I give it my all. And no matter if we're losing or winning, I just love to play and it's fun."

In other first round games Thursday night, Delta beat Bravo 16-6, MEDDAC defeated Charlie 44-6 and HHC 59th dropped Headquarters & Alpha 36-18.

The championship is scheduled Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. Eight teams are competing in the double-elimination event since the NCO Academy and the Marines both withdrew beforehand.

The tournament seeds are Delta (1), HHC 59th (2), MEDDAC (3), AMCOM (4), Charlie (5), 2117th (6), Headquarters



Photo by Skip Vaughn

AND THEY'RE OFF— Delta wide receiver Christopher Frazier (3) races downfield during the Devastating Dragons 20-14 win over HHC 59th in their regular season finale Nov. 6.

& Alpha (7) and Bravo (8).

Here were the final standings from the regular season: Western Conference — Delta (8-1), MEDDAC (7-2), 2117th (4-

5), Charlie (4-5), NCO Academy (0-9); and Eastern Conference — HHC 59th (8-1), AMCOM (6-3), Headquarters & Alpha (4-5), Bravo (3-6) and Marines (0-9).

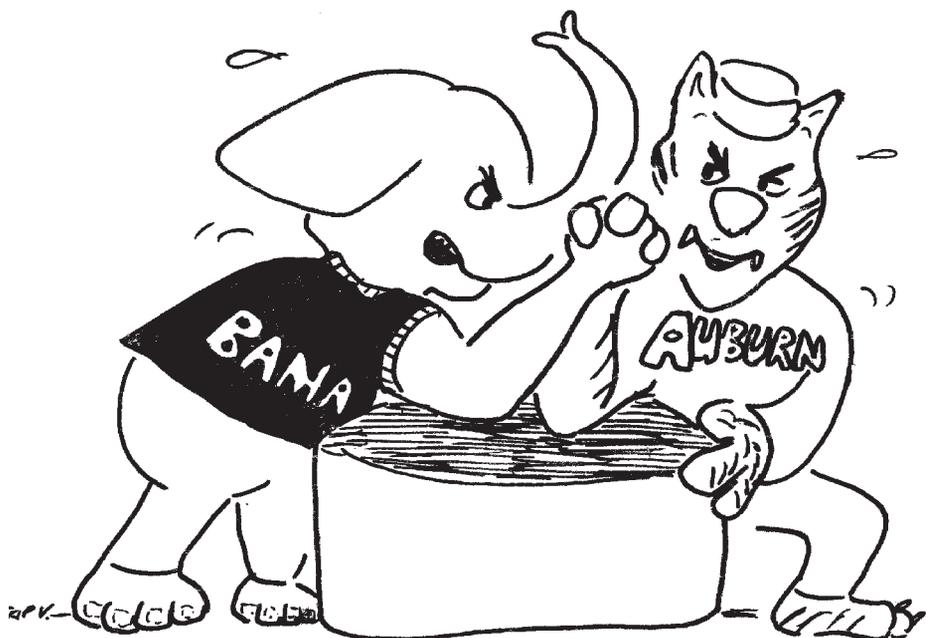
Auburn bowls over Bama in Iron Bowl

*Emotions high
as rivals clash*

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

My college football predictions are 237-90 after 13 weeks. Here are Skip's Picks for selected games this week:

- Alabama at Auburn — **Auburn**
- Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Alabama A&M — **A&M**
- Ohio State at Michigan — **Ohio State**
- Mississippi State at Arkansas — **Arkansas**
- Kentucky at Georgia — **Georgia**
- LSU at Ole Miss — **Ole Miss**
- Clemson at South Carolina — **South Carolina**
- Vanderbilt at Tennessee — **Tennessee**
- Air Force at San Diego State — **Air Force**
- Army at Hawaii — **Hawaii**
- Oklahoma State at Baylor — **Okla. State**
- Boston College at Virginia Tech — **Va. Tech**
- Utah at Brigham Young — **Utah**
- California at Stanford — **Stanford**
- Missouri at Kansas State — **KS**
- Houston at Louisville — **Louisville**
- Maryland at N.C. State — **N.C. State**
- Rutgers at Miami — **Miami**
- Central Michigan at Navy — **Navy**
- Duke at North Carolina — **North Carolina**
- Oklahoma at Texas Tech — **Oklahoma**
- West Virginia at Syracuse — **W. Va.**
- Washington State at Washington — **State**
- Georgia Tech at Virginia — **Ga. Tech**
- TCU at Southern Mississippi — **TCU**
- UCLA at Southern Cal — **Southern Cal**



Shop smart this holiday season and stay out of debt

Start with a list and a plan, leave credit cards at home

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

All you have to do is get married to realize that every family has their own special and unique holiday traditions. Some have to do with meals and who visits where, others are about who gives gifts to whom. The point is that everyone celebrates Christmas a little differently but many suffer financially from shopping hangover well into the new year.

Perhaps this is the season to begin your own new tradition by giving the first give to yourself: Stay out of debt. Here are some spending tips from the experts, collected from several Internet sources:

- Decide not to give gifts this Christmas, except maybe to your own children or to parents. Send a nice Christmas card to friends, aunts, uncles, and other family members, especially if you cannot afford to purchase gifts.

- Agree to a no-gift-giving policy at work. If that doesn't work, suggest that everyone draw a name out of a hat so that only one gift is required of each person.

- Divide up the family. Use the old hat trick here, too. Have a separate drawing for children. Each adult brings one gift for a child. Have each child draw a name out of a hat. It adds a little suspense and excitement when you make a game of it.

- If you must give gifts at Christmas, develop a list of family and friends who you want to be a blessing to before shopping.

- Put a dollar limit on the gift for each person. Decide how much you will spend and focus less on what you will buy.

- Pay cash for all gifts and leave the credit cards at home. If you cannot pay your credit card bill in full in January when the statement arrives, then you probably cannot afford the gifts you are now buying in December. By the way, are

you still paying for last year's Christmas gifts?

- If you must use credit, use only one card, put it into a checkbook cover with a check register and enter every transaction as though you were writing a check. Seeing the balance mount up will make you pause before you go overboard.

- Plan a specific date to shop for Christmas. Avoid spontaneous shopping and do not wait until the last minute to complete your Christmas shopping. You tend to spend more when you wait until the last minute and tend to give gifts out of obligation and not because it is what you really wanted to give.

- Mail gifts and packages in a timely manner. Again, do not wait until the last minute. Some gifts that could be sent via regular mail have to be sent by federal express, UPS, or priority mail because you want the gift to get there by Christmas. In many instances, postage costs more than the gift.

- Assess your child's current inventory of toys before deciding to buy new toys. Ask yourself, "Does Johnny really need this or am I just buying this because I am commercializing Christmas?"

- Consider giving books instead of toys. Books are great gifts, tend to be more beneficial, and usually last much longer than toys.

- Ask family members for gift suggestions that they may want for Christmas. Then choose one of the items to purchase – if and only if it is within your dollar limit for that person. Do not waste your money buying someone a gift that they do not want. You worked hard for your money so buy items that are wanted and useful.

- Give yourself a gift that keeps on giving – invest the money you would have spent on a gift for yourself in a mutual fund, savings bond, or purchase shares in

a store where you shop regularly. Investing produces dividends, but shopping produces debts. Which do you think will promote more financial peace?

- Give up perfectionism. Too often holidays pass you by while you are preparing for them, entertaining others and resolving family feuds. Don't look back with regret.





Sports & Recreation

Monday night football

Come out and enjoy Monday night football with friends at Firehouse Pub. Each Monday night throughout the NFL season, they're serving up free hot dogs and hamburgers with beverage purchase and watching MNF on the big screen. They'll also have door prize drawings. Come early for a good seat. The Firehouse Pub, located in building 114 on Hankins Road (north off Goss Road, near the pool), opens at 4 p.m. For more information, call 842-0748 or 830-2582. Upcoming games include Nov. 24, N.Y. Giants vs. Tampa Bay; Dec. 1, Tennessee vs. N.Y. Jets; Dec. 8, St. Louis vs. Cleveland; and Dec. 15, Philadelphia vs. Miami.

Bowling center

Child and Youth Services is registering youth ages 5-18 for league play that starts Jan. 10. The league will play each Saturday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Redstone Lanes, building 3707 on Aerobee Road. Cost is \$75 per bowler and includes 14 weeks of bowling, shoe rental, Young American Bowling Alliance membership, Central Registration fee, T-Shirt, free Sunday bowling from 3-5 p.m., and free shoes anytime. Certified bowling instructors will be on hand. Register Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Challenger Community Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. For more information, call 876-3704.

Deer hunting

Outdoor Recreation will open gun season for deer Nov. 22. For more information, call 876-6854 or 876-4868.

Protestant women

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets



Conferences & Meetings

Thursdays from 9:30 to noon at Bicentennial Chapel. Four studies are offered. "Come for fellowship, worship, prayer and Bible study," a prepared release said. Child care is available. Other classes are held Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and in the evening. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646 or Jennifer Devlin 716-0107.

Sunday school

Adults are invited to study the book of James at Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel, room 13. For more information, call Tonie Welch 489-5646.

Property and contracts

The Rocket City Chapter of the National Property Management Association with the Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will hold an Educational Seminar Dec. 4 at Boeing Research Park, 950 Explorer Boulevard. Topics include Plant Clearance and Disposal, Movements and Transfers, University Property, Essentials of Modern Government Furnished Property Administrative Systems, and NCMA Benefits. Cost is \$75 for members and \$90 for non-members. For registration information, call Bill Butler 890-8054 or Debie Grissom 544-6572.

Sergeants major

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

Officers association

The Military Officers Association of America, formerly The Retired Officers Association, will hold its informal monthly breakfast Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in the Redstone Golf Clubhouse. All active, retired and former officers; their spouses and widows, of all branches of service, are invited. For more information, call retired CWO 4 Aniceto Bagley 852-7973. The association's monthly luncheon meeting is Nov. 26 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club with scheduled speaker Gordon Woodcock, a Boeing retiree, who will discuss reusable spacecraft.

Federally employed women

North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will meet Thursday at 11:15 a.m. at Papa Lovetti's in the function room. Chapter president Meg Lipsey will give an "Introduction to Professional Development." Visitors are welcome. For information call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Parents committee

The Parent Advisory Committee will meet

at 11 a.m. Nov. 25 at the Challenger Activity Center (phone 876-7952). PAC gives bonus parent points, updated information and an open forum.

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club



Miscellaneous

each year presents Merit Awards to qualified applicants based on their scholastic achievements, citizenship and sincere desire to pursue higher education. These awards are designed to help offset the cost of tuition, books and related fees. All applicants must meet the following criteria: be a member, spouse of a member, or the dependent of an OCWC member in good standing as of Oct. 1, 2003 and live within a 50-mile radius of Huntsville. Candidates may compete in one of four categories: high school senior, undergraduate, graduate and member/spouse. Previous award winners may compete in succeeding years, but may win only once in each category. Additionally, students receiving full scholarships are not eligible to apply for a Merit Award. Applications will be available at all OCWC board meetings and luncheons beginning in October. The deadline for Merit Award consideration is Feb. 11, 2004. For more information call Michelle Archer, the Merit Award chairperson, 534-5783.

Reserve unit

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal is looking for prior active duty soldiers who want to return to duty, or soldiers who wish to transfer from other Reserve/National Guard units with a specialty of 74B information systems operators, and 75B/H unit administration. For 74B, the unit will consider reclassification/waiver action to 74B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, PC programming languages, networking/systems administration and telecommunications skills. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the character and personal qualifications to pass a SBI Investigation check to obtain a top secret clearance required by the specialty. Specialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For MOS 75B/H, you must be MOS-Q prior service or transfer from another unit. For information call Charles Vartan 876-0604 (work) or 883-8891 (home).

Civilian deployment

Civilian employees are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions overseas. Deployment opportunities exist in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, engineers, operations officers, logistics and automation, among others. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM. Contractors cannot be considered to fill these positions. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Jane Wyatt 876-4106 or Maj. Felicia Carter 313-3867. Contrac-

tors and other interested people can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Surplus sales

Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales web site. To bid on this property, go to www.gsaauctions.gov. For more information, call 544-4667.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-4, and Thursdays from 9-5. Walk-in consignment hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-12:30. Appointments are Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-3. The shop is accepting Christmas/winter items. It will be closed Thanksgiving week. Donations are accepted and tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

Education open house

In conjunction with American Education Week, the Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road, is holding an Open House today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A number of colleges and universities will have representatives at the center to answer questions about programs available and others that are anticipated.

Master's degrees

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information meeting on its master of business administration program Thursday at 6 p.m. at Calhoun Community College, conference room 101-E, 102 Wynn Drive. The program offers classes in Huntsville on an 18-month alternate weekend format. For more information, call Bill Spade 800-672-7223, ext. 5046.

Benefit concert

Are you looking for a special way to enjoy the Christmas holidays and to participate in the annual Toys for Tots program? The Toys for Tots Christmas Concert is Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chen Auditorium at University of Alabama-Huntsville, on Holmes Avenue off Sparkman Drive. This is musical evening is presented by the Marine Corps and the Rocket City Barbershop Chorus. Admission is a new toy or a \$5 donation; and all proceeds go to Toys for Tots. For more information, call John Gonzalez 852-2408 or George Davis 498-2046.

Village volunteers

Santa will be back in Huntsville along with his reindeer and elves at his North Pole satellite office at Alabama Constitution Village — Santa's Village — from Nov. 28 through Dec. 28; and he needs volunteers to help run the village. Volunteers are needed to work in all areas of this event. Individuals, civic groups, churches, corporations, schools and senior citizen groups are encouraged to participate in this magical holiday event. For more information on how to volunteer, call 564-8106.

See Announcements on page 21

Delta marketplace

The Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Zeta will present the Delta Zeta Marketplace Nov. 21-23 in the South Hall of the Von Braun Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. For shoppers' convenience, Delta Zeta members will provide a coat and package check free of charge at their information booth.

Center holiday party

The Integrated Materiel Management Center will hold its annual Christmas party Dec. 16 from 11:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Tickets are on sale for \$12 until Dec. 1. After Dec. 1, tickets will be \$13. This year's theme is "Jingle Bell Rock" with contests, skits and music by Music Machine. Prizes will be given away throughout the afternoon. Visit the IMMC Christmas party web site at <http://immc.redstone.army.mil/christmas/> for a complete menu, ticket points of contact and information. You can also call Jan Pickard 876-2569.

Youth flying lessons

Child and Youth Services' Flying Lessons are going on now. Youngsters ages 12-18 will have the opportunity to take flying lessons at Redstone Flying Activity. Cost per child is \$545. Classes include eight hours ground session, five one-hour flight sessions and more. The parent and child must become Flying Activity members (\$45 fee) in order to secure required liability insurance. For classes to begin, at least six students must register. For details call Redstone Flying Activity 881-3980 or Child and Youth Services 876-3704.

Thanksgiving meal

The Redstone dining facility will be open to all active duty and retired military, their immediate family members and one guest. The Thanksgiving meal is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 27 with single servicemembers dining 11-12:30, servicemembers with family 12:30-1:30 and retirees 1:30-2:30. Reservations are not permitted. The cost of the meal is \$5.25, and \$4.55 for dependents of soldiers E-4 and below. All servicemembers must have their military identification card. Only cash will be accepted for the meal. For information call 876-6743 or 876-3067.

Circus tickets

Information, Ticketing and Registration Office, building 3711, has mezzanine and box level discount tickets available for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Tickets are \$15 center court seating and \$9 end court seating. Available tickets are for Dec. 4, Dec. 6 and Dec. 7 shows. For more information, call 876-4531 after 1:30 p.m.

Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 annual scholarship awards to a local high school and col-

lege student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is March 31. For more information, call Jackie Kenner 876-8131.

Wireless discounts

Verizon Wireless, voice and data services, offers discounts to all Department of Defense agencies and DoD employees in North Alabama. Through an agreement between Verizon Wireless and NETCOM/ Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Verizon Wireless can now offer to new and existing customers a 20 percent access discount on calling plans of \$35 and higher, deep discounts on equipment and 25 percent off accessories. Special business plans are also available for the DoD agencies. Family Share Plans are also included in this promotion. This offer is not available through any retail store. For information call Ben Renfro (256) 509-4353 or e-mail him at ben.renfroe@verizonwireless.com.

Newcomers' orientation

Learn about Redstone Arsenal by attending the Army Community Service Newcomers' Orientation, Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m. until noon at building 3338 on Redeye Road. The orientation features speakers, information booths, and a tour of Redstone Arsenal. Attendees will receive Morale, Welfare and Recreation bucks redeemable at MWR activities. Attendance is mandatory for active duty personnel permanently assigned to Redstone in accordance with AMCOM Regulation 1-36, Policy Number 608-5. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center. Shot records are required for children using the child care services. For more information call Mary Breeden, relocation assistance program manager, 876-5397.

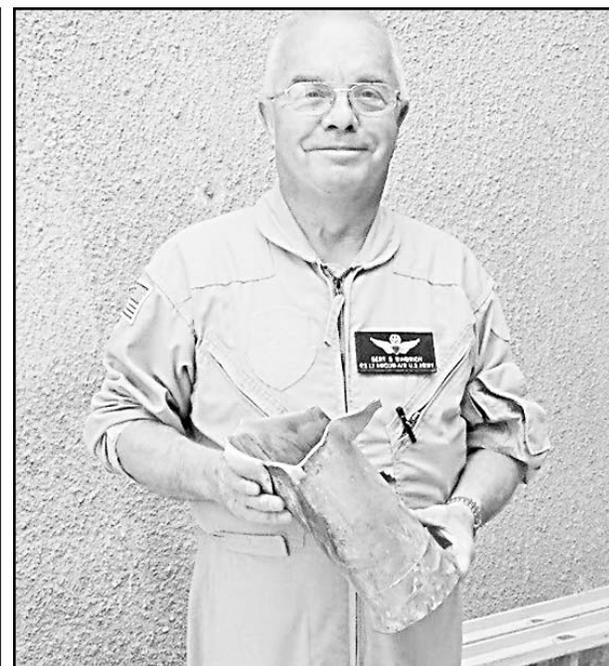
PX news

Post Exchange facilities will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27 with the exception of the One Stop, building 3234, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Nov. 28-29, the Main PX will be open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. for your shopping convenience. All other facilities will operate with regular hours.

Lodge open house

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council will hold the annual Rustic Lodge open house Thursday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission is free. Come to the lodge and enjoy food, refreshments and live DJ entertainment by Ted Cannon. There will be door prizes from local companies and the vendors who will have their displays throughout the lodge. You must be present to win the door prizes that will be given away throughout the day. As an extra bonus, Beanie Babies will be given to the first 100 persons who enter the Rustic Lodge at the opening time.

Student apprentices



Courtesy picture

In line of fire

Gert Bindrich, a logistic assistance representative from Readiness Directorate, shows a piece of shrapnel that hit a sleeping area at the Mosul, Iraq, field site. Fortunately, no one was hurt during this attack. Bindrich deployed in November for a 120-day tour in support of the 4th Infantry Division.

The Department of Defense initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980, under the direction of the Executive Office of the President, to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student-mentor relationships during the summer. This program is designed for students who have demonstrated aptitude and interest in science and engineering courses and careers. A major benefit of the program is pairing the students with university and professional engineering mentors. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are United States citizens and 15 years old by the beginning of the program June 7, 2004. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. The points of contact for applications are senior counselors, at all public, private and parochial high school and college placement services. Possible career placement areas at the Aviation and Missile Command include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The deadline for postmarking applications is Jan. 31. If the student is unsuccessful in receiving an application from the high school senior counselor or college placement service, call Julie Lumpkins of the Civil-

