

Redstone Rocket

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November 5, 2003

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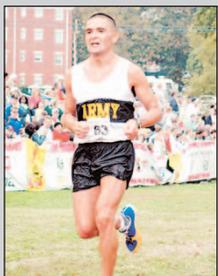
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Humble hero from World War II

Redstone Arsenal retiree
among seven inductees
in Hall of Heroes

By **KIM MASON**
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It took two years for the Military Heritage Commission to convince World War II veteran Nick Christopher that he was a hero, despite his medal of valor.

"I was sort of reluctant," Christopher said. "There are a whole lot more out there who deserve it more than I do."

These are modest words for an anti-aircraft artillery (automatic weapons) commander who repeatedly led his unit's half-tracks to effective fire positions. His courageous service eventually resulted in a Bronze Star Medal as well as a Purple Heart Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

"I was proud of (the Bronze Star Medal) naturally," Christopher said. "I never

dreamed of getting awarded something for what I did."

Christopher, an Athens native, was drafted in 1942. After basic training at Camp Wallace, Texas, he was selected to go to officer candidate school. He arrived at OCS on the first anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

On becoming a second lieutenant, he was sent to Camp Stewart, Ga. He then deployed to Casablanca, Morocco in summer 1943 and awaited his assignment as a replacement officer. He was finally assigned to the 106th Anti-Aircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapon) Battalion.

His battalion was dispatched to the Salerno invasion in Italy. From there, Christopher and his battalion were part of



Courtesy photo
ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER PLACE— World War II veteran Nick Christopher was distinguished for his heroic service.

well as the ones we were trying to get through."

the Anzio invasion and the southern France invasion.

Christopher subsequently led his battalion into combat during the Lorraine campaign near Epinal and Rambervillers, France.

"They moved the tanks out of the way for us to get by," Christopher said of his half-tracks. "At the time we could put out a whole lot more lead."

It was during this conflict that Christopher was wounded and was honored for his act of valor.

"I can't say we weren't afraid," he said. "We were concerned for ourselves as

See Hero on page 17

'It will be hard to leave the people here'

Leslie Dodgen says
she has enjoyed tour

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
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Born into Army life, the last thing Leslie Dodgen wanted to do was become a military wife.

"I never dated guys in the military," Dodgen, wife of Redstone's commanding Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, said. "I didn't want to be a part of it anymore. But in a weak moment, I accepted a date with a military guy. He just had to be the one. We've been married 24 years."

When she first heard the news back in 2001 that they would be transferring from Washington, D.C. to Redstone, "I was not a happy camper," Dodgen said. "I didn't want to come. We'd been in Washington five years, the longest we'd ever been stationed anywhere. I put down roots and was extremely happy there. It was hard to pry me away."

But it didn't take long until she was immersed in "FLORA" duties, making

friends and having fun.

"I am extremely surprised that I've enjoyed my tour here," she said. "I've met so many great people here. I'm not just saying that. There's so much going on here and it's all good. I think volunteering was invented here. I'm missing it already and I'm not even gone yet."

Dodgen is expected to move back to Washington sometime in November but future plans hinge on Senate confirmation of her husband's recommendation for a third star and promotion to lieutenant general.

Things were difficult for Dodgen in those first few weeks and months at Redstone. The country was reeling from the terrorist attacks on Washington and New York, and Redstone was feeling the shock waves with heightened security and gate closings. It was a strange time for Dodgen to be stepping out into such a public role for the first time.

"Now I can joke with my neighbor when I'm on my

See Dodgen on page 17



Photo by Sandy Riebeling
INSEPARABLE— It's not uncommon for Lou Lou to accompany Leslie Dodgen, wife of Redstone's commanding general, on visits around the post.

War far from over

Veterans Day is a solemn day to honor and recognize all who have served our nation in war and in peace. This year, hundreds of thousands of our men and women in uniform and Department of Defense civilians have the distinction of serving in wartime. Counted among them is the largest number of reservists and guardsmen activated since the Korean War.

The war on terrorism is like no other war we have ever fought – and it is far from over. We will prevail, but it will require our patience, our full commitment, and the will to win against an enemy who tries to create fear and destroy freedom.

We have seen tremendous displays of

courage, dedication and sacrifice to defeat the terrorists who are targeting the United States and our allies with hatred and intolerance. This tradition of outstanding service links this newest generation of veterans to the lives and legacies of those who have served and defended our nation with honor and dedication during previous times of threat.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join our fellow Americans in paying tribute to all of our veterans, the sacrifices they have made and the courage they have displayed in defending freedom and security around the world.

Gen. Richard B. Myers
chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Smoother drive appreciated

I would like to make a comment about the smoother surface on Martin Road. When I would drive in every morning, I always get tensed up when I was about to cross the last bridge before Martin Road turns into a four lane coming from the Parkway.

Thank you, thank you to whoever decided to fix the bumpy drive. Now I

can have smoother driving coming to work.

I am sure everyone else has noticed the smoother driving. I can't say it enough: thank you, thank you, thank you!

Pam Sanders
contractor

Special salute to Army guys

Joshua Lyle, my 15-year-old grandson, participated in the Special Olympics on Oct. 21. We were both filled with eagerness long before the scheduled day: Josh, because he doesn't know how to be anything other than enthusiastic, and myself simply because Josh's attitude is marvelously contagious and fills each of my days with inspiration. Josh is also a plan-ahead person, and had as many questions as empty shells on a battlefield about the day's events. As our bus rolled into Milton Frank Stadium parking lot, Josh squealed "They're here again! The Army guys are here to help us again!"

The "Army guys" certainly were. Row after row of America's uniformed, finest, and most attractive young men and women stood at ease to escort us

from the bus. They each flashed their warmest smiles in greeting. A strong young arm reached upward to take, first Josh's hand, and then mine, into his own capable hands. His name was Wayne — Wayne from Waterloo, Iowa.

Pvt. Wayne (I did not get his last name) bonded instantly with Joshua. Pvt. Wayne met every possible need my Joshua had. Josh's "very own Army guy" talked with him about all of Josh's favorite subjects. Pvt. Wayne from Waterloo taught Josh several warmup PT exercises. Josh was happy to learn. He kept Josh supplied with plenty of fresh cool water and power drinks. He worked with Josh patiently teaching him the proper arm swing and arc for the softball

See **Soldiers** on page 4

Quote of the week

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.
— Samuel Johnson

Training keeps center healthy

This is in reference to the letter from "name withheld" that appeared in the Oct. 29 Redstone Rocket about the health center taking a training holiday. I don't know who this retiree is but he should be grateful that we have this center here to serve the military community. What this person should be worried about is the next round of base closings and the fact that Redstone is on the list. They could easily close this center along with the other activities on Redstone; what will he do then? As for what happens to the civilians when a training holiday is taken, I don't know where this retiree has served but an off day like this means they can update the health records and take care of other items to keep the center operating smoothly in order to give him and the rest of the active duty and retired the care they require.

J. Lessor
retired Sgt. Maj.

Editor's note: The Department of Defense received congressional authorization for a base realignment and closure round in 2005. The secretary of defense will submit recommendations for realigning or closing bases by May 16, 2005 to an independent commission appointed by the president in consultation with congressional leadership. The commission will hold regional meetings to solicit public input prior to making its recommendations which the commission will forward to the president for review and approval. The commission is to forward its report to the president by Sept. 8, 2005 and the president will have until Sept. 23, 2005 to accept or reject the recommendations. If accepted, the president will then forward the recommendations to Congress which will have 45 legislative days to act on the recommendations. No official BRAC closure list has been developed yet for this round of realignments or closures.

Letter policy

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer. The *Rocket* will withhold names upon request. Letters can be sent via e-mail to

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil or faxed to 955-9138. The deadline for letters and all other submissions to the *Rocket* is noon Friday.

An open lane random survey

What's your message to America's veterans?

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Hollis Smith,
retiree

"We need to support the ones overseas right now in Iraq, Afghanistan and in Kosovo."



SFC Donald Seit,
NCO Academy
"Thank you for what you're doing and what you've done for our country. America loves you."



SSgt. Richard Speck,
Delta Co. 832nd

"I want to thank them for their support. They've done a great job."



Ken Oard, retiree
"I'm no hero. I put my 27 years in and I was in Korea. I was a medic and that's different. Some of these guys are real heroes here."

Redstone Rocket

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Missile test deemed uncommon success

BOEING RELEASE

ST. LOUIS — Boeing on Oct. 23 demonstrated key components of the Joint Common Missile with a successful flight test at the Army's Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz.

The Joint Common Missile is a multi-service, multi-user, multi-platform missile designed to engage and destroy stationary, re-locatable, and moving targets ranging from buildings and bunkers to tactical vehicles and advanced armor.

The test demonstrated the Boeing Joint Common Missile's ability to exceed all range requirements using an advanced rocket motor developed by Alliant Techsystems and represents significant risk reduction for the upcoming Joint Common Missile System Development and Demonstration Program.

"This demonstration shows Boeing's commitment to the Joint Common Missile program and maturity of the technology being proposed," said Roger Krone, senior vice president, Army Systems, for Boeing. "Along with previous successful tri-mode seeker demonstrations and successful Brimstone firings from fixed-winged aircraft, we have significantly reduced risk in the program. Our Joint Common Missile approach builds on the success of missile development and platform integration experience from the Boeing design of the original Hellfire missile and its adaptation to fixed-winged aircraft in the Brimstone program."

The Boeing team, including key members Northrop Grumman Corporation and Alliant, is competing to provide a low risk, affordable missile system solution to meet its customers' needs.

■ Special Olympians appreciate soldier

Soldiers

continued from page 2

throw. He took every step that Josh did in the 100-meter race, then moved ahead quickly only at the last minute to turn and watch as Josh came in first place over the finish line. Pvt. Wayne taught Josh some basic military terminology. Josh was happy to learn. Pvt. Wayne taught Josh how to stand at attention and how to stand at ease. He even suggested to Josh that he could take these positions "to show respect to your grandmother." At this point, I was ready to adopt Pvt.-Wayne-from-Waterloo, and take home a new son!

Special Olympics is vital to our special needs students and adults. I cannot adequately express

the depth of my belief in Special Olympics and the positive effects it has on our students as well as us parents and guardians. The buoyancy we all receive on the day of the athletic events lives with us for at least the next 12 months until we can do it again.

Without the United States Army at Redstone Arsenal, this event would be extremely more difficult to strategize, if not entirely impossible. To our nation's military at Redstone, I offer you my deepest gratitude for your willingness in this community service.

To Pvt. Wayne from Waterloo, Joshua and I salute you!

Joshua Lyle
Robbie Cantrell



Photo by Ruby Turner

Red ribbon time

Youngsters at the Child Development Center enjoy the goody bags they received from the Alcohol and Drug Control Office during Red Ribbon Week. From left are Allison Taylor, Timothy Steele and Jaylen Ardis.

Getting to know you

By KIM MASON
Staff writer
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Name: SFC David Beier

Job: Ammunition instructor/writer, Munitions Training Department, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School

Where do you call home?

Stanley, Iowa

What do you like about your job?

Conveying information to students. Teaching them a trade or something else vital to the military. The transfer of knowledge to the next generation.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time with my family and do jobs around the house.



What are your goals?

I want to be able to provide for my children so that they can grow up happy and be what they want to be in life.



Shawn Harris/Photo Lab

Service exhibited

Toby Strange of Tec-Masters Inc., which supports the Deputy Commander for Systems Support's Business Manager, receives the Commander's Public Service Award from Aviation and Missile Command chief of staff Col. John Smith on Oct. 29. Smith presented the award on behalf of AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen for Strange's technical support for demonstrations, weapon systems displays, exhibits and trade shows.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Oct. 24 — A contractor reported that he lost his Redstone Arsenal decal from his vehicle.

Oct. 24 — A contractor reported that he lost his common access card while working in the area of Wadsworth Drive.

Oct. 25 — An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license and no proof of liability insurance during an inspection at Gate 9. The individual was issued violation notices for each offense and released.

Oct. 25 — An individual was detained at Gate 9 after he attempted to enter Redstone Arsenal after being denied access. The individual was issued violation notices for each offense and released.

Oct. 25 — A soldier reported that he lost his wallet which contained his military identification card while shopping at Madison Square Mall.

Oct. 26 — An individual who drove his vehicle in to the guardhouse at Gate 8 was detained at the Provost Marshal Office after he was found to be operating his motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, a suspended driver's license, and possessing a counterfeit INS card. The individual was issued a violation notice for each offense and released to Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Oct. 27 — An individual reported that someone entered building 7442 and removed several pieces of furniture.

Oct. 28 — A soldier who was in a desertion status from Fort Benning, Ga., surrendered at Gate 3. Arrangements were made to return the soldier to Fort Knox, Ky.

Oct. 28 — An individual reported that he lost his retired military identification

card at the Shoppette. A search of the area met with negative results.

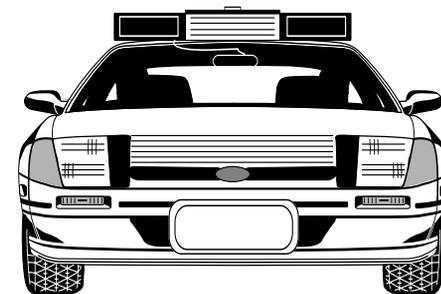
Oct. 28 — An individual reported that someone damaged her personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended at building 3197. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Oct. 29 — A contractor was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection of his vehicle at Gate 9. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Oct. 30 — An individual reported that someone damaged his personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended at building 133. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Oct. 30 — An individual reported that someone damaged his personal vehicle while it was parked and unattended at building 5400. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 34; no liability insurance, 1; failure to obey traffic control device, 2; parking violation, 2; operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license, 2; driving under the influence, 1; failure to display proper registration, 1; trespass, 1; and open container, 1.



Aerostat serves as tactical eye in sky

System passes critical tests

The Bosch Aerospace Division of Information Systems Laboratories successfully completed critical acceptance tests Oct. 28 of its new Rapidly Elevated Aerostat Platform for the Army Rapid Equipping Force. REAP will deploy in mid-November to Iraq to provide protection for U.S. troops, and to conduct critical surveillance and communications tasks.

James Boschma, Bosch Aerospace Division manager, said he is optimistic about deployment of the system to Iraq.

"These simple and low-cost inflated structures will provide a fast response means of attaining enduring surveillance and communications," he said. "REAP's presence deters would-be attackers, but also provides early warning and fire direction functions, if attacked."

The system is a self-contained unit which can be remotely deployed from a small canister to a pre-determined altitude within 300 seconds. Its communication or surveillance payloads provide surveillance over broad areas. Its patented cloth-containment mechanism allows deployment, even in high winds, from Humvees, pickup trucks or small trailers.

The development has been jointly sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, Naval Facilities Engineering Service Center and the Aviation and Missile Command's Strategic Customer Initiatives' Office.

"REAP's 'high ground in a box' capability will provide protection to our troops by allowing them to see their surrounding area, and identify potentially dangerous situations before soldiers are put in harm's way," Brian Matkin, the onsite AMCOM manager of the effort, said. "The elevated platform allows for significant extension of line-of-sight communications. It is hoped that these highly visible surveillance platforms will also deter would-be terrorists from carrying out attacks against our forces."

The system could also enhance homeland defense security efforts to protect national resources and secure U.S. borders. REAP would be an asset for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as local law enforcement and fire departments.

Bosch Aerospace, a division of Information Systems Laboratories, is a defense-oriented company located next to Moontown Airport in Brownsboro.



IN FLIGHT— The Rapidly Elevated Aerostat will deploy in mid-November to Iraq for surveillance and communications tasks.

Photo by Duke Gerhardt

Ex-executive officer returns to lead project office

Syracuse native left in 1994

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The new leader of Lower Tier Project Office aptly quoted Yogi Berra as he assumed his position.

"It's déjà vu all over again," Col. John Vaughn said as he returned to the office he left 10 years ago. Vaughn served as lower tier's executive officer in 1994.

The Syracuse, N.Y., native became the project manager Friday in a ceremony at Bob Jones Auditorium. He succeeded Col. Tommie Newberry, the PM since September 2000, who retired with 27 years service.

"I'm very excited to be joining the Lower Tier Project Office after being away for so long," Vaughn said. He just completed a one-year assignment at the Pentagon.

"I consider it an honor and a privilege to be joining such a high-performing team," he said.

Vaughn, 43, has a bachelor's degree from West Point, a master's in weapon systems engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and a master's in strategic studies from the Army War College. He has 21 years service.

"He's the right guy now to assume the mantle of leadership for this great project office," said Maj. Gen. John Urias, program executive officer for air, space and missile defense. Lower tier manages the Patriot and Medium Extended Air Defense System missiles.

He and his wife, Maureen, have a son, Kendrick, 17, and daughters Marilyn, 12, and Shelby, 5. They reside in Madison.

Vaughn's hobbies include bowling, jogging and flying — he has a private pilot's license. "Mostly the kids' sports activities," he said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BIG CHALLENGE— Col. John Vaughn is the project manager for lower tier.

Tunisian NCO: United States 'land of opportunity'

Command Sgt. Maj. completes course

A Tunisian noncommissioned officer says he enjoyed his training at Redstone.

CSM Youssef Hamdi, 41, arrived April 28 and was assigned to Headquarters & Alpha Company. He attended an electronics course and will return to Tunisia Nov. 14.

The Gafsa, Tunisia native and his wife, Hayet, have three sons: Seiffeddine, 16, Mouhaned, 10, and Hiba, 2 months.

He provided the following answers to questions from the *Redstone Rocket*.

How was your time at Redstone Arsenal?

"I enjoyed my stay in Redstone very much."

What did you do while you were here?

"I attended a training course in electronics."

What did you learn about America?

"This is a great and a very large country and the people are very friendly and it is the land of opportunity."

What do you think of this country?

"Very great and wonderful country and it is really the world leader."

What will you do with the training you received here?

"I will help my country by transferring the technology that I have learned."

What was the most memorable thing about your stay?

"My teachers, host families and other international students that I met. I was integrated into the American society and



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GOING HOME— Tunisian army CSM Youssef Hamdi shows his nation's flag.

people very easily and very soon. I didn't expect that when I arrived. I never will forget how the International Military Student Office took care of me. When they heard that I was bothered because of bad news from my family they would ask me every time, how is your family? They do it even though they are on vacation. I never will forget that I was invited in many Americans' homes and how kind they treated me."

How was the support?

"It was great. I felt I had everything I had hoped for."

Provost marshal buckles down on seatbelt use

Safety awareness idea behind drive

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

Redstone Arsenal's Safety Office and Provost Marshal are joining local law enforcement in promoting and enforcing this year's "Click It or Ticket" seatbelt campaign Nov. 17-30.

John Zuber of the Garrison Safety Office said the goal is to heighten awareness and increase seatbelt use; thereby decreasing injuries and fatalities from accidents.

"There is a DoD installation regulation in place that has required seatbelt use on defense facilities for several years — before many states even required it. But compliance can be better. DoD recently released data showing that there were more soldier fatalities attributed to non-seatbelt use earlier this year than the initial months of combat fatalities in Iraq," he said.

The importance of seatbelt use cannot be over-emphasized. Zuber cited several statistics to support his case. Failure to use seatbelts results in:

- 41,000 lives lost each year
- One death every 13 minutes
- One injury every 10 seconds
- Leading cause of death ages 6-33.

The good news is how much seatbelts can do to reduce these statistics. "Using

seatbelts can reduce the risk of fatality by 40 percent overall," said Zuber. "The percentage of risk reduction is even higher for front seat passengers — 45 percent."

This year's campaign has a special emphasis on teens and young adults because two-thirds of the motor vehicle occupants killed in crashes last year were unrestrained. "This correlates to our statistic concerning vehicle fatalities among young soldiers earlier this year," Zuber said.

In addition to seatbelts, child restraint seats are also included in the campaign. "The biggest problem with child safety seats are that many are used improperly," Zuber said. In the "Click It or Ticket" 2002 program, more than 300 child restraint citations were issued along with more than 13,000 seatbelt citations at 800 checkpoints.

Redstone personnel may not notice much change regarding seatbelt enforcement on the installation since it is done daily, but drivers should take special care to ensure all vehicle occupants are buckled up and using child safety seats.

Spec. Thomas Powell of the 2117th Ordnance Company said a friendly reminder at the gate is usually sufficient to ensure seatbelt compliance when personnel enter. But he also warned, "You will get a ticket from military police if you or the occupants of your vehicle are discovered not using seatbelts while driving on the installation."

Provost marshal Maj. Brad Scofield also emphasized the safety message

behind the "Click It or Ticket" campaign. "I look at seatbelt use on all roadways as not only a regulation and a law, but a darn good idea to protect you and your loved ones from increasing the risk of serious injury or death due to traffic accidents. Redstone police will be strictly enforcing this law not only during the campaign but also throughout the year for folks' own

protection," he said.

"Click It or Ticket" is more about getting the word out than about giving tickets, according to Zuber. "Our goal is to make sure everyone on the road, whether passenger or driver, knows they are more at risk, not just of getting a ticket, but for suffering a serious injury or death, if they don't buckle," he said.



Photo by Kim Gillespie

CHECKUP— Spec. Thomas Powell of the 2117th Ordnance Company checks John Zuber for identification and seatbelt use at Gate 8.

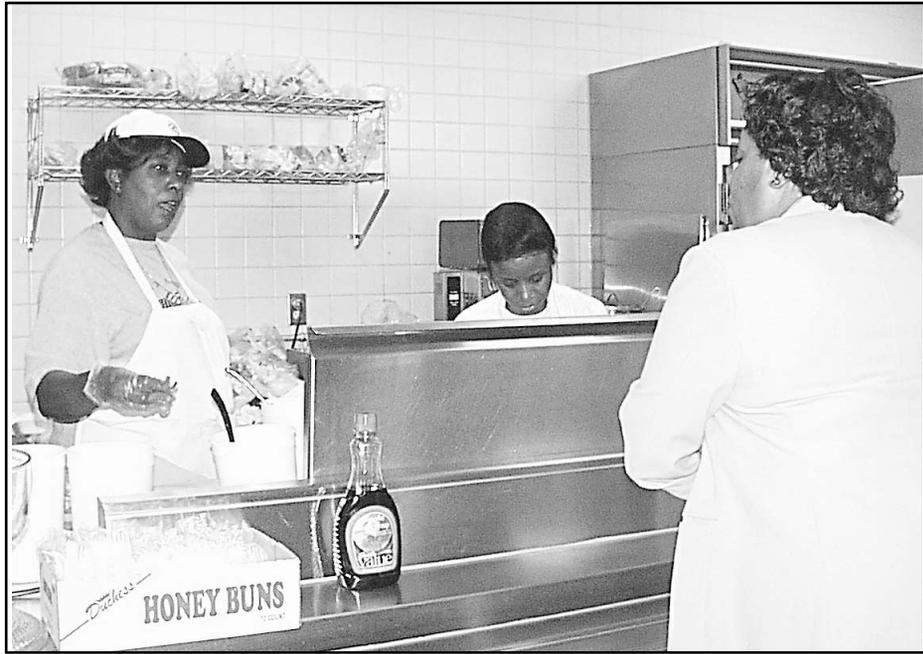
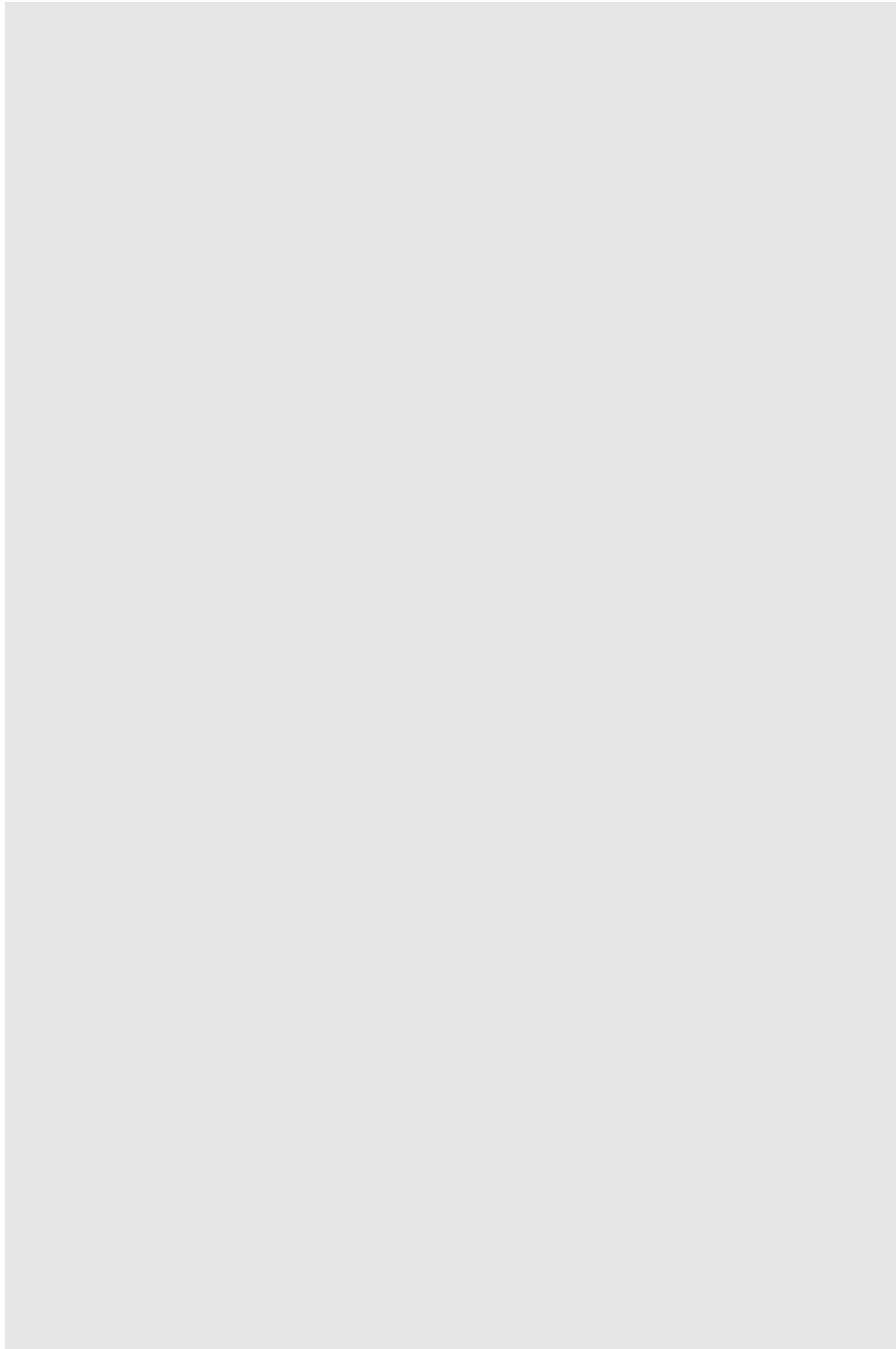


Photo by Kelley Lane

Home cooking

Marvalean Seay and Juanita White whip up taco salads at the Sparkman Center snack bar, now Jessie's Deli, in building 5304. New manager Jessie Groce and crew took over Oct. 14.



Volunteers sending gifts to deployed troops

Small missions add to support

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
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Maj. Thomas Todd, assistant product manager in the Air Warrior Product Office, left Redstone with a team from PM Air Warrior bound for Iraq on Sept. 4. They were there to field equipment to the 101st Airborne Division's Aviation Brigade. Todd, however, returned to Redstone on Sept. 26 with a new mission — sending Christmas presents to the soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While spending eight days with the 101st, Todd shared quarters with Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Kaminsky. When their mission was completed and the Air Warrior team was set to return, Todd asked the chaplain if he could send them anything from home. He was told that a new need was about to arise. "He indicated they had recently been informed they would remain in country through Christmas," Todd said, "that gifts as well as hard to find items were needed."

Todd brought the message home to his wife, Tracy, who thought it was a wonderful idea. "My wife took this thing and ran with it," Todd said.

She took the idea to church where she enlisted the help of their, and other, Sunday school classes to make the idea a reality. The volunteers have been spending their Friday evenings at the Whitesburg Baptist Church sorting, wrapping and packing gifts for the soldiers in the sand.

They are sending books and music CDs. They are sending board games and decks of cards. They are sending much needed items as well as creature comforts.

They are sending bits of home. Christmas away from friends and family is hard and they are trying to send a little bit of seasonal spirit to the men and women who keep our nights blessedly silent. Todd wanted to be a part of this because he understands how important morale can be.

"They were there doing great work in a not-so-friendly environment and needed to know folks in the states still cared," he said. "I think all of us who are serving and have served can relate to long deployments and how important high morale can be. We just wanted to help where we could."

Since mailing restrictions have stopped groups from sending items not addressed to specific servicemembers, Todd is sending their packages to Kaminsky. They are labeled as gifts for men or women and each bears a handwritten note of gratitude and encouragement from the group. Kaminsky has taken responsibility for making sure the gifts end up where they are needed most, with the emphasis being on those who don't get a package from home.

"He will distribute to any soldiers that don't receive anything as first priority," Todd said. Mailing packages to Iraq is expensive. The same people who have dug into their own pockets to supply gift items have managed to dig a little deeper to cover the shipping costs as well.

Todd and the other volunteers have found the gift project to be a fulfilling experience. He thinks that it helps put life into perspective and would encourage others to find out how they can support the troops.

"With all the distractions of everyday life, it's easy to forget those that have volunteered to put themselves in harm's way on our behalf," Todd said. "This was just a small piece of supporting our men and women, but if we all do our part, those small pieces will add up."



Photo by Kelley Lane

ALL IN THE FAMILY— Maj. Thomas, Tracy and Courtney Todd wrap some of the gifts donated for deployed soldiers.

Aviation veterans invited to museum gala

Opening ceremonies set for Smithsonian annex

By **JIM GARAMONE**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The National Air and Space Museum will highlight the contributions of military aviation during opening ceremonies of the new Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center Dec. 9.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers will give the keynote speech at the event.

The Salute to Military Aviation Veter-

ans is part of the extravaganza opening the annex of the Smithsonian Institution's most popular museum. It is open to all military aviation veterans and their guests.

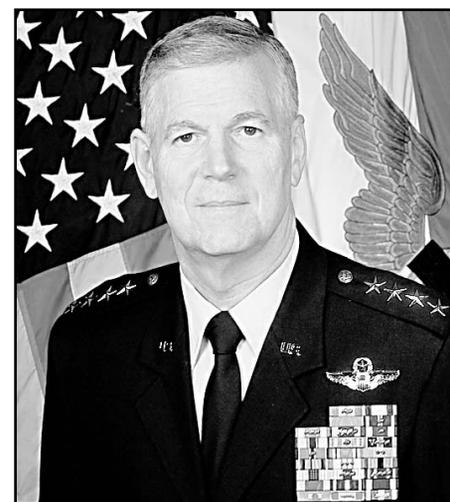
There is room for only 4,000 people at the ceremony. There is a limit of four tickets per aviation veteran and the tickets are \$15 apiece. Museum officials said the veterans will get a first look at the new facility and receive a copy of "America's Hangar" — a souvenir book detailing the aviation treasures at the annex.

The annex will open to the general public Dec. 15. The opening is part of the Centennial of Flight celebrations. The

100th Anniversary of the Wright Brothers first flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., is Dec. 17.

Located at Dulles International Airport in Virginia, the center will house more than 200 famous aircraft. These include the B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay" that dropped the first atomic bomb, a Marine F-4U Corsair, the SR-71 Blackbird, the B-17 Fortress, a UH-1H Huey helicopter and many other historically significant and meticulously restored aircraft.

Aviation veterans can get ticket information online or call toll-free (866) 814-4441. More than 1,200 tickets have been sold.



File photo

Gen. RICHARD B. MYERS

Flu vaccine available on post starting today

Fox Army Health Center lists sites and schedule

FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER RELEASE

Fox Army Health Center announces priorities, dates and times for the flu vaccine. Eligible personnel include active duty, military ID card holders age 13 years and above, and current Defense Department civilians.

Vaccinations will be given per the following schedule as long as supplies last:

- Recreation Center, building 3711, today from 1-4 p.m. for active duty and military ID card holders.
- Recreation Center, Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for active duty and military ID card holders.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 12 from 3-6 p.m. for active duty and military ID card holders.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 13 from 9-11 a.m. for active duty and military ID card holders.
- Space and Missile Defense Command, Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Research Development and Engineering Center, building 5400, SELA Auditorium, Nov. 17 from 8-10 a.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 17 from 2-3 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 18 from 8-11 a.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Building 4488, room A-311, Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 19 from 1-3 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Corps of Engineers, Nov. 20 from 8-10 a.m. for

active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.

- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 20 from noon-2 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.

- Sparkman Center, Bob Jones Auditorium, Nov. 21 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.

- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 21 from noon-2 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.

Military beneficiaries age 12 and under need to get their flu vaccination from their health care provider.

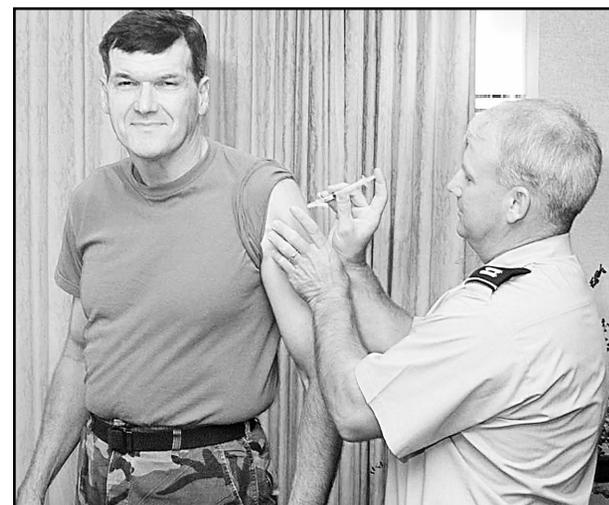
Flu shots are recommended for people age 50 and over, people with long term health problems (ask your provider if not sure), people with weakened immune systems, people age 6 months to 18 years on long term aspirin therapy, pregnant women past three months of pregnancy, and those with close contacts of the aforementioned categories.

Flu shots are encouraged for healthy children age 6-23 months, household contacts and caretakers of children age 6-23 months, anyone providing essential community services, anyone traveling to the southern hemisphere between April and September, anyone living in a dormitory or similar environment, and anyone who wants to reduce the chance of catching the flu.

Who should not get a flu shot? If you have had a serious allergic reaction to eggs or a previous dose of the flu vaccine, you are in the first trimester of pregnancy, or you have a history of Guillian-Barre Syndrome, you should only get the flu vaccine from your doctor.

The highest part of the upper arm must be accessible to receive the shot, so please dress accordingly. Some people get soreness, fever, or minor aches for 1 or 2 days after getting the flu vaccine (a good self-care book will help you take care of these minor complaints). Contractors are not eligible to receive the flu vaccine.

For other questions call the Public Health and Educa-



Dorothy Moore/Photo Lab

OPENING SHOT— Redstone commander Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen receives the 2003 flu vaccine from Capt. Farrell Adkins, chief of the Public Health and Education Center, to kick off this year's campaign.

tion Center at Fox Army Health Center 955-8888, ext.1026. For more information on flu vaccination, read the CDC vaccine information sheet at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-flu.pdf>.

Updates and changes to the flu campaign will be announced through the Redstone Rocket, The Huntsville Times, electronic bulletin boards, www.redstone.army.mil, www.redstone.amedd.army.mil, and command channels. You can hear an automated tape recording of all flu campaign information and updates by dialing 955-8888 and selecting service announcements. For other questions call the Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center 955-8888, ext.1026.

Post officials make plans for reducing accidents



Garrison presents safety certificates

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Redstone officials are working together to meet the Defense Department's ambitious goal for safety.

The Redstone Arsenal Safety and Occupational Health Council met Oct. 29 at Garrison headquarters to hear the plans in such areas as radiation and motorcycle safety. Defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld has challenged his department to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent in the next two years.

"Safety is everyone's responsibility," Mike Moore, chief of the Garrison Safety Office, said.

"Help us make life at Redstone better and safer," Col. Bob Devlin, garrison commander, said.

Devlin awarded certificates of appreciation to the following for their support of the garrison safety program: Jim Gibson of Redstone Technical Test Center, Steve Caudill of Propulsion and Structures Directorate, Daphne Kirby and Harvey Sisk of Chugach, and J.D. Smith of Redstone Airfield.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

SAFETY SUPPORT— From left are J.D. Smith, Daphne Kirby, Col. Bob Devlin, Jim Gibson and Steve Caudill.

Halloween spirit invades workplace

Ghosts, spiders, ghouls and such

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Halloween came early for members of the Integrated Materiel Management Center. IMMC's Business Management Directorate held its Halloween party Thursday,

the day before Halloween, because many people take off Friday. So, the third floor of building 5302 was populated with everything from Zorro to ducks.

"So you can say IMMC BMD has their ducks in a row," quipped Irene Garoppo, one of three workers wearing duck costumes.

Of course the usual cast of characters came out Friday throughout Redstone; and youngsters had their chance to go trick-or-treating that night.



MAKING POINT— Cindy Janes (Zorro) makes her mark at business management.



CLIMBING WALLS— Col. Steve Spatola (Spiderman), AMCOM operations director, scales a wall in the Sparkman Center.



TREATING— Linda Douglas (doctor) does checkup for Jackie Thomas (patient) at IMMC.

Photos by Skip Vaughn

TICK TOCK— IMMC's David Duncan says he's Mickey Mouse on vacation.



DUCKS IN ROW— From front to back are Irene Garoppo, Kathy Seale and Marilyn Tate.



WEB WELCOME— A spider weaves a festive mood at the Business Management Directorate.

Breakfast Club members get kudos from their coach

Key staffers gave updates on war

By SHAREE MILLER
For the Rocket

A select group of AMCOM staffers has been meeting with command leaders since January, providing updates on Operation Iraqi Freedom support efforts and initiatives.

Over time, this group has affectionately become known as the "Breakfast Club."

In a Thursday ceremony, Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, AMCOM commander thanked those key staffers on the Breakfast Club team, presenting each with a personally handwritten note, framed with a special coin. The coins were uniquely produced to acknowledge the Breakfast Club members for their direct support of the war efforts.

Dodgen expressed his gratitude for the

hard work of team members, and how proud he was of each staffer's contributions.

"This group has developed a battle rhythm that has made a huge difference in the war," he said.

Also, Maj. Eric Kaempfer was recognized for his work in the AMCOM Operations Center. He prepared and presented more than 135 operational daily briefings and updates to the AMCOM command group. Kaempfer was commended for his concise and accurate accountings of deployment and mobilization orders.

Col. John Smith, chief of staff for the Aviation and Missile Command, also presented Dodgen with a plaque from the entire Breakfast Club.

"Without a great coach, we're just a bunch of players running around on the field. General Dodgen has provided great leadership," Smith said.



Shawn Harris/Photo Lab

HONOREE— Maj. Eric Kaempfer of the AMCOM Operations Center receives the Army Commendation Medal from Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.

Soldiers claim two titles in Armed Forces marathon

Fort Lewis staff sergeant first among U.S. military

By TIM HIPPS
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Two soldiers ran to individual victories Oct. 26 in the 2003 Armed Forces Marathon that was contested in conjunction with the 28th Marine Corps Marathon.

SSgt. Gerardo Avila, 30, of Fort Lewis, Wash., finished 10th overall and was the first U.S. military runner to cross the finish line in a personal-best time of 2 hours, 32 minutes and 59 seconds.

Maj. Jacqueline Chen, 41, a podiatrist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, finished seventh among the women to win the female Armed Forces crown in 3:07:36.

"I felt good up until mile 22, and then I shut down," said Chen, who also won the Armed Forces women's division here last year in 3:00:53.

This was Chen's eighth run in "The People's Marathon," including four 26.2-mile treks as a member of the All-Army team. Her Marine Corps Marathon-best is 2:59:47 run in 1990.

Favoring 10-kilometer to 10-mile runs and referring to herself as "the old lady" of the Army team, Chen said she lost track of how many marathons she's run after completing 30.

Asked if she became a podiatrist because she was a marathoner or became a marathoner because she was a podiatrist, Chen replied with a smile: "I fix my own feet."

Avila, on the other foot, ran his seventh marathon Oct. 26.

"It feels good to come here and have a good race and try to help the team out," said

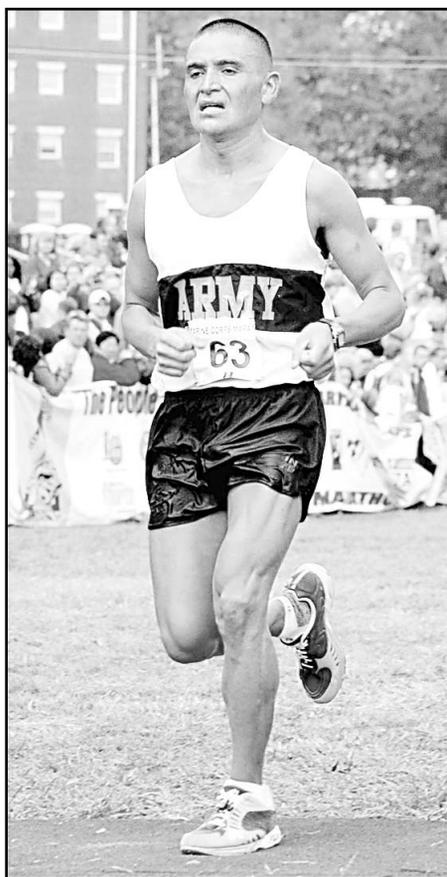


Photo by Tim Hipps

ACROSS THE LINE— SSgt. Gerardo Avila of Fort Lewis, Wash., wins the 2003 Armed Forces Marathon in 2:32:59.

Avila, originally from Fresno, Calif. "And, yes, it does feel good to be the Armed Forces champion.

"I felt great until like mile 24, and from there I was pretty much out of gas. I was just trying to survive the last 2.2 miles. Those

were my slowest miles."

Peter Sherry, 35, a high school math teacher from Great Falls, Va., won the race in 2:25:07 against a field of 15,973 finishers. He already has qualified for the 2004 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials.

Heather Hanscom, 25, a Red Cross researcher from Alexandria, Va., led the women in 2:37:59. Eleven years after undergoing surgery for a brain tumor, she qualified for the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials in her first attempt at the distance here.

Maj. Ted Leblow, 34, a native of Stockton, Calif., stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., was third among Armed Forces competitors and 15th overall in 2:35:54. He and Avila clipped off 5:50 miles together until around mile 18 when Avila surged ahead.

"Our strategy was to work as a team and go slow," said Leblow, who was running his fourth marathon on an unseasonably warm and humid autumn morning in Washington. "When we got here, they said the temperature was 60 or 61 and the humidity was high. And the wind was up, so we said: 'Hey, we've got to play this smart and work as a team.' That's what we did. We adjusted our pace and it worked out for us.

"To come in first and third in the Armed Forces Championship is something to be proud of."

Air Force's Mark Cucuzzella, 37, of Denver, finished second among Armed Forces men in 2:33:37.

Leblow ran his fastest marathon (2:28:31) in February at the Austin Motorola Marathon in Texas before being deployed to Iraq for four months. His Olympic dreams revolve around the 2008 Games.

"That's the dream: to make the standard for the 2008 Olympic Trials," Leblow said. "This is my first time representing the Army and to me it's really special. To be able to come out here and be able to represent the whole Army, to think about it in those terms,

it's a privilege that we can be here and do that — especially in a year like this.

"I've spent four months in Iraq and I know that my unit, the 101st (Airborne Division) is still over there for a year, so it's a privilege to be able to be here and represent the soldiers who are out there. I'm extremely blessed to be here because I know what those guys are going through over there."

The host Marine Corps' quartet of Alexander Hetherington (2:37:07), Greg Mislick (2:49:15), Matthew Limbert (2:53:32) and Ginger Beals (3:11:21) won the Armed Forces team title with a composite time of 10:20:98. They are trained by Ed Eyestone, coach of the Brigham Young University cross-country team.

Air Force's foursome of Mark Mucuzzella (2:33:37), Michael Mann (2:37:31), Bob Dickie (2:40:40) and Heidi McKenna (3:08:13) placed second in 10:31:79.

Navy's Saad Elmouthawakel (2:48:00), Geoffrey Weber (2:54:40), Michael Raney (2:58:28) and Susanne Hines (3:07:37) were third in 10:50:75.

Army's quartet of Avila, Leblow, Maj. John Weaver (2:58:30) and Chen finished last in the Armed Forces team chase in 10:68:05.

Also running for the Army were Maj. Page Karsteter (2:58:54) from the U.S. Army Health Center in Mannheim, Germany; Maj. Margaret Bozgoz (3:11:07) of U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort McPherson, Ga.; 2nd Lt. Kathryn Kennedy (3:35:08) of Fort Rucker, Ala.; and SSgt. Shannon Swords (did not finish) of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

This is the sixth consecutive year the Marine Corps, in conjunction with the Armed Forces Sports Council, has played host to the Armed Forces Marathon. Air Force has won the team title three times, the Marines twice, and Army once in 2001.

AMCOM's Gola: Gaining momentum for playoffs

Flag football teams finishing season

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

It looks like a four-team race in the flag football league.

Delta (7-0) leads the Western Conference followed by MEDDAC (5-2). In the Eastern Conference, there's HHC 59th (7-0) followed by AMCOM (4-2).

"It's going to be any given Sunday for the top four teams," AMCOM wide receiver/cornerback Michael Gola said.

Last week AMCOM beat the Marines 30-6 and got a forfeit from Headquarters & Alpha. This is the final scheduled week of the season before the playoffs begin Nov. 12.

"I think we're going to close out the rest of the season pretty good," Gola said. Top games this week include MEDDAC vs. AMCOM on Nov. 4 and HHC 59th vs. Delta at 6 p.m. Nov. 6 at the football field off Patton Road.

AMCOM lost 14-13 to HHC 59th on Oct. 21 and 14-0 to Delta on Oct. 23.

"I wish we would've played 59th and Delta later in the season to let us progress," Gola said. "I think it's going to be different in the postseason."

Results from last week included:

- Oct. 27 – MEDDAC d. 2117th 22-16, Bravo won by forfeit over Headquarters & Alpha and AMCOM d. Marines 30-6.

- Oct. 28 – Delta d. Charlie 22-12, HHC 59th d. MEDDAC 14-6 and AMCOM won by forfeit over Headquarters & Alpha.

- Oct. 29 – Bravo won by forfeit over NCO Academy, Delta won by forfeit over Marines and Charlie d. 2117th 12-8.

- Oct. 30 – HHC 59th d. Charlie 34-6, Delta d. 2117th 34-12 and MEDDAC d. Bravo 12-0.

Here are the standings after last week's games: Western Conference – Delta (7-0), MEDDAC (5-2), 2117th (3-4), Charlie (3-4), NCO Academy (0-6); and Eastern Conference — HHC 59th (7-0), AMCOM (4-2), Bravo (3-4), Headquarters & Alpha (1-4) and Marines (0-6).

Alabama A&M gets nod over Jackson State

Tide, Auburn also favored

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

My college football predictions are 204-75 after 11 weeks. Here are Skip's Picks for selected games this week:

Ole Miss at Auburn – **Auburn**
Vanderbilt at Florida – **Florida**
Tennessee at Miami – **Miami**
Army at Air Force – **Air Force**
Texas Tech at Baylor – **Texas Tech**

Navy at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**
Nebraska at Kansas – **Nebraska**
Texas at Oklahoma State – **Texas**
Oregon State at Southern Cal – **USC**
Washington at Arizona – **Washington**

Jackson State at Alabama A&M – **Alabama A&M**
Alabama at Mississippi State – **Alabama**
South Carolina at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Arizona State at Stanford – **Arizona State**
Florida State at Clemson – **Florida State**
Furman at Georgia Southern – **Ga. Southern**
Michigan State at Ohio State – **Ohio State**
Texas A&M at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
Virginia Tech at Pittsburgh – **Va. Tech**
UCLA at Washington State – **Wash. State**



Freedom soars on eagles' wings for retired Marine

Robinson fills office with patriotic birds

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

Every one of the eagle figurines George Robinson has collected over the years tells a story. It is the same story; only the nuance, like the carver's hand that crafts the fan of each wing, is different.

The steadfast gaze reflected in the eagle's eye reminds him of the courageous men and women who defend this country and their unwavering commitment in the face of danger to carry out their mission to the fullest.

"No matter how much pain an eagle is in, he'll never show it," Robinson said. "He'll fight to the death. He displays both strength and wisdom. And can soar above it all."

The story is freedom. The theme is victory; and the setting — from sea to shining sea. When Robinson, a retired Marine and Vietnam veteran, looks at the endearing qualities of the eagle, he sees America's promise.

"It resembles freedom," he said. "To watch an eagle fly is an amazing sight. When God made them, He made one of the most perfect creatures on Earth. I can see why our forefathers picked the eagle to represent the country. They have such

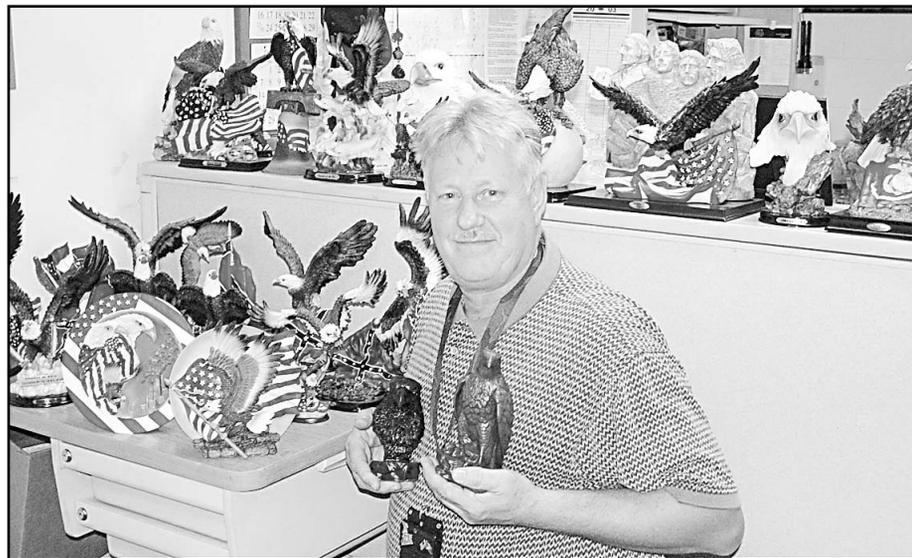


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

A FEW OF HIS FAVORITES— George Robinson, supply technician at Security Assistance Management Directorate, decorates his office with figurines.

great power, but don't use it unless they have to."

When you walk into Robinson's office at Security Assistance Management Directorate, you don't have to guess what his passion is. Eagle figurines and pictures cover nearly every surface, but this is only a small fraction of his entire collection.

"Every room in my house has eagles in it," Robinson said. "I've been collecting

them for years. Everywhere I go, I look for an eagle to add to my collection. People have given me some really beautiful statues over the years."

His favorite, a full body eagle in a perched position, made from pecan shells, was given to him by his daughter, Bobbie Denise.

"I usually go for the ones with the wings spread open," Robinson said. "There's something about that pose that shows an eagle's strength and grace. But this one, with the soft brown color and detailed carving is just beautiful."

One of his other favorites was given to him by a friend.

"He was in Russia and had to explain to this carver what an eagle looked like," Robinson said. "It's different. But I really like it."

He keeps his Southern Heritage eagle collection, boasting the mighty eagle in various poses with the Confederate flag, in his office, along with a wide variety of eagle statuettes. He favors the one with eagles and dolphins as well as a round plate with an eagle's outstretched wing over the twin towers. He also has an eagle in flight beneath the former presidents' faces on Mt. Rushmore.

"I look for certain qualities when I buy

one," Robinson said. "Their eyes have to be right. Sharp, clear, strong. And personally, I would never buy one with a tear in its eye. It's just not true to the eagle's nature. And I don't buy them unless the color is in line with the natural color of eagles."

Robinson admits to having a few crystal eagles in his collection at home that are precious to him but said that typically he prefers the more natural look. He does however have a few wax, porcelain, clay and ceramic eagles, along with some that illuminate.

His collection isn't just about having eagles. It gives him a chance to open up and talk to other people about the birds. On many occasions, he's given them away.

"I don't give away the ones I get as gifts," he said. "But sometimes, I'll be out and one will catch my eye. I'll buy it and then when I get it home, figure out that I've already got that one. I guess it makes sense that I'd buy it all over again if I liked it the first time I saw it. I have so many, it's hard to keep track of them. So I like to keep a few of the extras in the office. Some days I just feel like giving one away."

He can't pinpoint when he decided to become a collector of eagles but remembers admiring them as a child. "I guess I started collecting them after Vietnam," he said. Robinson spent 23 months during his first tour in 1964. "I stayed to keep my brother from coming over. He was getting married. But when I went home he did go over. He was in the Army." Robinson was deployed again to Vietnam in 1970 and ended up working security for the U.S. embassy in Australia.

"I never regretted a minute of service as a Marine," said Robinson, who began civil service work 18 years ago after retiring from the Marine Corps. He transferred to Huntsville from Albany, Ga., in May 2002.

Two years ago he spent some time at an eagle preserve in Cape Canaveral, Fla., eagle watching.

"I just love to watch them," he said. "When I was stationed in Yuma, (Ariz.) I used to go to the Colorado mountains and sit and watch them for hours. They're magnificent — what freedom looks like to me."

Scholastic achievement awards worthy of merit

Officer/civilian women invite applications

By **MICHELLE ARCHER**
Officer and Civilian Women's Club

The 2003-04 Officer and Civilian Women's Club Merit Award Program is well under way and you or one of your family members may be eligible to apply.

Applicants may compete in one of four categories: high school senior, undergraduate, graduate and member/spouse. In addition, they 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.

Previous award winners may compete in succeeding years, but may win only once in each category. Furthermore, students receiving full scholarships may not apply.

Merit Awards are based on scholastic achievement, citizenship and sincere desire to pursue higher education. Their purpose is to help offset the cost of tuition, books and related educational fees.

Applications are available at OCWC board meetings and luncheons through January 2004. You may also call the OCWC Merit Award chairperson, Michelle Archer, at 534-5783.

■ Retiree among veterans honored for valor

Hero

continued from page 1

Christopher spent six weeks in a hospital in Naples, Italy, and returned to his battalion in Germany. He left the Army as a captain.

After the war, he earned a degree in accounting from Andrew Jackson in Nashville. In 1958 he joined Redstone Arsenal as the chief of procurement, plans and policy for the then Ballistic Missile Defense Command. He retired after 24 years of civilian service.

Christopher will be inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes on Nov. 10 at the Von Braun Center. The Military Heritage Commission recognizes veterans cited for valor in military action.

Steve Ray, second vice president of the commission, personally convinced Christo-

pher that he should be inducted. Ray said he found out Christopher had a Bronze Star through talking with him at various veteran activities.

"I knew he had the proper qualifications," Ray said. "Anyone with the proper qualifications should be inducted."

Christopher has two children: Cmdr. Steve Christopher, a dentist in the Navy, and Lisa McMullen of Cartersville, Ga.

Others being inducted into the Hall of Heroes include Raymond Tomlinson for his Distinguished Service Cross, George Patch for his Silver Star Medal and Bronze Star Medal with valor, Zygmund Jastrebski for his Distinguished Flying Cross with four oak leaf clusters, Ralph Weber III for his Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with combat valor, the late Andrew Chris for his Bronze Star Medal with valor and Douglas Prestegaard for his Bronze Star Medal with valor.

■ Redstone's first lady prepares for next assignment

Dodgen

continued from page 1

way out about doing my FLORA duties," she said. "You know, First Lady of Redstone Arsenal. It was hard for me to get into being so active because I'm not a super social person. I'm actually very shy. And I do not like to speak in public. I've done it a couple times ... This was such a different pace. There's so many functions. I just wasn't used to that. But my second year, when I knew what to expect, it was much easier. I enjoyed it so much more."

In her official capacity, Dodgen serves as honorary Army Community Service volunteer coordinator, honorary president of the Officer and Civilian Women's Club and adviser to the Thrift Shop. Her schedule filled quickly with various functions and events she attends throughout the year.

"Leslie Dodgen has been an active, involved honorary president for the OCWC," club president Chris Swart said. "She volunteers without hesitation for the many activities and fund-raisers sponsored by the OCWC. As such she was an integral part of the team that enabled the OCWC to donate \$19,000 to many local and national military and civilian charities last year."

"The art auction with OCWC was great," Dodgen said. "My degree is in art but I'd never been to an art auction. I ended up buying all this stuff ... I under-

stand the allure of auctions now. It's so exciting.

"Anything that (Huntsville) Mayor (Loretta) Spencer has her finger in I want to go to," Dodgen said. "She's a wonderful lady. She does everything first class. Senator (Jeff) Enfinger — his events are always fun."

Even with all the added responsibilities, she still managed to set aside time to continue playing tennis.

"That's my big hobby," she said. "I've met some great friends through tennis. It's the one thing that remains sacrosanct — the one part of my life that's totally unconnected with Larry's career — where I feel like it's just me. I think it's important for everyone to have that."

There is one old friend she's never left behind, her dog Lou Lou. "She goes everywhere with me," Dodgen said of the nearly 15-year-old pooch.

A few interests have fallen by the wayside since arriving at Redstone Sept. 10, 2001, most importantly her collage artwork. Dodgen loves almost any kind of artwork that has to do with paper. She was able to continue to do a little collage work by designing original greeting cards for the staff at ACS.

As with the familiar cadence of military life, it's once again time to pack up and move on. This time it's back to Washington, a place Dodgen feels she can slip right back into and pick up with old friends.

"It will be hard to leave the people here," she said. "Great, great people."

Arts and crafts center expands palette

New classes starting now

By **ADRIAN BAKER**
For the Rocket

The June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center, hidden away on the corner of Vincent Drive and Gray Road, is taking crafting, artistic instruction, and wood work to a whole new level.

In early summer, four new contractors were asked to come in and teach various innovative techniques for your artistic recreation and enjoyment, significantly expanding the Arts & Crafts program capabilities. Nationally renowned artist Donna Dewberry certified Christa Ayers, the new one-stroke painting instructor, in this revolutionary technique.

"One-stroke painting is performed by 'double loading' the paintbrush, applying highlights and shading in one stroke," Ayers said. "Beginners can do this with no experience necessary and it can add much more variety to the portfolio of established artists. The medium for one-stroke painting is wholly acrylic paint and I would say the epitome of the art is to learn to paint the famous Donna Dewberry Rose."

Cost is \$30 per three-hour class and the instructor provides all class materials.

Ardis Eberle, gallery glass instructor, is also certified by Dewberry for one-stroke painting but teaches you how to put a new twist on stained glass.

"This new art form can be applied to Plexiglas, china, window panes, and glass, creating the effect of a \$600-800 window for minimal cost and it makes a lovely addition to your home," Eberle said.

Photos by Adrian Baker



GETTING FRAMED— Josh Sutton is a certified matting and framing instructor.

This class is taught the second Thursday of each month from 6-9 p.m. Eberle described the technique as "using paint and liquid lead to achieve the look of stained glass windows."

"The paint dries transparent, letting in light and giving the look of stained glass," she said. "It's a very simple technique to learn and there are no limits to the measure of difficulty or simplicity you can achieve in this art form."

The next project Eberle teaches will be gallery glass on an 8-by-10-inch Plexiglas and the cost is \$40 for the three-hour class. The instructor will provide all the materials. No prior training is necessary and you can complete your project in one class period. Eberle has items and work listed on e-bay and you may reach her at ardis3@bellsouth.net.

Professional Scrapbooking is now taught as well. Class instructor Diane Sterling, a military spouse, has compiled an array of photo journals, homemade embellishments, techniques, and hand lettering to help you with your memories.

"Scrapbooking is more than



CLASSY GLASS— Instructor Ardis Eberle shows samples of gallery glass.



FLOWER POWER— This is a finished gallery glass piece by Ardis Eberle.



WOODSHED— These wood shop creations are by Sieford Schultz and Roy Bruton.

putting some pictures in an album," she said. "It's about telling a story, establishing memories for future generations, and doing so in a way that hopefully accents the era in which you lived."

Sterling is teaching classes in Iris and Origami paper folding for picture scrapbooks, how to make homemade embellishments and accents to save you money, scrapbook themes, journaling, card making, and more.

"The real plus to homemade embellishments is that they save you a lot of money over buying them in a store," she said.

Scrapbook classes are offered every Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. Open Scrapbooking Crops will be added on Fridays from 1-4 p.m. Open Crops will include a small class on a technique or idea; and an instructor will be available to answer any questions you have about your layouts or techniques. You can pre-register for classes or crops at the Arts & Crafts Center (building 3615) or go online to <http://www.redstonemwr.com/html/art.html>.

In addition to all these new classes, the Arts & Crafts Center still teaches Matting and Framing every Friday and Saturday at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. The instructor is Josh Sutton, certified framing instructor. For more information, call him at 876-7951.

Terre Corley, teaches many art media including basket weaving, drawing, watercolor, oil, acrylic painting, pottery, as well as pen and ink. She also teaches how to make precious metal clay jewelry which she described as "99 percent pure silver when fired, so you can make whatever beautiful pieces you like for show or your own jewelry box."

Basket weaving classes are one-part classes taught from 5-9 p.m. on the second or third Wednesday of every month for \$35, supplies included.

The most inconspicuous advantage of the Arts & Crafts Center is undoubtedly its fully

functional wood working shop. Instructors Seiford Shultz and Roy Bruton can "help you with any project from chairs and oak home entertainment centers to huge 32-by-15-foot grape arbors," Schultz said. Combined wood shop experience between Seiford and Schultz is 82 years and counting, making them experts in helping you with your project. Use of the wood shop requires one initial Wood Safety Class (\$25 for project materials) taught every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m. After the Safety Class, you can use the wood shop for \$2 per hour any time the center is open for business.

"The obvious benefit to making something is that it's custom made to your preferences, much less expensive than buying retail, and you have the satisfaction of making the item yourself," Schultz said.

Charles "Ski" Shalansky, Arts & Crafts Center activity administrator, is always ready to help you with any questions or comments. He formerly managed the center before retiring from full time work earlier this year.

Gail Glass, the new Arts & Crafts activity manager, began searching for experienced, certified artists and instructors to assist patrons with various projects. She believes the center now has an array of talents to suit almost every field and skill level.

"The expansion of the program is just fantastic, and the instructors are really impressive in their work, they're enthusiastic about their work, and it will definitely be a benefit to the Redstone community as a whole," she said.

For more information, call the center at 876-7951. You can also view the calendar of classes online at <http://www.redstonemwr.com/html/art.html>.

Editor's note: Adrian Baker is an advertising specialist for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Learn about annual American Education Week

Army makes promise to teach every soldier

By SAM WHITAKER
For the Rocket

Army educators are joining educators from across the country to celebrate American Education Week. From Nov. 16-22, the Army will refocus on strengthening its resolve to educate soldier students to meet the challenges of leadership today and tomorrow.

This year's theme is "Army Education for Every Soldier — The Army's Promise," which underscores the philosophy that started AEW. Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 29 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the National Education Association and the American Legion met for the first time in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education. The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education.

In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly called for the designation of one week each year to spotlight education. The first observance of American Education Week occurred Dec. 4-10, 1921. American Education Week is now observed during

the week before Thanksgiving.

This year the Education Center celebrates AEW with a kickoff luncheon Nov. 17 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley. The luncheon will involve educational leaders throughout Huntsville and Madison County and will recognize the Soldier of the Year, Quarter and Month.

On Nov. 18, educators will provide selected readings to children at the Child Development Center. Also on Nov. 18, the Education Center will sponsor a 5:30 a.m. West Point briefing at Heiser Hall for soldiers E-5 and below.

The Army Continuing Education System offers a variety of programs to assist soldiers in obtaining their college degrees. These programs take into consideration soldiers' busy careers and their personal time, whether leisure or with family. No longer tied to the traditional classroom type of education, soldiers can now earn their degrees through a variety of distance learning programs sponsored through the Education Center. The Army is offering tuition assistance for active duty soldiers at 100 percent if the cost does not exceed \$250 per credit hour, up to \$4,500 per fiscal year. Stop by the Education Center in building 3222 for more information on ACES programs and services.

Editor's note: Sam Whitaker is an education services specialist.



Photo by Skip Vaughn
PROCLAMATION— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone, signs the proclamation for American Education Week. Looking on are education services officer Linda Cameron and education services specialist Sam Whitaker.

Technology boosting soldiers' survival rate in Iraq

Body armor improves from older systems

By ERIC CRAMER
Army News Service

Wounded soldiers are much more likely to survive their injuries today than in past wars, so say numbers from the Army Medical Command office of medical history.

John Greenwood, chief of the office of medical history, said of the 1,077 soldiers injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom and

Operation Enduring Freedom, only 18 have died of their wounds, a rate of only 1.6 percent. This is less than half the 3.68 death rate for wounded soldiers in Vietnam. The rate for the 1993 Persian Gulf War, in which 354 soldiers were wounded, but only two died of wounds, was about one-half of one percent.

Greenwood said a combination of new technologies and changes in procedures have driven the improvement.

The improvement was noted in an Oct. 27 article by Dave Moniz in *USA Today*. Moniz stated that since the war in Iraq began, only one U.S. servicemember

has been killed for every seven injured; and that's more than three times better than World War II when one died for every two wounded.

Another reason soldiers' survivability has improved lies in the body armor they wear, according to Col. John Norwood, project manager for soldier equipment. He said the current armor, the Small Arms Protective Vest, is a big improvement over older systems.

"It's really a three-part system," Norwood said. "The outer vest looks a lot like the older flak vests, but it's made out of a Kevlar weave. It can stop 9 mm ball ammunition."

He said the vest is lined with four plates of boron carbide ceramic material. "These are backed with Spectra Shield, and can stop a 7.62 bullet, at muzzle velocity. So if a soldier is hit by an AK-47, which fires a 7.62 round, this vest can stop it," Norwood said.

Feedback from soldiers using the vest has been anecdotal, but positive, Norwood said.

"What we're hearing from the field is that troops love the vest and are wearing it. We have the specific report of a private first class in Afghanistan who was hit in the chest while wearing his vest. He got up and continued the mission until he was hit in the chest a second time, then he decided not to expose himself to fire again," Norwood said.

The private was uninjured and never needed to see a doctor, Norwood said, and has since been promoted to specialist.

When a soldier needs medical care, Col. John Holcomb, commander, Army Institute of Surgical Research, Chief Trauma Division, said positioning of surgical teams on the battlefield has been an important factor in improving the survival rate.

"Surgical teams have been 'forward'

since World War II," Holcomb said. "In this conflict, there was a lot of attention paid to where they were placed."

Holcomb said planners had forward surgical teams in positions that made it easier to get soldiers to medical care as rapidly as possible. He said medical forces on the battlefield are also better trained and have more experience in dealing with trauma than in the past.

"The trauma training and trauma experience were a key factor in OIF," Holcomb said. "They respected the 'golden hour' and that led to better survival of soldiers."

Holcomb said the "golden hour" is the first hour after a person is injured.

"The idea is, within one hour, if you need an operation, you're getting an operation," Holcomb said.

He said new technologies are also making it easier to stop bleeding on the battlefield.

"Bleeding is the leading preventable cause of death on a battlefield. We've developed better tourniquets, better bandages and better resuscitation techniques to deal with that problem," Holcomb said.

Older resuscitation techniques sometimes caused soldiers to become "over hydrated," contributing to further bleeding. Holcomb said new techniques keep that from happening.

Although they have only been deployed on an experimental basis, the Army has also fielded new bandages that help control bleeding.

"Fibrin" bandages contain a protein that helps blood to clot. "Chitosan" bandages are coated in an adhesive, derived from shrimp shells, that helps close wounds, promoting healing, and preventing bleeding. The experimental bandages have seen only limited use but are expected to increase the survival rate for wounded soldiers.



Arnews photo
VESTED INTEREST— Kevlar vests, such as the ones worn by soldiers at this checkpoint, have helped improve the survival rate of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Sports & Recreation

Hunter orientations

Redstone Arsenal Hunting Orientations, for everyone planning to hunt on post, will be held at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 6 and Nov. 20 at the Recreation Center, building 3711. Participants only have to attend one session. For information call Missy 876-4868 or Mike 876-0901.

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. Coming games include Nov. 10, Philadelphia vs. Green

Bay; Nov. 17, Pittsburgh vs. San Francisco; 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.

Bumper bowling

Child and Youth Services is now registering children for "YABA DABA DO"

bumper bowling to be held at Redstone Lanes. Sessions will be held Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m. and cost is \$25 for each six-week session. First session is Nov. 4 to Dec. 9 and second session is Jan. 13 to Feb. 17. Preschool bumper bowling will allow your child to experience the excitement and fun of this lifelong leisure sport. Instruction is provided by certified YABA youth bowling instructors. It's open to all children 3-5 whose parents can access, work on, or live on Redstone Arsenal. Transportation to and from Redstone Lanes will be provided for Child Development Center children. Tennis shoes or soft-soled shoes are required. For more information, call 876-3704 or 313-3699.



Conferences & Meetings

Protestant women

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets 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.

Town hall

The AMCOM Town Hall, with Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of Aviation and Missile Command, is Nov. 12 from 9-10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. The meeting will be broadcast on Team Redstone television channel 42, and via Internet portal TV to computer desktops equipped with the IPTV application. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7 of the auditorium. Badges must be worn by all attending.

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.



Miscellaneous

Merit awards

The Officer and Civilian Women's Club 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, undergrad-

uate, 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. Civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and call Jane Wyatt 876-4106 or Maj. Felicia Carter 313-3867.

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.gsauctions.gov. For more information, call 544-4667.

Logistics achievement awards

The 2003 Ernest Young Logistics Achievement Awards will be presented Thursday at a luncheon ceremony at Officers and Civilians Club. The award winners for the Professional/Technical and Management/Executive categories will be selected from 32 nominations submitted from Team Redstone organizations. Integrated Materiel Management Center nominees include Imtiaz Ather, O.V. Bonner, John Chapman, Kathy Elfrink, Thomas Fitzgerald, Judith Gerley, John Henrikson, Manuel Jones, Marsha Lawson, Mitchelene Pryor-Betts, Elaine Rucker, Dennis Urhahn and Bernhard Wiegand. Nominees

from the Acquisition Center include Sheri Baskins, Cheryl Moore Davis, Charles Miller and Brian Wood. Nominees from the PEO Aviation offices include Ronald Dalton, Michael Haragan, Capt. Bryan Phillips, Barbara Quick and Ralph Smith. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems Project Office nominees include Anthony Grayson, Ani Powers and Terri Schwierling. Nominees from Letterkenny and Corpus Christi Army Depots include Hallie Dubia and Carol Bullington. Missile Defense Agency nominee is James Hatchett; Lower Tier Project Office nominee is Gifford Lee; representing PEO for Tactical Missiles is Lisha Adams; Space and Missile Defense Command nominee is Lt. Col. Robert Steward; and the Garrison nominee is William Holliday. Tickets for the luncheon are \$13. For more information, call Faye Yates 876-1757.

Thrift shop

The 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. Starting today through Dec. 12, the shop will accept Christmas items. On Dec. 6, it will have a special shopping area for children under 12. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be there to visit with the children. Also, don't miss the Big Brown Bag sale. For more information, call 881-6992.

Education week luncheon

The American Education Week Luncheon is Nov. 17 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Lucy Baxley, lieutenant governor of Alabama. Tickets are available at the club for \$16 per person or \$150 for a table of eight. Deadline to buy tickets is Nov. 7. For information call 830-CLUB.

Education open house

In conjunction with American Education Week, the Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road, will hold an Open House. Everyone is invited to see what is available at the center Nov. 19 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.

Graduate classes

Florida Tech Graduate Center begins registration for spring 2004 semester Nov. 10 at building 5304, room 4326. Class meets weekly from 5-8 p.m. at building 5304. For more information, call 881-7878.

Job fair

Whether you're looking for a new job or just a change in careers, don't miss the Job Fair. Many employers will be available to discuss employment opportunities. The Job Fair is Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Recreation Center, building 3711. This event is sponsored by Army Community Service and is open to all active and retired military spouses, veterans, guards, reservists and transitioning employees. "It will provide a unique opportunity to meet with many local employers in one place at one time," a prepared release said. "So come dressed professionally and bring lots of resumes." ACS also invites you to

attend classes for resume writing and interviewing tips. Classes are scheduled Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 876-5397 to register.

Wireless discounts

Verizon Wireless, a provider of wireless voice and data services, offers discounts to all Department of Defense agencies and DoD employees in the North Alabama area. 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. You should call Ben Renfroe (256) 509-4353 or e-mail him at ben.renfroe@verizonwireless.com.

Blood drives

Scheduled blood drives include: Nov. 6 – from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400, and from 7-12:30 at the Sparkman Center. Nov. 7 – from 7-12:30 at the Sparkman Center. Nov. 14 – from 7-12:30 at building 4545. Nov. 20 – from 7-12:30 at building 7613, and from 7-12:30 at building 4488. Nov. 21 – from 8-1:30 at NASA building 4316, 8-noon at SMDC and 7-noon at Corps of Engineers.

Marine Corps birthday

The Marine Corps Detachment would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to help celebrate the 228th birthday of the Marine Corps at 6 p.m. Friday at the Officers and Civilians Club. Anyone interesting in attending can call 1st Sgt. Hardee 842-2214 or Maj. Johnson 842-2213 or stop by the Marine Detachment in building 3412 for ticket information.

Astronomical society

Von Braun Astronomical Society and NASA astronomer Jessica Gaskin will present "The Astronomy Mythos," Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wernher Von Braun Planetarium in Monte Sano State Park. For non-members, admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Weather permitting, a star party, using the big VBAS telescopes, will follow. For more information, call Mitzi Adams (256) 961-7626.

Health fair

A "Veterans Health Fair," sponsored by the Birmingham VA Medical Center, is today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. All veterans and their spouses are invited.

West Point applications

Each year, approximately 150 Regular Army soldiers are offered admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Although some soldiers are offered direct admission to West Point, the majority attend USMAPS. The prep school provides the appropriate academic, military and physical instruction to qualify and motivate soldiers for admission to and graduation from West Point, and for commissioning as Army second lieutenants. Maj. Cliff Hodges, from the West Point Admissions

Office, will be at the Heiser Hall, Redstone Arsenal Nov. 18 at 5:30 a.m. to give an admissions brief to all soldiers on the process of making application. Interested soldiers should contact their chain of command and arrange for a time to attend the briefing. All interested soldiers are encouraged to attend regardless of high school academic performance. For more information, call Hodges (845) 938-5780 or DSN 688-5780.

Dining out

Col. Richard De Fatta, project manager for Short Range Air Defense, would like to invite all former SHORAD employees to attend the annual SHORAD Dining Out, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This is an opportunity to see old friends, catch up on what's going on, and enjoy a fine dinner. Several former project managers have already agreed to attend. Cost is \$34 per person. For more information, call Capt. Jason Shepard or Bonnie Coleman 313-3171.

English language classes

English as a Second Language classes are now available on computer at the Army Education Center. Sam Whitaker has three levels of classes loaded on seven computers. He can be reached at 876-9762 or 876-9761. Army Community Service is offering ESL classes on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. for foreign-born military spouses. The Education Center is offering a great opportunity for spouses to improve their English skills at their own pace and schedule.

Vendor forum

The Post Restaurant Fund will hold a vendor forum, with displays from General Services Administration vendors, today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sparkman Cafeteria.

Worker compensation

The Injury Compensation Office of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is here to assist you if you have suffered an on-the-job injury or illness. Its mission is to assist injured workers in applying for workers' compensation benefits following an on-the-job injury or illness and in returning to duty as soon as possible. "Please report the injury or illness to us as soon as possible by completing a CA-1 Form, "Federal Employee's Notice of Traumatic Injury and Claim for Continuation of Pay/Compensation" or a CA-2 Form, "Notice of Occupational Disease and Claim for Compensation." For quicker claim processing, visit the CPAC home page or the web site at <https://intranet2.redstone.army.mil/wcw> and use the electronic data interchange system to submit these forms. The EDI system allows you or your supervisor to complete the CA-1 or CA-2 and submit it electronically to CPAC. This electronic process also expedites all benefits to the injured worker. The injury compensation specialists are Debra Hammond and Kim Stoufer who are located in Sparkman building 5308, room 8140 and can be reached at 842-9038 or 876-5294.

See Announcements on page 22