

Redstone Rocket

VOL. 52 No. 13

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL

April 2, 2003

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another championship
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'Bat cave' operating around clock

AMCOM Operations Center
providing wartime support

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Two television screens on the wall show network news of the war. Five clocks on another wall reflect various time zones. Dry erase boards chart the "taskers" or things-to-do. Tasks come in from higher headquarters by secure Internet. People talk together and on the phone within this 2,000-square-foot area, pausing sometimes to check the news for updates.

This is life behind the vault door. It's the AMCOM Operations Center, an around-the-clock war room in the basement of building 5300 at the Sparkman Center. The operations center is part of the Readiness Directorate under the Integrated Materiel Management Center of the Aviation and Missile Command.

The operations center is run by Army reservists, all individual mobilization augmentees. There are 14 reservists — including six from Huntsville and the rest from California, Florida, North Carolina,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

SECURE WORKPLACE— Lt. Col. Phil Bragg talks with Col. Steve Spatola outside the AMCOM Operations Center.

See Center on page 4

Income tax filing deadline only days away

Free service available
for Redstone community

By Capt. WILLIAM CARPENTER

Tax assistance officer

With less than a month remaining in the tax season, eligible clients are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Redstone Tax Center by calling 842-1040.

During the first seven weeks of opera-

tion, the 2003 Tax Center has prepared more than 2,178 federal and state returns, which has saved clients in the Redstone community more than \$203,269 in tax preparation and filing fees; and the tax center has recovered more than \$1.3 million in refunds for its clients. The tax center can prepare returns for any state that requires filing. In addition, the center can e-file federal returns and most state returns for faster receipt of refunds.

The center is staffed by three full-time

income tax preparers: Sgt. Bryan Smith of MEDDAC, Spec. Albert Newsome of HHC, Garrison and PFC Christine Noriega of Delta Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion. The center also has the following part-time income tax preparers: 1st Lt. Timothy Horning, 1st Lt. Billy Whigham, and SSgt. Louis McGee (all members of Alpha Company 131st), Randy Duff, Estan Rodriguez, David Wyatt, JoAnna Brunson, Cindy Van Rassen and Deborah Carpenter. The center's officer-in-charge, Capt. William Carpenter, and NCO-in-charge, Sgt. Brad Silva, supervise all center personnel.

Clients seeking tax preparation assistance should bring the following items to their appointment: all Form W-2s, 1098s, 1099s and other reportable forms received for the 2002 tax year; Social Security cards for all family members; bank routing number and account number for direct deposit; a copy of last year's tax return (if available); dependent care provider information to include name, address, phone number and EIN or SSN (if applicable); any records of deductible expenses that you wish to claim on your return; and records reflecting the dates and prices for both the sale and purchase of any stock or other investments sold in 2002.

Center personnel will analyze whether it is in the client's best interest to claim itemized deductions (i.e. mortgage interest, real estate taxes, un-reimbursed medical expenses, charitable contributions, etc.) or take the standard deduction. The most advantageous filing status and deduction



Photo by Claus Martel/AMCOM

Spring scene

Warm, sunny weather paints a pleasing landscape of the Sparkman Center courtyard March 27.

See Taxes on page 5

Walk the walk toward fitness

Currently in America, physical flab is the rule not the exception. With that in mind, I ask the question: What can every physically able American do to help our troops besides the obligatory American flag slapped on side of the family SUV?

Yes, absolutely we should help our neighbors. Yes, absolutely we should support our troops. And yes absolutely we should support our president, but we should also support ourselves by getting in excellent physical shape.

Too many Americans are currently super-sized and will not get off their butts to change their lifestyle for the better.

Your voluntary warfighters have changed their lifestyle completely by being ripped out of their comfort zone and placed in harm's way, and the least we can do to help support our troops is to get ourselves in better physical condition.

This change of lifestyle and increased physical conditioning may lead to a better insight, connection and support to our

people in uniform.

When I go for a 10-mile run, mountain bike ride or strenuous hike in the woods, one thing that really motivates me is the fact that I know that our military men and women are doing the best they can for me and the least I can do for them is to keep myself in good physical condition.

Being in shape can: help me feel connected to or service men and women; help me keep a positive mental attitude; and reduce my likelihood of sickness and disease.

We as Americas should at least try to emulate the physical condition and mental toughness of our troops to not only increase our support for them in a new and different way, but also show the world that Americans are not lazy slouches but are ready to do whatever it takes to support our troops.

America, you can talk the talk but can you walk the walk?

Gary Braden
contractor, Sverdrup

What to do in emergency

Have you ever thought about what you would do during an emergency at Redstone Arsenal?

At a recent town meeting, I received a request to print an article in the newspaper about individual responses to terrorism and other safety concerns on the Arsenal.

As with all threats to our safety, vigilance and preparedness are the keys to saving lives. I encourage each of you to be involved in the process, and report suspicious activity.

If you see suspicious activity on the Arsenal, report it to the Military Police at 876-2222 or 955-6619.

If you see suspicious activity off the Arsenal, contact your local police. Please call as you see the activity — don't delay.

The Office of Homeland Security has established local emergency procedures to follow at home that have been published on the web and TV. Those procedures also apply to all who live on the Arsenal. One recommendation is to develop an individual emergency response plan based on that guidance and installation and local supplements and plans. Those procedures are supplemented by installation and local

response plans. These plans and responses are managed by the installation emergency management team. The management team which consists of trained leadership and emergency responders from Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Madison, Madison County and state and federal authorities. This team continuously plans and exercises emergency situations including terrorist attacks in accordance with installation response plans.

Some safety concerns, such as a fire, will require you to evacuate. Other safety concerns such as a tornado, a chemical release, or a credible terrorist threat, require you to shelter in place.

When there is an imminent danger, you will hear a five minute long steady siren. A message will also be sent out through the normal media stations that we use for inclement weather, so tune to local television/radio for current information. (Please remember, in good weather, the sirens are tested the first Wednesday of each month at noon for 10-15 seconds.)

When you hear these messages, you should immediately "shelter in place." If

See **Emergency** on page 3

Yellow ribbon reflects support

Within the community of Scottsboro, there is a growing campaign titled "Operation Drumbeat." The objective is to send a uniquely strong, concentrated message of respect and support to the soldiers, all the soldiers, in the Persian Gulf. With over five miles of yellow ribbon accumulated, we aim to come together as an entire community by simultaneously hanging a yellow ribbon on our front door, mail box, light post, or anything that can be seen, leaving the entire town, all of a sudden, yellow! The focal point is beyond the gesture of the yellow ribbon, emphasizing the strength of the silent masses via a coordinated, simultaneous effort; hence the name Drumbeat.

Upon completion of the operation, our objective will be to send the message to Iraq. On the rare occasion that our soldiers get exposure to incoming media, they see Americans burning flags and protesters. We all know that this is the type of news that the large media agencies tend to report due to its shocking

effects. We want to be able to remind the soldiers that the silent masses are still here, we still support them unconditionally, and we are by far the strongest voices in the world, even though we generally keep quiet.

Sending such a message remains a great challenge. Although some military leaders have heard of the operation and shown support, their hands are tied for obvious reasons. We seek a courier strong enough, influential enough to deliver a message, and touch the heart of every soldier in the coalition forces.

As we speak, great committees have been formed to assemble people and ribbon to produce, and distribute the yellow ribbons. Volunteers are putting forth great sacrifices in hopes that this silent gesture is heard. If you have any input of any sort, any suggestions, or have any support to offer, then an entire community thanks you.

Dan Clary
Scottsboro

An open lane random survey

What are your thoughts on the war in Iraq?

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



Seph Rogers, retired Army spouse

"I think it's the right thing. We're 100 percent behind our President Bush and the decision he's made and pray for him daily."



Pvt. Nichola McClure

"I think that it's wonderful that our people over there are being so courageous. It's about time for us to be doing something about this; it's been going on so long. I hope everyone comes home safe — especially if I have to go, I want to come home safe."

Pvt. Sarah Kolbek
"I support everyone over there and I know they will do what they should to win this battle."



Stuart Henderson, production manager PS Magazine

"I really feel like our president has taken a big risk, but it's the right thing to do. He's doing the right thing in spite of the fact that it is not politically popular. I really support him and our soldiers and hope they all come home safely."

Redstone Rocket

Editorial office 876-1500 Editorial fax 955-9138 Retail Advertising 532-4539 Classified Advertising 532-4300 Fax 532-4349

The *Redstone Rocket* is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in *The Redstone Rocket* through the Public Affairs Office, Army Aviation and Missile Command, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the *Redstone Rocket* is The Huntsville Times, located at 2317 S. Memorial Parkway, Huntsville AL 35801.

The deadline for display and commercial classified is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

email: redstone-rocket@redstone.army.mil
Rocket articles are available online at the following:
http://www.redstone.army.mil/pub_affairs/

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The *Redstone Rocket* is distributed free of cost to Army personnel at Redstone Arsenal, and

Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates off post for *The Rocket* are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual) We do not send subscription renewal notices.

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Force protection takes community's cooperation

Warning signs outlined for potential terrorism

By GARY L. WILSON
Redstone force protection officer

Terrorism is a form of political communication that uses violence to send messages. These early messages of protest and changes in attitude leading to violence, as well as the observable preparations for a violent attack, can provide early warnings of a coming attack, if we are alert, observe and report.

Terrorists usually follow a seven-step process for an attack. That cycle is:

- Select a target.
- Initial surveillance performed by non-professionals (usually new inexperienced members).
- Plan the attack.
- Final target selection.
- Deploy to the target area.
- Final surveillance by professionals.
- Attack.

Redstone Arsenal employees can help to protect our personnel, information and critical resources by reporting certain activities that could be observed during this cycle. Although a terrorist attack on Redstone is assessed as unlikely, we must remain alert to suspicious activity. Following simple security measures serves as the best deterrent to a terrorist act. Look for and report any of the following potential indicators to your nearest military police, security office or force protection office.

Report the following suspicious activity:

- Signs, speeches or conversations that suggest violence toward authority, leaders, ethnic or political groups.
- Information that members of local organized groups are quitting or being expelled as not fitting in.
- Persons emotionally expressing feelings of being under attack, harassed or targeted by some other group or person.
- Persons emotionally or repeatedly blaming others for some problem and

advocating violence as a solution to the problem.

- Multiple off-post thefts of funds, firearms or explosives.
- A stranger loitering and suspiciously observing government buildings, people or activities.
- A stranger asking unusual, personal or detailed questions regarding Redstone personnel, buildings or activities.
- A person taking pictures or making sketches of personnel or a building.
- An unusual, oversized or inappropriately parked vehicle (particularly in the vicinity of large numbers of people or special events).
- Abandoned parcel or suitcases.
- Suspicious, oversized or unusual mail.

What type of information should you report? Report the activity. Describe any people observed, i.e., name, sex, age, appearance, style and color of clothes. Report date and time of the activity. Describe the location of the activity. Describe the type of vehicle, color, distinguishing marks and license plate. Describe package, suitcase, or mail, i.e., type, color, size and distinguishing marks. Describe the nature/details of any conversations or messages. And provide copies of any flyers, pamphlets or messages that can be obtained without personal risk or exposure.

Report suspicious activity to either the Provost Marshal Office at 876-2222 or the Force Protection Office at 876-6003 or 313-3619.

Residents advised on emergency response

Emergency

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you are inside a building, close all windows and doors and immediately shut off the air conditioning/heating system. The challenge is to limit air exchanges and any opening in the building increases the potential for exchanging safe internal air for potentially contaminated external air. If you are outside, go inside the nearest building. If the event is a tornado, go to a safe room. If you are at work, follow instructions of supervisors and emergency personnel.

Once shelter in place has been initiated, no one should expect to leave the building or open any door or window until the event has been declared "all clear" so as not to put others at risk. On the installation, the all-clear notification and additional guidance will be announced by public address systems and Military Police loudspeakers.

If you are near an affected site, you may be approached by first responders. First responders are the firemen, police

and medical personnel who are trained to respond to a wide variety of contingencies. They practice that training daily. Please do what the first responders tell you to do — they are trained to keep you safe. In the event of a hazardous materials release, first responders may be required to notify evacuees and give them a route out of the area and a destination.

If you have children that are in school or the Arsenal Youth Services, your individual emergency response plans should include an understanding of the procedures at that school or development center. Most local schools and the Arsenal Youth Services have emergency plans. If you are not familiar with those plans and or have questions, please ask.

Some web sites that have useful information on preparedness are <http://www.fema.gov>, <http://www.redcross.org>, <http://madisoncountyma.com> and <http://www.ready.gov/>. If you would like further information or have questions, call 876-6003.

Col. Bob Devlin
garrison commander

Workers' vigilance wanted

Suspicious activities should be reported to the Redstone Arsenal Police at 876-2222.

Report suspicious vehicles that appear to be broken down either on or in areas in close proximity to the installation; appear to be broken down or stalled and are obstructing traffic flow onto the installation.

Report suspicious individuals that: appear to be conducting surveil-

lance of Redstone Arsenal facilities; are asking questions about Redstone Arsenal personnel or activities; are not complying with visitor control rules (not registering, wearing security identification badge, or staying with escort).

If faced with any of these situations; do not initiate corrective action. Call the Redstone Arsenal Police desk, 876-2222.

New calibration equipment ready for fielding

Transfer ceremony
 scheduled April 7

By Dr. CAROL SEDLACEK
 For the Rocket

The Aviation and Missile Command will hold a ceremony April 7 at 1 p.m. to transfer its newest calibration and test equipment, CALSET 2000, for fielding to the Project Manager for Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment, the Project Manager for Measurement, Electric Power, and Protection, and the Program Executive Officer for Combat Support and Combat Service Support. The ceremony is open to all Team Redstone personnel.

The ceremony will be held in the parking area adjacent to the Sparkman Center's building 5308, and will include Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal; Brig. Gen. Roger Nadeau, PEO, CS and CSS; Col. Mark Jones, project manager for measurement, electric power and protection; John Johns, deputy to the commander for systems support; Richard Paul, product manager, PM-TMDE; and Robert Dubois, director, TMDE Activity.

In addition to the ceremony, the new



Courtesy photo

MODERN SHELTER— The AN/GSM-421 is a HUMVEE with a mounted shelter used for facilitating split-based operations.

equipment and the "vintage" equipment it replaces will be on display in the building 5308 parking area from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Personnel will be on hand to explain how the new equipment works in comparison to previous versions.

The new system, which is ready for fielding, is required to meet the needs of the Army's current and Objective Force. It replaces the old truck "expando" vans that previously housed the calibration and test equipment, but proved too big and heavy to deploy for today's faster and more mobile force.

The new set meets the Objective Force

requirements for a modular/cell organizational concept allowing for split-based operations. CALSET 2000 will incorporate Future Combat System embedded diagnostics to ease the process of TMDE maintenance. Calibration and diagnostics/repair meet digitization doctrinal requirements, improve efficiency, decrease training requirements, and insert modern electronic technology. Modular configuration will result in a calibration and maintenance system capable of satisfying current and projected requirements to 2020 and beyond.

These first production units consist of

a mobile calibration, air transportable, rapid deployable, "next generation," Secondary Transfer Standards van, AN/GSM-705, which houses five calibration/maintenance work stations and all transfer standard components. A second organic vehicle, AN/GSM-421, is a High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle with a mounted shelter which is used for facilitating split-based operations. The vehicle used to transport the van is a Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle, M1088A2 with mounted 15KW Tactical Quiet Generator. The CALSET 2000 will provide mobile and fixed-site calibration and repair support of transfer level test measurement and diagnostic equipment. The Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School provided trained and experienced calibrators and assisted in the design, user testing, and procedure validation in support of the PM-TMDE. OMEMS is also training new calibrators on operation, repair and deployment of the CALSET 2000.

Other mission responsibilities are to develop/analyze TMDE readiness reports, maintain required records/reports, cross-check calibration standards, and assist supported unit commanders with those

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Center gets tasks from field, tracks war operations

Center

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Colorado, Minnesota, Texas and Pennsylvania. There are seven Department of Army civilians, three civilian workers from elsewhere in the command, and 13 contractors — most of whom are retired non-commissioned officers.

"It's 24/7," Col. Steve Spatola, the AOC director, said. "And with plans to ramp up if the threat condition dictates it or on order. In other words, we don't get days off."

They do go home at night. The shifts overlap to provide continuity and time off. They work 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., from 2-11:30 p.m. or from 10 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.

The command operations center expanded after the terrorist attacks Sept. 11, 2001. Many of the reservists arrived at the end of October 2001 on orders for a year, not to exceed two years, and most

are on their second year.

"Since Sept. 11, 2001, we've processed over 3,000 tasks," Lt. Col. Phil Bragg, first-shift leader, said. "We are a team here."

He's sitting at a table in the tasks area. At nearby desks, contractors Ron Henry of SAIC and Ron Hawkins of Sparta watch for new things-to-do from the Army Materiel Command or from Department of Army or sometimes directly from the war theater. There might be questions from the field or requests for parts. Two display boards chart the status of recurring tasks; and two others chart one-time items. The tasks are given to the responsible organizations on post, the answers come back to the operations center and are then relayed to higher headquarters or the field.

A short walk away is the operations area, a 10-by-40-foot place for monitoring ongoing operations in the war zone. Paul Fulda of Sparta assists Maj. Eric

Kaempfer, the operations leader, who updates the commanding general daily at 7:30 a.m. They were to be joined this week by Capt. Robb Walker, a reservist from Texas. They keep track of current operations and troop movements over secure Internet.

Bruce Fairchild, the AMCOM force protection officer, works nearby with 1st Lt. Tom Gregory. "I oversee the force protection activities of all of our installations — Redstone, Corpus Christi (Texas) and Letterkenny (Pa.)," he said.

Dave Osborn, a logistics planner for Sytex Inc., does operations war-plan reviews and assists with operations research. Other people work in related areas.

"I have a bunch of good people down here," Spatola said.

A nearly 36-year Army veteran, Spatola arrived in January 2002 from Stockton, Calif., as a Letterkenny Depot individual mobilization augmentee. He belongs to the 6399th Readiness Training Unit, 91st Division, Camp Parks, in Dublin, Calif.,

and works as a loan consultant. Unless extended, his tour concludes January 2004.

"Our nickname for this place is the mushroom or bat cave, because there's no light down here," he quipped. "We accept homemade peanut butter cookies with fork marks."

Bragg, a Huntsville resident, arrived Oct. 29, 2001 from Camber Corporation where he'll return at the end of October. He belongs to the 184th IMA Detachment at Redstone. "I'm one of the drilling IMAs that's been here since 1984," he said. "I started as a captain but I'm one of the institutional memory guys."

He has seen people leave in tears after a 120-day tour of duty. Working long hours together in close quarters fosters a family atmosphere, it seems.

"I've really enjoyed working down here," Bragg said. "I love the tempo, love working with the people, love seeing something accomplished, doing my part. I'm going to be sorry seeing my second year come to an end."

Taxes

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status will be chosen to result in the lowest tax liability and highest tax refund, if applicable. Every taxpayer is eligible to take a standard deduction in an amount according to his or her filing status. For example, a married couple filing a joint return for 2002 is allowed a standard deduction equal to \$7,850; a single person \$4,700; married filing separate \$3,925; and head of household \$6,900. Unless your individual deductions (also called "itemized" expenses) add up to more than your applicable standard deduction amount, it makes no sense to use itemized deductions. Nonetheless, some expenses such as moving expenses, traditional IRA contributions, qualified student loan interest deductions, and alimony paid will give rise to a deduction even if a taxpayer takes the standard deduction, because receipt of these types of deductions is not contingent upon itemizing deductible expenses.

The center has e-filed more than 95 percent of client returns this season, which typically results in much faster processing of federal and state returns than paper returns. The center's web site located at <http://www.redstone.army.mil/legal/tax-center.html> provides an "Online IRS Refund Status Check" link and a wealth of other tax related information. While many state tax refunds are processed as quickly as federal returns, remember that most states have a separate refund schedule from the IRS, and clients can also access their state's Department of Revenue resources through the center's web site. Some clients misunderstand the effect of e-filing their returns, and they do not want to e-file because they mistakenly believe that e-filing makes their

taxes due earlier than filing a paper return. However, e-filing has no effect whatsoever on the date that federal or state income taxes are due (i.e. April 15 is the due date for any federal taxes owed), which means that an e-filed return will only save time and postage versus filing a paper return. Please note that some returns may not be eligible for e-filing for other reasons (i.e. Alabama does not allow e-filing nonresident returns). The IRS and most state departments of revenue strongly encourage taxpayers to utilize e-filing whenever possible.

While the center's free federal and state income tax preparation and e-filing services represent a great deal that is hard to beat, this year's center has in fact done just that. The center has made its services even more valuable through promotional partnership incentives with the Post Exchange, Commissary, and Morale Welfare and Recreation. At the end of the tax season, we will draw for one winner of a \$100 gift certificate to the PX, and various denominations of seven gift certificates to the Commissary. The center is also providing 10 unit, prepaid long distance calling cards for its customers, which is provided courtesy of the PX; and the center is randomly distributing MWR coupons to clients who utilize the center (while supplies last). As the center OIC, I would like to personally acknowledge each of these organizations and express my sincere appreciation for their generous support of the center's clients in the Redstone community. The center would also like to thank Army Community Service for its generous financial support in providing needed center supplies.

Avoid the final rush prior to April 15 and schedule an appointment now. The center's personnel are looking forward to serving you.

■ Army unveils van at open ceremony

Calibration

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identified TMDE support requirements not scheduled for calibration.

The CALSET 2000 Team Redstone members provide systems development and improvement support, product assurance, safety and environmental support, prototype development and manufacturing support, contracting support, and materiel release approvals. The team includes PM-TMDE, USATA, 95th Maintenance Company, Training and Doctrine Command,

OMEMS, Redstone Technical Test Center, the AMCOM Reuse Office, AMCOM Acquisition Center, AMCOM Safety Office, the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Science Applications International Corp., General Products Inc., LLC, Dynetics Inc., Macro Industries and CAS Inc.

For more information on CALSET 2000 or the transfer ceremony and displays, call Michael Louque, PM TMDE/CALSET 2000 program leader, 842-9937 or Richard Kerr, AMCOM reuse officer and CALSET 2000 system integrator, 876-3392.

Readiness program prepares soldiers for deployment

59th Ordnance Brigade soldiers get medical shots, paperwork

By Spec. EVAN MORROW

Staff writer

evan.morrow@omems.redstone.army.mil

Soldiers of the 59th Ordnance Brigade put on their game face at 6 a.m. March 18 at Pagano Gym for a soldier readiness exercise.

The exercise featured four stations in which representatives from military personnel, legal, medical, finance and dental made sure the servicemembers' paperwork was in order in case they get deployed.

The finance section offered servicemembers a chance to express pay concerns. Allotments could be started or stopped. Arrangements for danger pay and other deployment compensation were also handled at this station, so the servicemember can concentrate on the task at hand if deployed.

By far the longest and most dreaded line was the medical records and shot updates. A variety of vaccinations awaited servicemembers whose shot records were not complete or updated. They included the TB test, Typhoid vaccination, measles, mumps and Rubella vaccination, Tetanus, etc.

The legal station mainly involved getting powers of attorney plans and wills done. This station was especially important to soldiers with families.

"It's unpleasant, but we have to plan for the eventuality that something might happen to a soldier in the line of duty," Spec. Rachael Arnold said. "The power of attorney and family care plan will make sure that the dependents are taken care of if something happens to the soldier. The will makes sure that the soldier's final wishes are carried out."

HHC 59th was the driving force behind



Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow

NEEDLE POINT— SSgt. Stacey Clements administers vaccinations to SFC Kenneth Thompson during a soldier readiness program exercise March 18 at Pagano Gym.

the planning and coordination. This task involved a lot of coordination from outside agencies in order to get them all under one roof. The HHC 59th orderly room made it all happen.

"The planning phases and the pre-execution checks are the most essential parts to a successful operation," Capt. Monica

Hurst, commander of HHC 59th, said. "The more you can accomplish before the actual event, the more smoothly it will go. "Doing things like verifying the alpha roster and sending out the paperwork for servicemembers to request I.D. tags, draw up a will, and make financial adjustments really helped expedite the process."

Have fun(d) raising money for Army Emergency Relief

Scheduled activities for the Army Emergency Relief fund-raising campaign include the following:

- Pentagon Commemorative Lapel Pins on sale for \$5 through May 15; sponsored by Integrated Materiel Management Center. Call Graciela Gonzalez 842-0861.

- Army Community Service Volunteer Cookbook on sale for \$5 through May 15; sponsored by the Garrison, Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities and Army Community Service. Call Phyllis Montgomery or Mary Breedon 876-5397.

- Snack Sale through May 15, sponsored by the Program Executive Office for Aviation. Call MSgt. John Savage 876-2708.

- Chili/soup lunch, Thursday at 11 a.m. at building 7611; sponsored by Security Assistance Management Directorate. Call Joe Readus 313-6947.

- Put your boss in jail, April 9 at building 4488, sponsored by the Garrison and Provost Marshal Office. Call Carmen Dougherty 955-6262.

- Plant Sale, April 17 in the Sparkman Center parking lot, sponsored by Inte-

grated Materiel Management Center. Call SFC Snead 842-7883 or Romona Rice 313-1641.

- Book Sale, April 21 through May 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at building 5300, second floor, sponsored by Command Analysis Directorate. Call Brian Barry 842-9909.

- Garrison "AER Fun(d) Day," April 29 at building 4488. Call Donna Johnson 876-9675.

- Bake Sale, April 29 at 7:30 a.m. at building 5300, north hallway, sponsored by LAISO. Call Adrienne Wilson 842-6755.

- Cookout/bake sale, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at building 5400, sponsored by Research Development and Engineering Center. Call Janet Martin 313-1996.

- Car wash, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at building 3494, sponsored by Military Personnel Office. Call Sgt. Bryan 842-0883.

- Plant sale, May 8 at Sparkman Center parking lot, sponsored by Integrated Materiel Management Center. Call SFC Snead 842-7883 or Romona Rice 313-1641.

Ex-policy holders may get checks in settlement

Insurance company agrees to payback

REPRINTED COURTESY OF ARMY TIMES

About 110,000 current and former servicemembers who once held policies from Academy Life Insurance Company may be eligible for payments of up to \$200.

But they've got only until June 24 to apply.

Eligible is anyone who owned an Academy Life Genesis Series policy from Jan. 1, 1991, through Dec. 31, 1998, and who terminated that policy before Sept. 30, 2002. Policyholders who still have policies in effect are eligible for increased death benefits instead.

The payments are part of a \$2.7 million deal with the Justice Department settling its charges over allegations that the firm improperly sold Genesis Series life insurance policies to servicemembers from Jan. 1, 1991, through Dec. 31, 1998.

Academy Life was affiliated at that time with the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, and its salespeople routinely identified themselves as NCOA "counselors." Academy was banned from doing business on military installations from 1998 to 2001. NCOA stopped doing

business with Academy during that time, but the contract binding the two did not end until March 2002. The relationship severely damaged NCOA's reputation, and the organization has been struggling to survive ever since.

Academy Life has mailed notices and applications to the last known addresses of former policyholders. Defense officials are providing the information to the services' legal assistance programs, asking them to help get the word out, said Army Col. Steve Strong, director of legal policy in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Academy Life will review all applications postmarked on or before June 24 to confirm that claimants did, in fact, have policies in effect within the stated period. The value of payments will depend on the number of eligible applications submitted, but are capped at \$200 per policyholder, said Assistant U.S. Attorney John Pease.

Checks will be mailed to eligible claimants by Feb. 24, 2004.

Any funds remaining after the deadline will be distributed equally among the Army Emergency Relief Society, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and Air Force Aid Society.

Academy Life also has agreed to provide lifetime paid-up coverage equal to a

6.5 percent increase in the base policy death benefit for each GS policy purchased from Jan. 1, 1991, through Dec. 31, 1998, that is still in effect.

The value of a \$100,000 life insurance policy, for example, would rise to \$106,500.

The government accused Academy Life of misusing NCOA's reputation to mislead prospective buyers. A 1998 Pentagon report concluded that Academy Life agents often identified themselves as "NCOA counselors" and improperly solicited business from servicemembers in violation of military regulations.

In the wake of that report, the Defense Department imposed an unprecedented

three-year ban on Academy Life in September 1998 that barred the firm from doing business on any military installations.

Academy Life denies any wrongdoing "and believes that it would have won the lawsuit if it went to trial," according to its notice to policyholders. "Nevertheless, Academy agreed to settle ... in order to avoid the expense of continuing the lawsuit. The settlement does not involve any admission by Academy or any finding by a court that Academy acted improperly."

Terms of the settlement bar Academy from selling new life insurance policies and from asking the Defense Department for permission to solicit the sale of life insurance on military bases.

Communications upgrade work continues

The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program project office construction project continues to expand its work locations, according to Richard Mathena, Directorate of Information Management, I3MP team leader. There may be three construction sites going on at the same time.

Construction crews are working at the cloverleaf on the Martin Road east exit off Patton Road. Also, a construction crew will continue to work on Toftoy and Digney road, near the jogging trail in the vicinity of the Wellness

Center. Another crew will start digging at the corner of Neal and Rideout roads proceeding north toward gate 9. In the next couple of weeks, work at these locations could possibly cause traffic disruptions. Please take the necessary precautions when traveling these routes.

The Garrison and the Directorate of Information Management would like to extend their thanks in advance to the Redstone community for their patience and support. If you have questions, call Mathena at 876-0020.

Women deserve thanks for their collective efforts

Mayor of Madison delivers message

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Think about it for a moment. If not for a woman, you wouldn't be here today.

Madison Mayor Jan Wells reminded everyone of the role women have played in their lives Thursday during Team Redstone's program for Women's History Month. She told about her grandmother, mother and other women who helped her through the years.

"We've gotten where we are through the collective efforts of all the women in our histories," she told the audience in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Col. Bob Devlin, the garrison commander, served as master of ceremonies. Solos were sung by Gena Wade-Jones, of the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities, and Arthurine Shackelford, of the Missile and Space Intelligence Center.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

GUEST SPEAKER— Madison Mayor Jan Wells addresses the Women's History Month program.

"'Women Pioneering the Future,' it's a great theme for us to celebrate in Women's History Month," Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said.

Rideout Road gate gets guard rail for safety

Semi-permanent fix replaces traffic cones

By **EVETTE BROOKS**
For the Rocket

On normal duty days, about 30,000 vehicles enter Redstone Arsenal. Because of problems with traffic flow, the Army Corps of Engineers tried to identify needs

at gate 9 on Rideout Road. The result was a new guard rail. "During the initial assessment, barricades were contemplated, but determined to present safety issues," Maj. Brad Scofield, provost marshal, said. Upon completion of the assessment, a decision was made to place a guard rail around one of the outbound lanes to help address this along with other issues. The guard rail serves to address a three-fold issue: secu-

rity, vulnerability and safety. The guard rail lane is open for inbound traffic from 6-9 a.m. Monday through Friday to help speed up incoming traffic to the Arsenal. Before installation of the guard rail, traffic cones were used, which did not provide adequate protection for the guards working this lane of traffic. Not only was the guard exposed to the dangers of outgoing traffic, some drivers would bypass the traffic cones, make U-turns and enter Goss Road without being properly cleared for admittance to the Arsenal. After 9 a.m., the guard rail lane once again becomes an outbound lane for cars to make a U-turn and exit the Arsenal if necessary. With the addition of the guard

rail, cars are now permitted to go just past the guard shack, make a U-turn and exit the Arsenal instead of bypassing the traffic cones. The guard rail enhances security and safety for both military and civilian guards working that lane of traffic. It has also enhanced the ability of the guard working Goss Road to ensure that unauthorized people properly exit the Arsenal. The gates at Redstone are manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week even when the gates are closed. "I feel much safer because of the addition of the guard rail," Ben Floyd civilian security guard, said. The guard rail is a semi-permanent fix with a permanent solution to the problem scheduled once funding becomes available.



Photo by Evette Brooks

TRAVEL BY RAIL— A guard rail has been added to gate 9 on Rideout Road

Wolfpack helps Red Cross help others

C Company soldiers contribute blood

By **Spec. EVAN MORROW**
Staff writer
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The line of initial entry training students was backed up all the way from the weight room out the door, making it a challenge to get back to where the Red Cross was set up. The weight room had been transformed into something resembling a MASH unit.

Nearly 30 technicians in white lab coats circulated from bed to bed preparing equipment, getting samples, screening applicants and staying with the soldiers after they donated blood to make sure everything was OK.

A large Red Cross bus was parked outside the company at building 3410 on March 26. Technicians were ensuring the blood samples were properly organized and stowed away. The whole thing ran smoothly, with little lag time between the stations.

Soldiers moved from behind the partitions of the initial screening booth to the next available bed. After the blood drawing process ended, water and snacks were available to the soldiers.

"We have five health history stands to screen potential donors, and 15 beds set up to get as many donations as we can in three hours and 15 minutes," Bill Miller



Photo by Spec. Evan Morrow

QUICK AND EASY— Phlebotomist Jackie Jefferson prepares to draw blood from Pvt. Kristina Kunin of C Company.

of the Red Cross Blood Collectors Mobile Systems Unit said. "The goal is to get 75 pints of blood. We may get more and we may get less but every little bit helps. Everything we needed we were able to bring out here in the mobile lab."

"We have about 80 soldiers going through at this drive," C Company 1st Sgt. Angel Clark-Davis said. "We take every opportunity to work with the Red Cross. We make arrangements to have them out here on a regular rotation as soon as our donation window opens up every 60 days."

Prizes add pizzazz to Waiting Spouses Bingo night

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
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Everyone walked away a winner from the Waiting Spouses Mexican Fiesta Bingo Night March 15 at Army Community Service.

"We had some awesome gifts donated by local businesses," Tracy Silvia, volunteer coordinator for Waiting Spouses, said. "We got such a great response from the community when I started calling around asking for donations. It was really incredible to get that kind of support."

Incredible and also very necessary. Waiting Spouses, a support group for military wives who are geographically separated from their husbands, is funded strictly through donations.

The program began about a year ago as a telephone outreach under the direction of Army Community Service. Staffers and volunteers called geographically separated spouses a couple of times a month to check on the family and see if ACS could help with any of their needs. Silvia volunteered to help with the program last May, even though she's not technically a waiting spouse.

"I thought it was a terrific idea," she said. "I remember what it was like the first time my husband and I were apart. It was hard. It's so important to let people know that they're not alone, even when it really feels like it. There are other women all around them going through the same thing or who have already been there and they can help."

But phone calls just didn't cut it for Silvia. She started a newsletter to welcome newbies to the group and wish a fond farewell to those whose husbands had returned. She also thought it was important to include low cost or no cost events and activities on and off post because, "let's face it, when your husband gets deployed, finances usually get very tight but staying busy and going places helps the time go by faster."

The newsletter grew to a web site for better communication both ways and from there blossomed the monthly Waiting Spouses "night out." The group gets suggestions from its members about activities they are interested in and then Silvia and Kristi Foster, Army Emergency Relief officer at ACS, put something together. They've been simple things like a movie and dessert to a more formal evening at the theater. Free baby-sitting is provided.

"It's a lot of fun," said Scotque Shouse, waiting spouse with three children, ages 12, 10 and 3, who won a Fudgey Nut basket at bingo. "It's great to get away from the kids for a night and get together with women all in the same predicament. Our husbands are gone and we're trying to do it alone — take care of the kids, house, car, bills and everything that goes along with it."

The first time she and her husband, Joe, were separated, she admitted, "I knew nothing." She went back to Oklahoma to be with her family while he spent a year in Korea.

"Even though I was around my family, they didn't really understand," Shouse said. "It's so much easier having a group that understands. Here there's always someone to help in an emergency. If I'm



Photo by Kristi Foster

WINNER'S BASKET— Army Community Service volunteer Tracy Silvia, left, makes a presentation to waiting spouse Janet Lones at the Waiting Spouses' bingo night March 15 at ACS.

sick or one of my kids is sick, I can pick up the phone and call one of these ladies and say, 'Hey, I need a gallon of milk,' and she'll take care of it."

It's a feeling, a connection that waiting spouse Inger Frye is just beginning to develop with the women in the group. She's attended two outings since her husband left three months ago to serve in the Middle East.

"I'm not a very social person. I come in, do what I have to do and go home," Frye said, referring to her volunteer work at ACS. "Going to the meetings gives me a chance to get out and meet people. The women are so genuine, not fake or false. It's such a nice atmosphere, a nice place to be."

"Most of us don't have family within driving distance," she said. "It's good to have someone that I can call when I need help or when I'm having a bad day."

Frye's bingo prize was a manicure from the Post Exchange nail shop. "It's a treat for me. I usually do my own basic maintenance — clip and file."

Frye, along with the other 14 spouses who attended bingo night, received a coupon for a free appetizer or dessert from the Macaroni Grill. "I'll probably use the gift certificate for my son's birthday this weekend." Her youngest son turned 11 March 20. She also has a 14-year-old son.

"We encourage all waiting spouses to give us a try," Silvia said. "It doesn't matter what rank or branch of service, National Guard, Reserves. We accept and welcome anyone. We have spouses that come from as far away as Nashville and Birmingham. And we have a great time."

The group has 42 active members and for most of them, the focal point isn't the activity, it's the fellowship and support they receive from each other. But donations go a long way to perk up the evening and can even help defray the costs of the slightly more expensive nights out.

"Everybody pays their own way, buys their own ticket," Silvia said. "We try to keep the cost down for obvious reasons so any donations we get really help. The Enlisted Spouses Club gave us \$500 two weeks ago. Pretty great. MWR has also been very supportive of the group."

Retailers, organizations and individuals including Dillards, Copelands, Theatre of Huntsville, Fudgey Nut, Domino's, Tia's Tex Mex, Romano's, Courtney's Candles and Gifts, Tammy's Nail Salon,



Photo by Kristi Foster

BINGO— From left are Deb Carpenter, assistant coordinator for Waiting Spouses; Scotque Shouse, celebrating after winning bingo; Jessica Sasser with her 5-month-old son; and Jennifer Schachle.

AAFES Lighthouse Candles, Morale Welfare and Recreation, Silvia, Ann Owens and Foster provided prizes for bingo night.

"This community has always been so supportive of the military," Foster said. "Requests come in routinely, people wanting to know where they can send donations or care packages for soldiers. Because of security, we can't send packages to 'any soldier' but if people really want to help and don't know how, the Waiting Spouses group is a great place to start. Taking care of a soldier's family is taking care of the soldier."

"We gladly accept donations," Silvia said, adding that services such as oil changes, tire rotation and tune-ups are practical yet nice. Of course, a nice meal out for the family or trip to the movies is also appreciated. "Or a massage," she said, smiling with a wistful look. Then she laughed. "We might actually fight each other for massages."

The group's next outing will be April 19 at the Redstone Bowling Center.

For more information about Waiting Spouses, call Silvia or Foster at 876-5397, or log onto their web site at: www.geocities.com/waiting_spouse.

Couple take steps to stay together down road

No mountain high enough for long-distance runners

By **KELLEY LANE**

Staff writer
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Many so-called relationship experts throw around the phrase "going the extra mile" when giving their prescriptions for a long and happy marriage. Gary and Anna Braden took them literally.

The Huntsville couple not only went an extra mile, they went 31. Side-by-side they ran the ninth annual Mountain Mist 50K trail run Jan. 25.

Billed as "Alabama's Toughest Trail Run" by promoters, the course winds up Monte Sano Mountain over dirt, creeks, rocks, ice and a near vertical climb.

"It was 5 degrees outside the night before," Gary Braden said. "It was only 15 degrees that morning. It was cold. At one point people were spinning down the hill because of the ice."

The Bradens have been runners and competitors for many years. Gary Braden, a software developer with Sverdrup, started his running career in 1977 while in the Army. Anna, a contracts manager at Raytheon in Research Park, is making a name for herself as a triathlete.

"We just were never really big trail

runners," Anna Braden said. "We've always just run the recreational 5K, 10K, 15K and a half-marathon. They're always on the street. This was all trails and it was our first time to do something like this."

Anna had a gym instructor mention the 50K to her in passing. She then discussed the possibility of participating with Gary, who agreed they should do it as a team. "We wanted this to be a goal, not only to complete this race, but to enhance our relationship," Gary said.

Training was the key to preparing for the strenuous event. The Bradens spent about eight weeks in both the gym and on the trails gearing up for Mountain Mist. They dedicated their weekends and holidays to running side-by-side.

"Most people were out celebrating New Year's, but not us," Anna said, laughing. "We were in bed early because New Year's Day was one of the few weekdays we had off and could run."

Gary took on the role of coach and trainer. "We set some ground rules in the beginning. We decided Gary was the trainer. That was fine with me. He's very patient," Anna said. They practiced on the trail itself and by running the track at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

"We'd do two or three laps around the loop at the duck pond. Then we'd go over to the fine arts building and run the



Photo by Kelley Lane

TOGETHERNESS— Gary and Anna Braden recreate their finish in the Mountain Mist 50K.

stairs," Gary said. "For every lap we'd run the stairs. The stairs are grueling. It really enhanced our training."

The day of the race saw the Bradens prepared, but Anna still had a few lingering doubts. "On the day of the race I had decided if something happened to me I really wanted Gary to go on and finish it," she said.

But her husband said he would not have considered finishing alone. "The whole point was to finish together. If something had happened it's not like I was going to go on and carry the flag. I was going to stop. Doing it together was

the whole point to me," he said. The course was demanding. The husband-wife team sped through the checkpoints with about 20 minutes to spare at each. Mountain Mist is a timed event. Those not reaching each checkpoint in the allotted time are eliminated from the race.

"There were a couple of minor disagreements on the trail along the lines of 'Are you sure we're supposed to turn right?' and stuff like that," Anna said laughing.

"You learn patience," Gary said smiling. "I also learned to listen to my wife. She's right on the money most of the time."

The Bradens agree that the last portion of the race, about six miles, had the most treacherous terrain. "You were literally going hand over fist at that point. You weren't just running. You were climbing," Gary said. With about a half-mile to go, Gary snapped his ankle, having tripped on a root. He limped the rest of the way to the finish line where they crossed holding hands.

Officially, they finished a respectable 187th and 188th out of a record 205 finishers. Overall it was a grueling seven hour, 30 minute bonding experience. "I feel like it really enhanced our relationship," Anna said. "It was very important to me not to let Gary down. I wanted to do well for myself, but I wanted to do well for Gary, too, for both of us."

To those who would call their decision to run a marathon to bring them closer together bizarre, the Bradens offer a simple explanation. Being physically active people, this was appealing and made sense for them. "It was a tough goal, but it was doable," Gary said. "Sitting on the couch and completing a movie is not a goal to me. This was a hard goal that we could reach together."

Devastating Dragons dominate second half of final

Delta beats Marines for postseason title

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Delta Company rested while the Marines battled through the losers' bracket to the postseason tournament final.

Maybe that helped decide the outcome. Delta led only 29-26 at halftime but pulled away in the second half to take the championship 71-51 on March 25 at Pagano Gym.

"I really think the Marines were tired," Delta coach Cedric Tims said. "First half they played a good game. It was well executed. They ran their offense real well."

"But the second half, I think we were well rested. We came out with a lot of energy. And Sheldon Goldsmith was excellent in the second half."

Goldsmith, usually a role player, finished with 21 points for the Devastating Dragons (21-1). Bruce Hollis, the team's leading scorer all season, added 17.

"(Goldsmith) does a lot of things that help the team but (in the final) he led us in scoring," Tims said. "He brought his 'A' game. He was rebounding, making steals and his jump shot was unbelievable."

Contributions also came from Delta substitutes Tyrone Tention, Greg White, Calvin Spivey and Delbert Francis.

"Those four came in and they did an excellent job," Tims said.

"Midway through the second half, our defense tightened up on them and we just exploded on offense — led by Sheldon," he added.

Jason Davis scored 22 points, Terrance Tallie had 11 and Damian Cason added nine for the Marines (16-9).

"It was just a good game all around," Marines coach Summer Fields said. "The other team played a good strong game. They had a good offense and good defense. Unfortunately we picked a bad time to have a bad game."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

WINNING TEAM— Delta players talk strategy during their 49-38 win over Charlie on Jan. 22. Standing, from left, are Laquaine Bess, coach Cedric Tims and Greg White. Seated, from left, are Keith Broughton, Sheldon Goldsmith and Bruce Hollis.

Delta had advanced in the winners' bracket by beating Headquarters & Alpha 54-34 as Hollis scored 22 points. Amos Jackson had 20 for Headquarters & Alpha.

The Marines advanced in the losers' bracket by beating HHC 59th, last year's runner-up, 78-74 and Headquarters & Alpha 48-40.

Against HHC 59th, Cason and Davis scored 21 apiece and Tallie had 20.

Patrick Perry scored 27 and Laevrmonde Watts had 21 for HHC 59th (17-4).

Against Headquarters & Alpha, Cason and Tallie scored nine apiece for the Marines. Jackson scored 15 for Headquarters & Alpha (9-13).

That set up the showdown against Delta which had sent the Marines to the losers' bracket 76-73 on March 19.

Delta's basketball title follows its flag-football championship.

"It's unbelievable to win back-to-back championships — football and basketball," Tims said. The Dragons will vie for another title when troop volleyball starts.


Sports & Recreation
Youth tennis clinic

Registration continues through Friday for the Child and Youth Services' Tennis Clinic. The tennis clinic is Saturdays, April 12 through May 17. Each session is an hour, at 9, 10 or 11 a.m. and cost is \$68 per child for the six-week clinic at the Redstone tennis courts on Goss Road. Central registration fee of \$15 per child or \$35 per family (if not already registered at CYS Central Enrollment, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road). All youth attending must have proof of current physical upon registration. Children of any person, including contractors, who can access, works on or lives on Redstone Arsenal, ages 7-18, may participate (parents may also register). Minimum class size is six participants. The instructor is Al Garrett from Garrett Tennis Academy. Call 313-3699 for details or 876-3704 to register.

Chess championship

The All Army Chess Championship is June 20-27 at the Fort Myer, Va., Community Recreation Center. Application deadline is May 28. Players must have played in a U.S. Chess Federation rated tournament and/or have a USCF rating. Travel arrangements and lodging will be arranged and funded by CFSC. Participants must request approval prior to participation through their command chain. These will be USCF Official Rules of Chess, using a seven-game round robin

format. To apply online: Go to <http://www.armymwr.com> and scroll to Rec. and Leisure, click on "Recreation Centers" and click on "Army chess" to fill out the application, then click "submit." You may also apply by calling Kris D'Alessandro (703) 681-7204. The All-Army Chess Championship is part of the Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation community recreation program, an activity of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va.

Run and bike race

3D Research Corporation will sponsor a duathlon April 26 in Hampton Cove to benefit the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. The race includes a 5K run and 25K bike course and is limited to 250 competitors. Cost is \$25 for individuals, \$40 for relays, if postmarked by April 12; fees are increased \$10 thereafter. For more information, call race director David Swinford 464-9494 or log onto <http://www.springcitytri.org>.

**Conferences & Meetings****Human resources**

The North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association will present its first Personnel/Labor Law Symposium at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, April 15. Speakers include Merit Systems Protection Board administrative judges, an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission administrative judge, a former general counsel of the Federal Labor

Relations Authority, an assistant U.S. attorney, and a labor relations specialist. Application for six hours of Alabama and Tennessee Continuing Legal Education credit has been made. Managers, employees, human resource professionals, union officials and attorneys are the focus audience. Topics include evolving issues in employment discrimination, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 update, Litigation before the MSPB and significant cases, and labor relations in the post-partnership era. For more information, call 955-4521 or 895-1104.

Joint electronic warfare

The Navy will hold the 48th annual Joint Electronic Warfare Conference, May 6-8 at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif. The conference is for U.S. government personnel only. For more information call Susan Hynds, Naval Air Weapons Division, (805) 989-4018 or Melody Dates (805) 989-7832.

Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858 will hold its regular monthly membership meeting April 14 at 5 p.m. at the Union Office, building 3202. All employees are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 876-4880 or 881-7430.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its monthly meeting April 11 at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center on Airport Road. Retired Lt. Gen. James McCall, executive director, ASMC national headquarters, is scheduled speaker. For tickets — \$9 members, \$10 non-members — call Virginia Moore 955-6262, ext 165.

Test and evaluation days

The Test and Evaluation Management Agency will sponsor its sixth Army T&E Days — "Building Test Capabilities for the Future: Supporting FCS, The Objective Force, and the Next Generation

Army" — on June 3-5 at the South Hall of the Von Braun Center. Guest speakers invited include Claude Bolton Jr., ASA(ALT); Walter Hollis, DUSA(OR); Maj. Gen. Robert Armbruster, Cdr, ATEC; and Dennis Muilenburg, vice president — FCS, Boeing. An exposition will be held in conjunction with the conference. Government and industry organizations are encouraged to participate in the exposition. Registration is \$325 (form is on web site) and is in TIP. For more information call Michael McFalls 876-3462 or Sherry Hilley 842-6715. The web site is www.testevaldays.com.

Alcoholics anonymous

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

Support group

The Mental Health Center of Madison County is offering a free support group for family and friends of loved ones overseas or anyone concerned about the American troops and country. Operation Group Resilience is a forum for coming together and talking; reducing isolation, feelings of sadness and anxiety; and developing empathy and understanding. Operation Group Resilience will meet Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning April 3 in the Community Room of the Mental Health Center of Madison County, 4040 South Memorial Parkway. A mental health professional will facilitate each session and resource materials will be available. This group is open to all individuals in the community, and reservations are not required. For more information, call Kelley Robbins 533-1970.

See Announcements on page 15

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Chapter of the Marine Corps League will meet April 8 at 7 p.m. at American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue.

Waiting spouses

Waiting Spouses will be going bowling April 19 at 5 p.m. at the Redstone Bowling Center. The \$5 cost includes bowling, shoe rental, and dinner. Child care will be provided. RSVP for child care by 4:30 p.m. April 14. A special gift will be given to all waiting spouses who attend. "If your husband is active duty Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, activated National Guard or Reserves, or if you anticipate that they may be activated, we'd love to have you join our group," a prepared release said. For more information and to RSVP, call Tracy Silvia or Kristi Foster at Army Community Service 876-5397.



Miscellaneous

Business scholarships

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

Charitable organizations

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

Thrift shop donations

The Thrift Shop is accepting written applications for donations. It can only accept requests from charitable organizations that have a federal tax exemption number. The deadline for requests is April 14. Please include your federal tax num-

ber and mail to Redstone Thrift Shop, Building 3209, Hercules Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is open for shopping Wednesdays from 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 from 12:30-3. The Thrift Shop will be open for sales April 5 from 10-2. "Come see our 10-cent book sale along with other sale items," a prepared release said. "We are now accepting spring and summer items. We accept donations. Bring us your yard sale leftovers; tax slips are available." The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers. For more information, call 881-6992.

Engineering scholarships

Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics announces its 2003 Engineering Scholarship Program for high school seniors. For more information and applications call Victor Giuliano 721-2422, G. Alan Lowrey 544-7684 or Kevin Connell 782-5972.

Tax assistance center

The Redstone Tax Center, building 3489 off Ajax Road, provides free tax preparation and electronic filing services to active duty and retired military and their dependents. It is open Monday through Friday

from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only, and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7 for walk-in services. For an appointment, call 842-1040.

Professionals week

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will sponsor its annual Administrative Professionals Week training April 22 from 8-noon in the SELA Auditorium, building 5400. Registration is 7:30-8 a.m. For more information, call Armita Lee 842-6038.

Butler High reunion

Butler High class of 1983 will have its 20-year reunion Aug. 29-30. For information call Tammy 721-2246 or Kelly 829-1427.

Father of year

The Madison County Father of the Year for 2003 will be honored June 21 at a gala event in Huntsville's historic Depot Roundhouse. Sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Madison County, the gala will announce the 2003 Father of the Year and raise money to benefit the center. It will feature dancing to the music of "Chevy 6" as well as heavy hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Nominations for the Father of the Year will be accepted until April 21. Forms and more information are available by calling the Volunteer Center 539-7797 and from the center's web site: www.volunteerhsv.org.

See Announcements on page 16

Union election

The election for officers of AFGE Local 1858 is April 14 from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Union Office, building 3202. Eligibility to vote requires membership in good standing by March 31. The candidates include: for president, Billy Clemmons, Don Eiermann and Abner Merriweather; executive vice president, Lew Jeter and Homer Reynolds; secretary, Ethel Brandon and Ronald Johnson; treasurer, Mary

Armstrong and Billy "Mack" Ennis; and SMDC vice president (professional), Frank Bowels and Jim Brothers. For more information call Ken Weihs, chairman of the election committee, 842-7268.

Aeronautics awards

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Alabama-Mississippi Section is requesting nominations for the 2002-03 annual Section Awards. The

awards will be presented at the Officers and Board of Director Installation and Awards Banquet, May 15. Submit nominations by April 18. For more information, call Steven Noneman 544-2048.

Postwide garage sale

Morale, Welfare and Recreation will hold a Postwide Garage Sale - in addition to the housing area garage sale - open to the entire Redstone community Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Those selling items can purchase their permit at the ITR office, Recreation Center, building 3711 for \$5. One permit is two parking spaces. Also those selling may begin setting up at 7 a.m. and must be ready by 7:45 with vehicle parked, due to safety issues, ready for the public to begin shopping. All items must be personally owned or used - no vending. Private organizations may also purchase a permit to hold fund-raisers; these are the only people who can sell baked goods or beverages. For more information, call Brandie DeRemer 313-1203 or the Recreation Center 876-4531.

Catholic community

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic community at Bicentennial Chapel holds Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent, through April 18, at 6 p.m. A soup supper will follow. Sign up during fellowship to bring soup or bread. Good Friday will be celebrated April 18 at 3 p.m., with stations at 6. Easter Vigil Mass is April 19 at 8 p.m. Easter Sunday Mass is April 20 at 9:30 a.m. Mass is held Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Sorority luncheon

Delta Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. will present the unveiling of the Zora Neale Hurston Literary Postage Stamp at 11 a.m. April 12 at the Huntsville Space Center Marriott. Scheduled speaker is Valerie Boyd, author of "Wrapped in Rainbows," the biography of Hurston. For tickets to this scholarship benefit luncheon, call 539-1886.

Commissary promotion

Procter and Gamble and the Commissary will sponsor a Tide and Downy promotion April 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. "The Tide Race Car Exhibit will include great prices, plus a representative from the Tide Race Team who will be in uniform answering questions," a prepared release said. "For all Tide and Downy purchases we'll give away caps, T-shirts, Tide race cars, and a few jackets. Come out and enjoy in the fun."

Church crusade

Church of the Firstborn will hold a "Purpose, Power and Praise Crusade," April 11-12 at 7 p.m. Youth night is April 11, and family night is April 12. The free crusade will be held at Huntsville Christian Academy, 175 West Park Loop northwest. For more information, call 746-9815 or 722-0433.

Kids festival

"KidsFest 2003" is 11 a.m. April 13 at Whitesburg Baptist Church, 6806 Whitesburg Drive. Features include television host ventriloquist Lesha Everett, with five moon bounces, kid's karaoke stage, games and food. There will be a free gift for every guest family. Everything is free except food (at low prices). For information call 881-0952.

Astronomical society

Von Braun Astronomical Society astronomer Dr. Roy Young will traverse "The Spring Skies," Saturday 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 961-7626.

Emergency relief fund-raisers

Want to know when the next sale of those Pentagon pins will take place? Maybe you are interested in the plant sale. Want to play in a golf tournament but don't know how to enter? You can find the answers anytime a <<http://immc.redstone.army.mil/aer/>>.

Retirement events

A retirement buffet luncheon in honor of Col. Gary Jerauld, TOCs/AMDCCS project manager, is April 10 at noon at the Officers and Civilians Club. If you wish to attend, call Debbie Jackson 774-6709 or Dot Davis 774-6710. A change of charter and retirement ceremony at which Jerauld retires and relinquishes management of the TOCs/AMDCCS Project Office to Yolanda Hodge will be held April 11 at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, call Becky Lewis 774-6701.

College fund banquet

The 25th annual United Negro College Fund banquet is April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. Scheduled guest speakers are Tim and Daphne Reid,

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Photo by Debbie Dobbs

Distance degrees

Thirteen local members of the acquisition and technology work force graduated recently from the Naval Postgraduate School Distance Learning Graduate Degree Program for program management and contract management, a two-year program by the school in Monterey, Calif. They include from left, front row, Steve Pearce, Beverly Fuller, Jerry Esquibel, Andy Dobbs, Margaret Haack, Bill Ference; and back row, Phil LaFerriere, Ronnie Chronister, Glen McPherson and Jerome Oelrich. Not pictured are Connie Goodwin, Wilma Freeman and Pamela Milton.

television actors; and the guest entertainer is jazz violinist Michael Ward. For more information, call 726-7584 or 726-7236.

Motorcycle safety course

The Department of Defense and Department of Army require all soldiers who operate motorcycles either on or off post to have satisfactorily completed an approved Motorcycle Safety Course. This requirement also applies to all individuals who operate a motorcycle on DoD installations. Motorcyclists will be required to show proof of meeting this requirement when registering or renewing a motorcycle on Redstone Arsenal. Experienced Rider Courses have been scheduled for the following dates: April 12, April 30, May 2, May 14 and June 14. Each course will start at 8 a.m. and end by 5 p.m. This training will be provided free of cost for military and DoD civilians. To qualify for the ERC, a rider must have at least one year experience and have ridden more than 1,000 miles. These requirements are reduced to six months and 500 miles if the rider has completed a Basic Rider Course.



Courtesy photo

Boeing executive

Peri Widener has been named the senior site executive for Boeing in Huntsville. She will oversee the business activities for space, missile defense and satellite programs and the overall operation of the Boeing Huntsville site, which employs about 2,600 people.

Individuals under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign a required waiver form before starting the course. Riders must bring a valid driver license with motorcycle endorsement to the course. Enrollees must provide a street-legal motorcycle which will need to pass an inspection by the rider coaches. The inspection includes tires and wheels, controls, lights, oil, chassis and kickstand. Motorcycles should be properly insured. Class participants should also provide their own helmet and all required safety gear. To register for one of these courses, call Bryan Lorge 842-8622.

Summer enrichment

The Janice Mitchell Isbell Academy will hold a Summer Enrichment Program, June 2 to Aug. 1 from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The registration deadline is May 29 for students in grades 2-8. Interested persons may call the school 746-9206. The Isbell Academy, a non-profit, tax-exempt school, serves students who are struggling in a traditional classroom.

German restaurant

By popular demand, the Soldatenstube's Thursday \$6 German plate lunch is now available Wednesdays as well. The Soldatenstube, in building 3512 on Gray Road, is open for evening dining Wednesday through Saturday from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Call 881-5181 for reservations or more information.

NCO club

Knowing that the noncommissioned officer is the "backbone" of the military service, Redstone Arsenal has a new NCO Club program called the Backbone Lounge. This includes Friday afternoon "happy hour" with free buffet at the Challenger Activity Center, discounts on Child Development Center and School Age Services fees, 10 percent off all evening dining purchases at the Soldatenstube, more perks at Outdoor Recreation and swimming pools, discount Golf Course fees, Auto Skills Center fees, and the Bowling snack bar. Each member will receive a free quarterly birthday party dinner buffet plus an invitation to the three other birthday bashes. Membership is open to active duty, retired and Reserve/Guard NCOs (E-5 through E-9) and DoD civilians (grade GS-6 or equivalent and below). For more information, call LuAnne Hardee 830-9175.

Self-care classes

Fox Army Health Center continues to offer self-care classes. This class is free and open to all health care beneficiaries of Fox Army Health Center and civilians of Team Redstone. The focus of this class is to promote the health of Fox's beneficiaries and civilians of Team Redstone. The class will cover how to stay well and prevent illness and injury. As a result of the class, participants will have greater control of their health, and save time and money on their health care. All participants will receive a free home health reference book. Active duty, Tricare Prime, and Tricare Plus enrollees can enroll in the self-care pharmacy program. This class is offered on the first Monday of each month. The next class is April 7 from 1:30-3 p.m. at the Public Health and Education Center's classroom in Fox Army health Center. Participation is limited to 15 persons. To sign up, call the Public Health and Education Center 955-8888, ext.1026, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Youth job fair

The annual youth job fair is April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville High gymnasium (Billie Watkins Drive off Bob Wallace Avenue). Employers will be on hand to conduct interviews and provide summer job applications to youth (16 through college age). The job fair is sponsored by the Madison County Commission, providing youth a convenient and safe means of applying for summer jobs. Employment help A job search tips ses-



Courtesy photo

Easter speaker

Retired Col. Dave Peterson, a South Dakota resident and former chaplain of Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Ga., is scheduled speaker for the Easter Sunrise Service, April 20 at 6:30 a.m. behind the old post chapel on Patton Road.

sion will be held April 17 at 4 p.m. at Youth Services, building 3148, to help the youth prepare for the job fair. This session will help participants to organize their information, identify skills and complete job applications more efficiently. To register call Army Community Service 876-5397.

