

# Redstone Rocket

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## Benefit provides bear necessities

Resource managers selling teddy bears as fund-raiser

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
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You can help Army Emergency Relief and give some colorful bears a new home at the same time.

Members of the Resource Management Directorate are selling teddy bears for AER. The soldier bears, Statue of Liberty bears and Uncle Sam bears are \$8 each; and the USA God Bless America flag bears are \$6 apiece. All profits benefit the AER fund-raising campaign.

"We're selling all of these to provide the bear necessities for AER," quipped budget analyst Janice Nolin.

A sales table is to be set up today and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in front of the Sparkman cafeteria. For more information, call Martin Roggio at 876-5133 or Nolin at 876-5134.

The Army Emergency Relief campaign continues through May 15 with a \$65,000 goal. AER provides loans or grants to active

See Bears on page 11



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**BEAR HUG**— Janice Nolin shows the teddy bears on sale for Army Emergency Relief.

## U.S. forces drub Baghdad units, secure airport

Coalition still wary of Iraq's weaponry

By GERRY J. GILMORE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. military combat action in Baghdad Saturday may have inflicted thousands of casualties on the enemy, a senior U.S. Central Command spokesperson said Sunday.

"It certainly demonstrated our ability to operate within Baghdad at a time and place of our choosing and to inflict severe damage on anyone that opposes the force that comes into Baghdad," Army Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks, CENTCOM deputy director for operations, said at the organization's forward headquarters in Qatar.

Based on U.S. military estimates of Saturday's combat in Baghdad, enemy casualties "could be on the order of 2,000, it could be more than 2,000, it could be somewhat less than 2,000," Brooks noted.

There are still parts of three Iraqi divisions in and around Baghdad, the general remarked, but no movements of large enemy forces have been seen lately.

U.S. forces in Baghdad have been confronting company-sized enemy units, which "are dealt with" when encountered, Brooks said.

He pointed out that Hussein's regime continues to put Iraq's civilian population

at risk by hiding ordnance and other military assets close to residential areas. U.S. and coalition forces' mission is to destroy the regime and its military capability, not the Iraqi people, he emphasized.

Brooks noted that the U.S. military has also secured Baghdad's international airport, contrary to what Iraqi propaganda was saying on the country's state-controlled television network.

Saturday's U.S. military action in Baghdad "also makes a very clear statement about how much control the regime does or does not have," the general pointed out.

The ouster of Saddam and his gang is just one part of U.S.-coalition objectives, Brooks pointed out, along with the requirement that Iraq also "be free of weapons of mass destruction when this operation is complete."

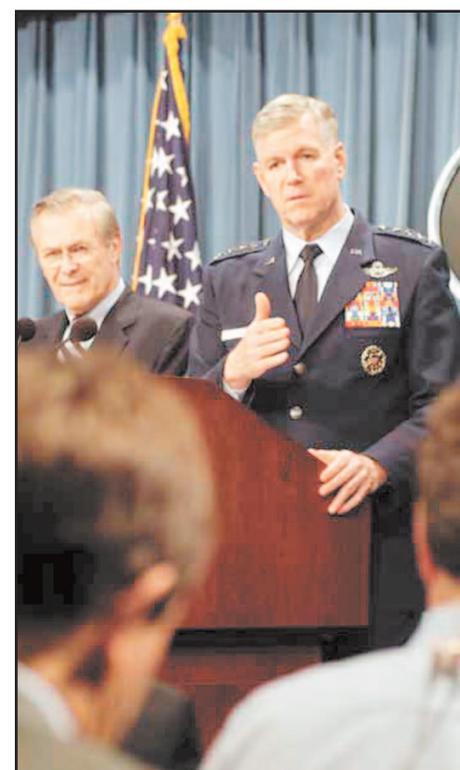
U.S. and coalition forces have looked for WMDs in Iraq, Brooks noted. But right now, he stressed, the priority is the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Brooks said a more concentrated search for WMDs in Iraq would occur after the Iraqi people are liberated.

"We still believe that the regime still has" WMDs, Brooks remarked, "and, we also believe that they have the will to use them."

In a press briefing at the Pentagon Thursday, neither Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld nor Chairman of the Joint

See Baghdad on page 17



American Forces Press Service

**PRESS BRIEFING**— Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, responds to reporters' questions during the press briefing that he and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld conducted Thursday.

### Survey says

What do you do for relaxation?

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### Food for thought



Personnel supervisors dish out ice cream

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### Soldiers in action



Ordnance instructor takes tandem jump

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### Win or lose



Striped shirt, whistle bring plenty of heat

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## Flag deserves respect

I left the base at 5 p.m., why was the traffic backed up at the exit gate on Patton? The soldier stands at attention. Who is he saluting? I looked around; I don't see an officer coming toward him. People are getting out of their vehicles and also standing at attention. Then I see it, Old Glory, coming down the flagpole, soldiers handling her like she's a prized possession. It gave me chills. What a sense of pride and honor I felt!

It saddens me our flag, our nation and our God are not revered like in times past. But I do believe that time is returning.

America is truly a land set apart by God. In Deuteronomy, God said a nation blessed by God will lend and not borrow, will be the head and not the tail, above and not beneath. I thank God for America, a land blessed by God.

**Debbie Montgomery**

## Show of support wanted

As we drove to Fort Morgan, Ala., on March 23, we had to pass several small towns and what amazed me, every tree was decorated with a big yellow ribbon. We did expect something similar in Huntsville (and on Redstone) when we returned.

With a big military installation and

all the support we give all year around, what a disappointment... nothing. Don't people appreciate our soldiers here? I have a daughter in the Air Force and my husband (and I) served for 22 years.

**Doris Stanik**

## An open lane random survey

*What do you do to relax?*

By **KELLEY LANE**

Staff writer

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*Tammy Ballew, military spouse*

**"I go to the gym and I spend time with my children and family."**



*SFC David Grant*

**"I like to watch television, unwind and kick back in the recliner."**



*Marion Terry, AMCOM*

**"The only time I can relax is when I take a lunch break. Usually Jaroslaw Onuszkanycz, Alphie, and I take lunch together. We come down and have prayer together. That's a good relaxing time."**



*CWO Norman Hoover*

**"I like to read and to walk."**

## Uneasy about news media

As I read the *Rocket* today, I thought of the information that has been furnished the media from Redstone. I always feel uneasy when I hear the individuals representing Redstone go into great detail as to what we are doing. They talk about the weapons we have and what they can do and what we are doing and I wonder at the wisdom of this. Anyone wanting information about what is going on at Redstone doesn't need to lurk around the gates or any other location, they just need to watch the evening news and we will more than likely tell them exactly what they are wanting to know. I personally would rather these terrorists did not know what capabilities we have.

With all that is going on in Iraq, I am amazed at what the news media thinks are their "rights." At what point did confidentiality and discretion leave and "the right to know" take over? For a reporter to willingly risk the lives of our troops for their stories is inexcusable and unacceptable. I have viewed reporters getting in the way of soldiers involved in battle and plying soldiers who have just returned from a strenuous, stressful situation with mundane questions. The reporters are turning this war into a three-ring circus. Surely there is some rule of thumb that can be observed that considers human decency and consideration of the situation at hand.

**Sarah Bryan**

## Shopper misses out on couch

I recently found out first hand how the volunteers work the system at our friendly Thrift Shop. First of all, I realize that these folks are volunteers and that is great, except that some of them get to the merchandise before it ever hits the floor.

Case in point: I saw a sofa that struck my fancy as it matched a love seat I had bought earlier at a yard sale. Thinking what a break, I took a pillow from the love seat to the Thrift Shop and although it was not open for business, I was allowed in to see if the colors and pattern was a match. It was a perfect match and the lady that allowed me to check it out even commented how lucky I was to have a good match.

I made mention that I would like to buy the couch and was informed that since the store was closed, I would have to come back the next duty day. I then asked if she could put a "sold" sign on it of which I see many when I walk through the store. She informed me that this wasn't possible and that I would have to return when the store was open.

I agreed and went home excited and told my wife I had found the perfect match and would go back bright and early the next business day. I arrived prior to the store opening so as to be the first in line. Imagine my surprise when I walked in and found the couch was gone. I was even told that big items such as couches were slow movers and it

would be here on Wednesday when they reopened.

I inquired and was told that a friend of the manager had come in from Tennessee on Tuesday, not one of the normal duty days, and they had sold the couch to him because he came such a long way.

Why do they even open the front door when items go out the back door to friends? Why do I feel I was taken for a sucker by this operation?

Someone needs to bring this up at the commanders' "Town Hall Meeting" or somewhere. Maybe it isn't important to anyone but me, but someone should look into this matter.

**Dennis Littleton**

*Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "The Redstone Thrift Shop, like any other organization, is governed by a Board of Governors, and has standard procedures for daily operations. One of these rules is that 'sold' is only placed on an item after it has been paid for and then the item must be picked up within three working days. Items are never 'held' for customers.*

*The chairperson of the Board of Directors has the authority to make exceptions which, in this case, she did. The customer who purchased the couch was not familiar with the shop's hours of*

**See Shopper on page 3**

# Redstone Rocket

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# Mail to deployed soldiers appreciated within reason

Alternatives suggested to donation programs

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RELEASE

WASHINGTON — To bolster force protection, the general public is urged not to send unsolicited mail, care packages or donations to servicemembers forward deployed unless you are a family member, loved one or personal friend.

On Oct. 30, 2002, the Department of Defense suspended the "Operation Dear Abby" and "Any Servicemember" mail programs due to force protection con-

cerns. Although these programs provide an excellent means of support to friends and loved ones stationed overseas, they also provide an avenue to introduce hazardous substances or materials into the mail system from unknown sources. Unsolicited mail, packages and donations from organizations and individuals also compete for limited airlift space used to transport supplies, war-fighting materiel and mail from family and loved ones.

Recently, DoD has become aware of organizations and individuals who continue to support some form of the "Any Servicemember" program by using the names and addresses of individual servicemem-

bers and unit addresses. These programs are usually supported by well-intentioned, thoughtful and patriotic groups who are simply unaware of the new risks facing deployed military forces. Some individuals and groups publicize the names and addresses of servicemembers, ships or units on web sites, with good intentions. The result, however, is a potential danger to the troops they wish to support.

DoD cannot support creative and well-intentioned efforts that defeat force protection measures, but can instead recommend alternatives to mail and donation programs. To show support to troops overseas, the following are recommended:

Log on to the following web sites to show support, to include greeting cards, virtual Thank You cards and calling card donations to help troops stay in contact with loved ones: [www.defendamerica.mil/support\\_troops.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/support_troops.html); [www.usocares.org/home.htm](http://www.usocares.org/home.htm); or [www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html](http://www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq.html).

Visit Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes. Volunteer your services to honor veterans who served in past conflicts.

Mail from family members and loved ones has always been encouraged, and the military mail system will continue to work hard to get that mail to servicemembers overseas.

## Army offers variety of ways for public to support troops

ARMY RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Army Public Affairs Office receives numerous heartfelt requests from Americans who are seeking ways to show their support for soldiers, especially those serving overseas in this time of war.

"At this time of heightened awareness we are hearing from family members, friends and concerned citizens that they want to reach out and show their support for troops deployed overseas," said Col. Richard Breen Jr., director of the Army's Community Relations and Outreach Division. "Knowing this we have identified a variety of outlets that people can use."

These web sites represent several organizations sponsoring programs for members of the armed forces overseas. While the items and services are not endorsed by the military, these providers help soldiers and their families keep in touch. You may:

- Donate a calling card to help keep servicemembers in touch with their families at Operation Uplink at <http://www.operationuplink.org/>.

- Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at <http://anyserVICemember.org> or <http://www.OperationDearAbby.net>

- Sign a virtual thank you card at the Defend America web site at <http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>.

- Make a donation to one of the military relief societies: Army Emergency Relief at <http://www.aerhq.org/>; Navy/Marine Relief Society at <http://www.nmcrs.org/>; Air Force Aid Society at <http://www.afas.org/>; or Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at <http://www.cgmahq.org/>.

- Donate to "Operation USO Care Package" at <http://www.usometrodc.org/care.html>.

- Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/>

- Volunteer at a VA Hospital <http://www.va.gov/vetsday/> to honor veterans who bore the lamp of freedom in past conflicts.

- Support families whose loved ones are being treated at military and VA hospitals through a donation to the Fisher House at <http://www.fisherhouse.org>.

- Reach out to military families in your community, especially those with a loved one overseas.

- Send a personal message via "Stars and Stripes" — U.S. troops deployed to the Persian Gulf region and other locations can now receive personal messages from family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues and supporters via the pages of the overseas newspaper "Stars and Stripes" as well as "Messages of Support," a daily section that debuted March 17, giving family and friends of deployed servicemembers a chance to pass their greetings, words of encouragement and announcements free of charge. "Messages of Support" can be e-mailed to "Stars and Stripes" 24 hours a day at [messages@estripes.com](mailto:messages@estripes.com), are limited to 50 words or less and will be printed on a first-come, first-run basis. "Stars and Stripes" reserves the right to screen and edit all messages and to omit any determined inappropriate.

- Purchase "Gifts From the Homefront" gift certificate — These can be redeemed by troops in their local exchange. Anyone may purchase these "Gifts From the Homefront" with a U.S. credit card or check, but only authorized AAFES customers can redeem them at any PX or BX. Sold by CertifiChecks, these gift certificates can be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, and they come in denominations of \$10 and \$20. At this time military authorities have advised that CertifiChecks can only be sent to a specific servicemember at his or her APO or US mailing address. AAFES officials said they are working to find a solution to allow CertifiChecks to be sent to units or non-specific troops.

Breen noted that due to security concerns and limited transportation space, the military can no longer accept mail to "any servicemember." Many generous people have tried to avoid these prohibitions by sending large numbers of packages to an individual servicemember's overseas address, which, however well intentioned, clogs the mail system and causes unnecessary delays.

For more information on the Army, visit <http://www.army.mil>.



Photo by Denise Jones/Family Child Care

### Showing colors

From left 3-year-olds Deanna Vaughn, Hannah Carter and Shandi Burrows show their support for the Month of the Military Child.

### Thrift Shop volunteers have priority

## Shopper

continued from page 2

operation and had driven into town from 70 miles away. The decision was made to let the item be purchased without having to make the gentleman drive back into town during normal hours. He had

the money and wanted to purchase the couch.

"The Thrift Shop consists of four paid employees and 40-plus volunteers. One of the benefits of volunteering for the Redstone Thrift Shop is that volunteers do have priority of purchasing newly consigned items prior to being put on the floor."

# New hotline keeps Army families in touch

## Families of deployed soldiers have source for information

The Army's new toll-free Family Assistance Hotline for Operation Iraqi Freedom at (800) 833-6622 is applauded by Sue Paddock, director of Army Community Service at Redstone.

"This hotline is a wonderful support effort for military families," she said. "For those who have concerns and questions, it serves as an information and referral avenue and eliminates the frustration of not knowing who to contact. It also assists with financial burdens from making numerous long distance phone calls."

The hotline was established by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, based in Alexandria, Va., in conjunction with the Army Family Liaison Office staff to provide referrals and information to the families of deployed or activated soldiers.

The hotline is toll free when called from the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. The hotline staff will

answer calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily Eastern Standard Time to answer family support-related questions. Emergency assistance will be provided between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. EST, officials said.

"Our staff will assist all callers by listening, explaining, and directing them to the most helpful resources we can," said Gail Lovisone, manager of CFSC's Family Assistance Hotline call center.

Lovisone emphasized that the first place families of active-duty soldiers should contact is Army Community Service or the unit rear detachment at the installation from which the soldiers deployed.

"The mission of our Family Assistance Hotline is to provide Army families caring support in the form of accurate information, useful resources, and helpful referrals related to family issues," said Brig. Gen. Robert Decker, commander of the USACFSC, the Army agency responsible for Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

"This Family Assistance Hotline is a 'safety net' for those who have exhausted all other resources," Decker said. "We

will do everything we can to help each and every caller."

The hotline is intended for use only by family members of soldiers on active duty as well as those in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve called to active duty.

After hearing a short, recorded message, callers will be able to speak to hotline staff members who have access to extensive reference materials. Staff will be unable to answer questions about casualties or soldiers wounded or missing in action.

Because of the sensitivity of this information, the Army's Casualty Assistance Office will first contact the soldier's immediate family. Once the Army is certain that the soldier's next of kin have been notified, information about soldiers' deaths will then be released to the public through news releases and other means such as the media and Department of Defense web sites.

Due to operational security and force protection concerns, CFSC hotline staff cannot provide locator services (addresses) for soldiers or units, or information about operational matters.

The Army National Guard and the Army Reserve state and regional support commands also operate assistance lines, though they may not always be toll free. Information is also available at [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org) and [www.army.mil/usar](http://www.army.mil/usar). "We may often refer callers to the installation because installation ACS staff have local resource telephone numbers, and more detailed information," Lovisone said.

In addition to local and Army-level assistance via telephone, family members can find answers to many routine questions about family readiness, Army Community Service, and deployment support resources online at the ACS web site, [www.goacs.org](http://www.goacs.org), and at the Army Family Liaison Office web site, [www.aflo.org](http://www.aflo.org).

"We anticipate a high volume of calls, so we strongly urge people to use those web sites as a first stop," Lovisone said. Recognizing that not all households have Internet connectivity, Lovisone suggested families use computers at installation ACS centers or at on-post or local civilian libraries.

*Editor's note: This article is based on an Army News Service release.*

# Army acquisition course has first graduating class



Photo by Raymond Hayes/AAQC

**FIRST CLASS**—Members of the acquisition qualification course include, clockwise from foreground, Capt. Bryan Phillips, Capt. Art Pack, Capt. Patrick Badar, Capt. Eric Ludwig and Capt. Brian Kent.

The Army has unveiled its new acquisition course in Huntsville.

The Army Acquisition Qualification Course is an eight-week graduate-level course designed to provide a broad spectrum of knowledge pertaining to the materiel acquisition process.

It covers legal and regulatory policies and objectives that shape the acquisition process and the implementation of these policies and objectives by the Army. The first offering of the Army Acquisition Qualification Course graduated March 21. Twenty-four Army officers successfully completed this fast-paced course. The distinguished graduate was Maj. Jeffrey Hart.

After 17 years of continuous class offerings, the Materiel Acquisition Management Course was discontinued by the Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee, Va., and replaced by the Army Acquisition Qualification Course. The college established a satellite campus in Huntsville with the AAQC as its flagship course. Huntsville was chosen as the resident location because of its large Army acquisition work force population. AAQC can also be offered at other locations.

AAQC is the preferred entry-level training for military and civilian Army acquisition work force members. It is equivalent to a number of mandatory courses required for acquisition work force certification. The course proponent is Lt. Gen. John Caldwell Jr., the military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology. He is also the Army's director of acquisition career management.

# Line-of-Sight missile meets test objectives

The first Line-of-Sight Anti-Tank, Engineering Design Flight missile was launched from White Sands Missile Range, N.M., March 27, meeting all test objectives.

"This EDF is the first of three engineering design flights which will pave the way for entry into the LOSAT Production Qualification Test firing program scheduled to begin June 12," Col. Jed Sheehan, Kinetic Energy Missile project manager, said. "The entire KEM team is extremely pleased with the design flight results. The success of this flight entailed hard work and dedication by all those associated with the LOSAT program. LOSAT will be a reliable, highly-effective, and extremely versatile new warfighting capability which will enhance the Army's light forces' ability to dramatically counter any current or future armored threat."

The missile flew a ballistic trajectory as planned, collecting launch shock data on the fire unit. The missile did not include a guidance package and there was no attempt to engage a target.

Also, the flight test successfully demonstrated Electro-Optical Processor and Weapon System Manager software and new fire unit blast deflector design.

The EDF flight series is designed to demonstrate, in progressive steps, the tactical LOSAT hardware and software design in preparation for the Production Qualification Test firing program.

"The success of the EDF-0 mission directly reflects on the highly professional and dedicated LOSAT firing team, as well as Redstone Arsenal and White Sands Missile Range support elements," Sheehan said.

# Redstone newcomer holds keys to Garrison safety



Photo by Kelley Lane

**STUDY TIME—** Mike Moore reads up on hazardous material handling in preparation for his office opening.

## Accident prevention Mike Moore's goal

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

Mike Moore may be a new addition to the Redstone community, but he's no stranger to safety.

Moore comes to the newly created Garrison Safety Office from a base realignment and closure project at Fort McClellan. He stayed on as part of the cleanup effort, working with the Environmental Directorate to ensure the safe disposal of unexploded ordnance and possible chemical warfare material.

"I'm excited about not only using my past knowledge, but also learning about future challenges here," Moore said.

The new office on the first floor of building 4488 is targeted for opening in room B100B on April 28, following a visit from the Southeastern Regional Office of the Installation Management Agency. Moore plans on working closely with the AMCOM safety office.

He is joined at garrison by three staff members from AMCOM: Bobby Taylor, Keith Coates and John Zuber.

"I just want to expand on what AMCOM has already done and do a good job for the garrison, the military, the civilians, the contractors and the general public," Moore said. "For any people who are within the garrison or come on Redstone, my job is to make sure that the day-to-day work operations are done safely."

The office will monitor overall Redstone functions. Moore sees those at work on Redstone as the keys to safety.

"I like to be proactive rather than reactive," he said. "I think the best thing to do is have the employees identify hazards that are either known or potential and then report them to the safety office for correction. That's the best way to prevent accidents and injuries."

He sees himself as coordinating a joint effort between his office and those working on post. "Safety is a big process. I'm the manager in trying to get the technical side or trying to get answers for the commander or finding solutions to problems, but employees are the biggest part of safety," he said.

Having arrived March 24, Moore hasn't had much time to look around Huntsville yet. He and his wife, Jennifer, plan to move into the Madison area from Anniston with their four boys. "We've been up here 4 or 5 times on house hunting trips and we love Huntsville so far," he said.

His oldest son, Andy, will attend the University of Alabama in the fall. "He comes from a mixed marriage: my wife is Auburn and I'm an Alabama fan," he quipped. His other boys are Alex, 15, Keith, 9 and Michael Jr., 3. "We're going to be an active family, not just on Redstone, but in the community as well," Moore said.

Moore joined the Army at 17. He was stationed in San Francisco and attended the University of San Francisco at night for a bachelor of science degree. Over his 21-year military career he served in Iran, Saudi Arabia and New Zealand. He also obtained two graduate degrees later, one in business and personnel from Jacksonville State and another from Columbia Southern in occupational safety and health. His father was an Air Force officer stationed throughout Europe. After the numerous moves that are common for military families, Moore learned to acclimate quickly.

"My traveling days started early," he said. "I'm fairly good at being the new guy. Being new to a new area? I've already been there, done it and bought the T-shirt."

## Health center's primary providers take care to make changes

### New process affects clinics

#### FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER RELEASE

Fox Army Health Center is making several changes in how it delivers primary care services to its beneficiaries. These changes will affect the Primary Care, Pediatric, and Internal Medicine Clinics. The new method of delivering health care in these clinics will improve both your ability to contact us and will ensure you get the best medical care available.

Primary Care Manager by Name, the new process, ensures that when you need care you will be seen by your assigned primary care provider. Appointments will be made available to attain this goal. The only time you will

see another provider is if your PCM is on leave, temporary duty elsewhere, or deployed.

Providers will be grouped into two or three provider clinic teams so that when your provider is not available you will see one of the other team members who will be familiar with your needs.

Telephone calls will be handled differently than in the past. The nursing staff, supporting your provider, will also answer the phone, make appointments, assist with consults and medication refills, and provide medical advice as requested. Use of voice mail will be minimized by answering as many phone calls as possible.

What do you need to do?

- Know the name of your primary care manager. Everyone who is enrolled in Tricare Prime at Fox has an assigned PCM. At the time of your next appointment, ask who your PCM is if you don't already have that infor-

mation.

- Know the number to your clinic. Business cards with your clinic's phone numbers will be made available to you soon. Check with your clinic for availability.

Core hours of operation will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6:30. Weekend clinic is on Saturday only from 8 a.m. until noon. We will be closed on Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The changes in process and hours will go into effect May 5.

PCMBN care has been shown to be the best way to deliver excellent primary care and we are committed to doing our best for you.

For more information about Fox Army Health Center, view our web site at [www.redstone.amedd.army.mil](http://www.redstone.amedd.army.mil), register for e-mail flashes and check for breaking news. The web site is under continuing construction and some links may not work at this time.

# Post gives thumbs-up to union election signs

It's OK for candidates for union offices to put their campaign signs on post, according to Redstone officials.

The Garrison checked with the Legal Office and found that the signs are legal and covered under federal law. But the signs must not be in the way nor cause traffic problems, according to the Garrison. And the signs should be removed the day of the 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.

## Redstone water supply gets low-risk assessment

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE RELEASE

In 1996 Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act and established the Source Water Assessment Program. Under this program, drinking water suppliers are required to conduct an assessment of the potential contamination sites that may impact the quality of their raw water supply.

Redstone Arsenal obtains its raw water from the Tennessee River, a surface water source, and treats it to meet the requirements of the SDWA. There are several sites on, along, or near the Tennessee River that have a potential for impacting the quality of our raw water supply. To comply with the SWAP, we identified these sites and assessed their potential for contaminating the source of our drinking water.

The Redstone Arsenal Source Water Assessment is now complete and the final documents are available for your review in the Environment and Safety Office, building 4488. These documents for Water Treatment Plants 1 and 2 provide baseline data regarding the sites where potential contamination exists, a susceptibility analysis of each site, and the quality of the source water supply. Based on the assessments, Redstone Arsenal rates at a low risk for source water contamination from the potential contamination sites. You may review the assessment Monday through Thursday, between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., from April 10 to May 9. Call Gene Daniels at 955-7571 if you wish to make arrangements for your review of the assessment.

## Communications upgrade continues

The Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program project office construction project continues to expand its work locations, according to Richard Mathena, 13MP team leader in Directorate of Information Management.

Construction crews will continue north on the west side of Rideout Road. When they reach Hale Road they are expected to proceed west on Hale Road until reaching Hackberry Road, which leads to the Software Engineering Directorate. This is a two-lane road and heavy equipment will be located in a blind area due to the curve in the road. Also, there will be times when the entire road may be closed temporarily

for unloading manholes or maneuvering construction machinery. Construction crews will continue work on Toftoy and Digney roads, near the jogging trail in the vicinity of the Wellness Center. In the next couple of weeks, work at these locations could possibly cause traffic disruptions.

Take the necessary precautions when traveling these routes. Because of unexpected construction changes, there may be additional work sites.

The Garrison and the Directorate of Information Management expressed their thanks in advance to the Redstone community for patience and support. For more information, call Mathena at 876-0020.

## Redstone units gain 20 soldiers

Twenty soldiers, including nine officers, arrived for duty in March.

The Garrison provided the following list:

- MEDDAC – Spec. Rajio Sharma, Sgt. Michele Whitaker, Maj. Marvin Schumacher, Lt. Col. Marilyn Allen, Lt. Col. Lucinda Carlson and Capt. Lisa June Johnson.

- Delta Company – SSgt. Tyrone Tention, SFC Reginald Heard, SSgt. Tremayne Frison and SFC Roy Oshiro.

- AMCOM – Pvt. Michael Wood, Maj. Malcolm Cole II and 1st Lt. Brian Mullins.

- Headquarters & Alpha – Capt. Johnnie Johnson, SFC Michael Carreker and MSgt. Brian Castell.

- Program Executive Office for Aviation – Maj. Russell Dunford and Col. Ray Woolery.

- Logistics Support Activity – SFC Edgar Duhaylungsod.

- HHC 59th – SFC Glenda Heard.

# Program manager settles in office, ready to work on swing

Riester spent decade in Germany before joining community here

By SANDY RIEBELING  
Staff writer  
sandy@hltimes.com

There's no place like home for Kathleen Riester, new Army Community Service program manager, and she's glad to be back.

"I feel like I've come full circle," said Riester, who spent her early years living in Miami before her family moved to Clarksville, Tenn., to be near relatives. "I met and married my husband in Clarksville. He was a young captain at the time. We've gone around the world and ended up where we started."

But this time it wasn't her husband's job that determined their destination, it was hers. Riester joined the staff at ACS in February as program manager. Her husband, Carl, is still in Germany, working as a contractor since retiring from the Army in Heidelberg six years ago.

"I was the advance party for a change," she said. "He and my daughter will arrive here in May." Their daughter, Cecilia, is a freshman at Boston University. Perhaps by the time they arrive, Riester will be ready to take some time and relax a little.

"It's like I got off the plane from Germany and came to work," she said. "Well, really, I had about 24 hours before I had to be at work."

As the ACS program manager, she is focused on the upcoming accreditation review in September. Three years ago, Redstone's ACS was the first in the Army to earn accreditation. But that doesn't mean the work is over.

"Since then, some standards and regulations have changed," Riester said. "My primary function will be to work with each ACS program manager in preparation for accreditation — look at standards and see if ACS is in compliance with each standard. It's an ongoing process."

One that is familiar to her. For three and a half years prior to coming to Redstone, Riester worked on an accreditation team for Installation Management Agency-Europe. Each month she visited two of 23 installations under IMA-E to conduct either a pre-accreditation visit or an accreditation visit. In addition, she directed two Army programs — Army Family Action Plan and Army Family Team Building and coordinated the AFAP conference at the major command level.

Riester, a graduate of St. Leo (Fla.) College, earned her master's in human development and family studies at Kansas State University while the family was stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. She began her decade of formal ACS service while in



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**GLAD TO BE BACK— Kathleen Riester, new Army Community Service program manager, works with program managers to prepare for accreditation review in September.**

Frankfurt, Germany, as the installation volunteer coordinator.

"I was a stay-at-home mom for 10 years," she said, adding that she volunteered during that time at community events, different fests and fund-raisers for the unit. "My favorite job was volunteering with the Red Cross as a case worker. Then one day I took 10 years of volunteer service, put it on paper and became the installation volunteer coordinator (in Frankfurt)."

After a year and a half in Frankfurt, she worked five years at the installation level ACS in Heidelberg and then went to work for IMA-E.

Knowing firsthand the challenges and rewards of being a military spouse, Riester values the programs directed through ACS.

"When I married Carl, I was young and in love and didn't know what hit me," she said with a smile. "I didn't know anything about the Army. None of these programs were in existence."

"My husband was with the special forces," she said. "The units he was with did an outstanding job with making me feel welcomed, creating positive experiences for spouses, having get-togethers, sharing child care. SF guys were gone all the time so we (families) would get very close. The thing about special forces, they never told you where he was going and you never knew when he was coming back. It was very hard not knowing. We (the spouses) all bonded. Whoever had the biggest van, we'd all pile in there and go for day trips. We had to look out for each other."

Through the years, the Army recognized the needs of family members and set about creating formal programs to assist family members in many different ways. Army Family Team Building, a program designed to help family members understand and maneuver through Army life, was established after the Gulf War, because spouses and families were left behind confused and ill-prepared for this type of separation.

"They found out that spouses didn't know the basics, like how to read a leave and earnings statement, how to get around the post, deciphering the jargon and the acronyms," Riester said. "It was actually a couple of Army wives who were ex-school teachers that got together and wrote the curriculum for what is now AFTB."

Riester considers it a privilege to work with these programs and the people who use and support them.

"Everybody here is so friendly — warm and welcoming," she said. "Very professional staff. I'm looking forward to being a part of this team."

But there's more to life than work... like golf.

"It's the first thing I'm going to do when I get these 20 boxes unpacked and my husband and daughter get here," she said. "I love to golf."

It's a young love, though, one developed about four years ago when her boss came into the office and announced that they were having an organizational day and that "your place of business will either be in the office or on the golf course."

"That's when I took up golf," she said. "My father taught me that you don't get

on the golf course until you can hit the ball so I spent a year at the Heidelberg driving range hitting three buckets of balls a day, four days a week. I didn't go on the course till I could hit the ball."

Riester describes her first time on the course as a major step.

"It was like a rite of passage," she said. "After a year on the driving range, I had a lesson with a female golf pro who took me out on the course, taking me through the mental aspects of the game. When I got my promotion, I used my promotion money to buy my first set of golf clubs."

She's excited about hitting the links at Redstone but said that she has to spend some time getting her swing back.

"I was in a serious mountain biking accident in August last year," she said. "I hit this 440-yard downhill trail and my brakes went out. I kept gaining speed going down the mountain. I didn't panic, though."

At the bottom of the trail, Riester was faced with a metal guard rail and a choice to go right or left. She successfully maneuvered the turn but smashed into a pile of logs, sending her airborne. She had to have 10 stitches in her head and, "that took care of my golf game for a while."

Now that she's settling in, she's ready to get back out on the course.

"I'm so happy to be back in America after nine and a half years," she said. "The atmosphere over there has changed — anti-American — and now with the war and the protests. It was a great ride. We went to almost every country in Europe. But I'm glad to be back home, plant roots, put nails in the walls if I want to hang a picture."



Courtesy photo

## Moon buggy

No equipment breakdowns, a good run time and the cheers of supportive spectators add up to the thrill of success for this college team in NASA's annual Great Moonbuggy Race, coming up April 11-12 at U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Nine area high school teams are each working on a vehicle — a human-powered "buggy" for two that fits in a space about the size of a medium desk or entertainment center. They'll join high schools and colleges from 19 states and Puerto Rico to race their moonbuggies over lunar-like terrain.

# Moving scams unwelcome in any neighborhood

Legal assistance office offers prevention tips

By 1st Lt. JONATHAN THOMAS  
Legal assistance chief

While most military families' experience with moving companies is limited to PCS moves every two or three years, soldiers and civilian employees often face circumstances in which the Army is not responsible for movement of their household goods. For instance, a soldier may move his sickly mother into his home and contract with a moving company to move her household goods. Civilian employees may change residences in the local area. In these circumstances, unprepared Army personnel may face unscrupulous movers who have been the focus of recent media coverage.

The drama opens with cordial telephone representatives and subtle Internet advertising that offers cut-rate prices, according to Dateline NBC correspondent Victoria Corderi. In an attempt to appear genuine, the web sites of disreputable movers almost always include federal license and insurance numbers and customer recommendations. But don't be fooled. Such pleasantries are artificial.

Act two is marked by prices that rocket skyward after your furniture and household items are loaded onto the truck. In fact, it is not unusual for the original estimates to double or even triple in value. Admittedly, boosting the price after loading your belongings is hardly legal. But unscrupulous movers know that most homeowners are moving on a deadline and will opt to pay the ransom. Consequently, disreputable movers

often get what they demand.

Refusing to pay the mover's exorbitant ransom demands marks the beginning of act three. In this act, the mover who was so cordial and understanding at the start becomes ill-tempered and militant, often threatening to imprison your household goods until the ransom is paid.

This usually leads to act four, which takes the form of either a payoff or a rescue. In the payoff version, the distressed homeowner knuckles under the pressure and pays the ransom. In the rescue version, the dispassionate homeowner withstands the temptation to capitulate, and calls an attorney, the local police, or the FBI, who assist the homeowner in retrieving the kidnapped items.

Lamentably, local police departments hesitate to get involved. Most brush aside the incident as being a civil dispute outside the jurisdiction of law enforcement. Still, it sometimes pays to notify FBI and local police immediately after the ransom is first demanded. If given ample notice, these law enforcement officials can often collect evidence needed to retrieve your property and/or to make arrests.

FBI and police involvement aside, personal education is the best way to defend against moving scams. When presented with a ransom demand, knowledgeable homeowners will cite federal law which prohibits movers from charging more than 10 percent above the original estimate on delivery day.

In response, some crooked movers drastically revise their ransom demand or eliminate it altogether. Others simply laugh. They know the law is rarely enforced and that a court battle could cost you as much or more in legal fees as it would to pay the ransom.

So what can you do to protect yourself?

First, educate yourself about the moving industry as well as your legal rights and responsibilities. Obtain a free copy of the pamphlet titled "Your Rights and Responsibilities When You Move," published by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and available for download from their web site, <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>. Federal law requires that your mover furnish a copy of this pamphlet before loading your things. However, it never hurts to prepare in advance.

Another resource is a pamphlet published by the American Moving and Storage Association. Titled, "Consumer Handbook: A Practical Guide to Interstate Moving," this informative, easy-to-read guide can be downloaded from the AMSA web site, <http://www.moving.org>.

Second, consider reporting the incident to the FBI and local law enforcement officials. Military members who are victims of moving scams should also contact the nearest provost marshal's office.

Third, be smart about moving. Here are some helpful tips:

- Ensure that the company's quote is based on weight, not square footage.
- Obtain written estimates and review these estimates carefully.
- Obtain a NOT TO EXCEED price on your written quote. This means that if the mover quotes a price of \$3,000 and the move only costs \$1,300 you will pay only \$1,300.
- Enforce your legal right to accompany the driver to the weight scales and receive documentation on the empty weight and loaded weight of the truck.
- Know your mover. The best movers

are those who enjoy great reputations in your local community and who are recommended by friends or persons that you trust. Also verify that the mover is licensed and bonded with the Department of Transportation.

- Insure your belongings. Be sure to obtain "full value protection" or "full replacement value" insurance to protect yourself in the event the mover damages or loses your things. Take extra care to specify a dollar amount for any articles you might have that are of extraordinary value (any item whose value exceeds \$100 per pound). If you fail to do so, the mover is exempted from paying replacement fees.

- Wrap up your move responsibly. Do not sign the delivery inventory unless you are absolutely satisfied that it is accurate and that it reflects any damaged or missing items.

- File moving claims as soon as possible after unloading. Persons who wish to file a Household Goods Complaint or other Commercial Complaint with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration should call 1-888-368-7263.

For more advice or assistance regarding moving scams, contact the Redstone Arsenal Legal Assistance Office. We provide free legal assistance to active duty and retired military personnel and their dependents by appointment. Our military judge advocates can assist you by reviewing moving estimates or contracts, negotiating settlements of moving disputes, and by providing referrals to civilian attorneys.

We book appointments a week in advance, so call early. Our telephone number is 876-9005.

Remember, move safe — move smart.



Courtesy photo

## Who's who

Melinda Lewis, daughter of Redstone workers Ron and Cindy Lewis, has been selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. The 2000 graduate of Sparkman High is a junior at the University of South Alabama majoring in speech pathology. Her father is director of Lead AMC Integration Support Office; and her mother works in the Acquisition Center.

## Army to tighten travel-card policy

By SSgt. MARCIA TRIGGS  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Using the government travel card when changing duty stations will no longer be permitted, and Army officials said non-authorized use of the card will be met with harsher penalties.

Congress directed the Department of Defense to develop a comprehensive disciplinary policy for military personnel and civilians who misuse the Bank of America travel card. The policy is scheduled to be released soon, said Francis A. Rago, the U.S. Army Travel Card Program manager.

In addition to discontinuing use of the travel card during permanent change-of-station moves, a memorandum from the Office of the Secretary of the Army states that cards are to be deactivated prior to departure from duty stations, unless there is temporary duty en route.

Other changes to the travel card program, effective immediately, are: commands and activities should not use the card to pay for conference registration

fees; charge cards of mobilized reservists will be transferred to active-duty agencies and deactivated until use is required; and

cardholders are not required to use their card for travel expenses associated with mission deployments.

# Ex-soldier jumps at chance to work quality of life issues

## Gulf war veteran knows value of soldier support programs

By SANDY RIEBELING  
 Staff writer  
 sandy@httimes.com

After 22 years in the Army, Larry Leggett learned to be all he could be as a Pershing missile crewman, ammo supply sergeant, instructor and first sergeant. Now as a civilian and the new Quality of Life program manager, he must become an Army of one.

"There's a lot of responsibility with this job," Leggett said. "But the importance of the job and the contribution of being able to serve all servicemembers, military families and civilians is what attracted me. I have a love affair with the military."

Quality of Life programs under the direction of Army Community Service includes Army Family Team Building, Army Family Action Plan, Installation Volunteer Program, Family and Community Team Session and the Mayor's Program.

"Larry came in at the busiest time of the year for that position," Sue Paddock, director of ACS, said. "Besides the ongoing duties, we had the AFAP conference in February, now he's planning for the volunteer luncheon and then the symposium (AFAP) back brief in May. It's keeping him very busy but he's stayed focus and on track."

Leggett arrived on the job with less than a month to prepare for the two-day AFAP conference which included recruit-

ing and coordinating about 80 volunteers, along with collecting and categorizing the 130 or so quality of life issues submitted to the conference.

"I think it went very well. I am grateful for all the help I had from volunteers before and during the conference," he said. "A lot of good issues were brought up and I expect some will go forward." The back brief for the conference is May 15 at the Recreation Center from 1-3 p.m.

Up next is the volunteer luncheon April 24, to recognize volunteer of the year winners and honorees and to celebrate all the volunteers that contribute their time and talent to programs at Redstone.

"Volunteerism is the other thing that really attracted me to this job," said Leggett, who retired from the Army in 1999 and left a job at the Space and Missile Defense Command to return to Redstone.

"I spent the first 16 years as a Pershing crewman — firing nuclear weapons," Leggett said. "But after the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) treaty was signed I switched over to ammunition specialist. I got my training here in 1989. When I went to Desert Storm, I served as an ammo supply sergeant issuing ammunition to the units."

"When I see those guys over there now, I know what it takes. It's not fun. There's a lot of uncertainty about what may happen. Victory was not uncertain, we always knew the outcome. The uncertainty was about casualties. Being away from family was tough." Leggett has a 15-year-old daughter, Laryssa. "It takes a lot



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

**ON THE JOB**— Larry Leggett, new Quality of Life program manager, talks with Julie Clippinger, Endeavor Village mayor, after the March mayor's meeting.

of perseverance and dedication to do what they're doing."

Leggett returned to Redstone from 1994-'97 with HHC AMCOM and the 59th Ordnance Brigade.

While serving at Redstone, Leggett took time out to go to Air Assault School. "There weren't many guys there my age," he said. "I was 38 when I went to jump school."

It was also while stationed here that Leggett first sparked his volunteer fires with a project at Lee High School. He's always enjoyed carpentry and remodeling

so when Mary Kay White from Lee asked for volunteers to rebuild a room at the school, Leggett was quick to step up. Because of all his work, he received the Outstanding Volunteer award from his unit.

"Volunteering is so important," he said. "That's one of the things I want to focus on in the future — creating more awareness. A lot of people don't understand how many programs are supported by volunteers. It's huge, what they do here, all the services that are provided. I want to encourage more people to volunteer and develop ways to let them know how much they are appreciated."

Leggett sees his job as a blessing and a challenge. "Being involved with these programs is an honor and a gigantic responsibility. But there's also a sense of accomplishment when you see people smiling and having that sense of well-being. I love working with people. It's a fast-paced job but I'm enjoying it. I get comfort out of knowing that what I'm doing is helping the community be a better place to live."

The Jackson, Miss., native has no regrets about making Redstone his home. "I bought a house here in '97. I knew I was coming back. I love it here." And he has adopted his life and work philosophy from his favorite pro football team, the Oakland Raiders. "They have a commitment to excellence," he said. "That's what I try to do, base everything on a commitment to excellence. I want to get things done and to make them the best they can be — to make something the best it can possibly be."

# Baby sitters ready for business in community

## Two-day classes build referral list

By JIM BOWNE  
 For the Rocket

Child and Youth Services has trained 84 baby sitters over the past year. Each quarter, Youth Services offers two-day classes at no cost to all Redstone community participants ages 11 and older.

The current problem is not a shortage of trained baby sitters, according to Car-

olyn Taylor, a training and programming specialist with Youth Services and School Age Services. The problem is that the Redstone community is not as informed about the availability of the service as it could be. "We want the whole community to know we have this great service, and they can use it," Taylor said.

Taylor teaches the baby-sitting classes, along with two other trainers: Shellie McDonald, who works with the Child Development Center, and Evelyn Carnes,

See Sitters on page 17



Photo by Jim Bowne

**NEW SKILLS**— Graduates of the baby-sitting class demonstrating their new skills include from left Chanta Ragan, daughter of SFC Jay and Chana Ragan; and Cory Pugh and Chris Tomalewski, sons of SSgt. Richard and Genny Pugh.

# Personnel center breaks ice with courtyard social



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**OUR TREAT**— South Central CPOC's Patti Gibson, left, and Kathy Cassell serve ice cream in the Sparkman courtyard.

## Supervisors show thanks for smooth operations

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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Personnel work isn't always stressful. Just ask the members of South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center.

Their supervisors treated them to an ice cream social Thursday in the Sparkman Center courtyard in recognition of the organization's sixth anniversary and for exceeding monthly goals.

"It's just our way of thanking our people for their hard work," David Brooks, director of SC CPOC, said. He and the other supervisors served ice cream and

fruit which they had purchased for the workers.

The center became the fifth CPOC established in the United States in April 1997. A merger with the Southeast CPOC concluded March 30, 2002, bringing people from Fort Benning, Ga., and some from the National Capital Region center which also closed.

The center's 285 workers exceeded the monthly goal of 900 recruitment actions by closing 1,136 actions in February and 1,038 in March. Their serviced population includes 40,000 people and 19 installations and activities.

"I think it's good for the morale to have a break like this," Cecil Mabry, a personnel systems manager, said while eating ice cream. "Not only that, it's good to get out in the sunshine health-wise."

## Resource managers embrace fund-raiser

### Bears

continued from page 1

duty and retired soldiers and their families when they need assistance.

Last year some \$352,733 was distributed to 483 active duty soldiers, retirees and qualifying family members. Army-wide, \$38 million went to more than

53,000 soldiers and their families.

"AER has been serving soldiers for 61 years now," Kristi Foster, AER officer, said. 1st Lt. William Bridger of Alpha 131st is the campaign chairman; and SSgt. Tyrone Stewart of MEDDAC is co-chairman. This year's campaign theme is "In Peace and War, Your Army Emergency Relief is Always There."

## 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 Breden 876-5397.

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

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



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**PATRIOTIC GROUP**— Resource managers are selling these bears for the AER campaign.

# Logistics directorate manages variety of weapon systems

## Scout operations workers support Army helicopters

By EVETTE BROOKS  
For the Rocket

The Scout Operations Directorate manages more than 15 weapon systems, more than any other directorate in the Integrated Materiel Management Center. "The workload is very extensive, we are proactive in trying to figure out issues associated with logistics and deployments," Art Ather, director of Scout Observation Directorate, said.

Of the weapon systems managed by the directorate, the only "Sort" system they manage is the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior. The OH-58D Kiowa is a two-person, single engine helicopter with a highly accurate navigation system which permits precise target locations that can be handed off to other engagement systems.

The OH-58D has an infrared thermal imaging capability and can display night vision goggles flight reference symbology. Its laser designator/laser rangefinder can provide autonomous designation for laser-guided precision weapons. The primary mission of the Kiowa Warrior is armed reconnaissance in air cavalry troops and light attack companies. In addition, the Kiowa Warrior may be called upon to participate in the following missions or tasks:



Photo by Evette Brooks  
**SUPPORT PLANNING**— From left are Jerry Kelley, Art Ather and Murree Harmon of the Scout Operations Directorate.

Joint Air Attack operations, Air Combat, Limited attack operations, and Artillery target designation. Air-to-Air Stinger missiles provide the Kiowa Warrior with protection against threat aircraft.

The Army has 16 sort systems, seven of which are managed by AMCOM including four aviation and three missile. Of the sort systems, the Kiowa Warrior has the highest readiness rate of all, and has maintained the highest readiness rate despite a lack of funding and personnel. "The OH-58D had not missed a goal in

the last three years. The team makes this happen and they continue to excel; the proof is in the pudding of a 75 percent readiness goal, they have maintained on average a 92 percent readiness capability," Ather said.

"We work very closely with the Program Management Office, AMRDEC and the Acquisition Center to ensure that all aspects of the program are being managed properly. We would like to maintain a high readiness rate during both war and peace time operations," he said.

## Motorcycle safety course deemed life saver

### Required class starts in April

#### SAFETY OFFICE RELEASE

The Army experienced 25 fatal motorcycle accidents in fiscal year '02. In the first two weeks of FY '03, the Army has lost three soldiers in motorcycle accidents. We all owe it to the Army's most precious resource, and their families, to do everything we can to avoid repeating this needless loss of life.

The Army chief of staff confirmed his personal commitment to motorcycle safety by stating that all soldiers operating motorcycles on or off post, on or off duty, regardless of whether the motorcycle is registered on post must have completed

an approved motorcycle safety course. The same course requirement is applicable to all personnel who operate motorcycles on Army installations.

Redstone Arsenal has scheduled Experienced Rider Courses 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 6 p.m. 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. Individuals under 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign a required waiver form before starting the course. This training will be provided free of cost for military and DoD civilian personnel. Others may attend this training if arrange-

ments are made to cover the cost.

Whether you have been riding for one or 31 years, the ERC course offers something for everyone. This course will discuss motorcycling strategies with other riders and sharpen your cornering, braking and emergency maneuvering skills. Satisfactory completion of the course may also qualify you for discounts on motorcycle insurance. Riders must check with their insurance provider.

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 Department of Transportation approved helmet and all required safety gear.

Required safety gear for riding a motorcycle on an Army installation includes a DOT certified helmet, impact or shatter resistant goggles or full face shield properly attached to the helmet, sturdy footwear, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for use on motorcycle, brightly colored outer upper garment during the day and a retro-reflective upper garment during the night. The outer upper garment shall be clearly visible and not covered. Passengers must also comply with this requirement. Rear view mirrors must be mounted on the handle bar or fairing, and the headlight must be turned on.

To register for one of these courses, call Bryan Lorge at 842-8622.

The directorate continues to focus on critical assets in the forward location to ensure that the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior is fully capable of supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. "We are aggressively working with partners in industry ensuring our contractors will be able to meet the additional supply demands which will transpire as a result of increased supply consumption based on the high up-tempo of the aviation fleet," Ather said.

A Mast Mounted Site Forward Repair Activity is being deployed by contractor personnel to forward locations in order to ensure all electronics in the major systems are repaired and fixed in an expeditious manner. MMS-FRA is an electronic shelter with all electronic test equipment embedded. It serves as a forward depot allowing forward fixed capability and reduces turn around time thus enhancing readiness.

"I like my people to operate on a 24/7 basis to ensure that the soldiers needs are met and taken care of," Ather said. "The motto of the directorate is confidence, positive attitude, and agility. I try to instill a family environment in the workplace. I want my people to get up in the morning and feel as though they want to come to work, not that they have to. I try to promote high morale, empowerment and a positive attitude, which is good for team building and overall enhances support and cooperation within the directorate."



Courtesy photo

## Scout leader

Sonny Carter, a logistics management specialist in the Integrated Logistics Support Manprint Office, has received the Silver Beaver Award from the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America. During his 11 years as a Scout leader, he has organized two Cub Scout packs and a Scout troop. He serves as Scoutmaster and charter organization representative of Troop 156.

# Program checks life blood of Army machinery

Office manages oil analysis for units and laboratories

By KELLEY LANE  
Staff writer  
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Prevention and early detection are the keys to good health. When a person has a physical, fluids are taken for analysis to check for cholesterol, sugar and many other substances and chemicals. These tests can tell a doctor if a crucial organ is in trouble or simply what course of action should be taken to prevent or treat a health problem. Machinery is no different. Its life blood, oil, can be checked for contaminants, water, rust, dirt and sand. Metals in the oil warn of potential breakdown of crucial parts and systems.

Oil analysis, the blood test of the mechanical world, can save time, money and lives by catching a problem before it becomes catastrophic to the equipment or the people who depend upon it. The Army Oil Analysis Program has been performing this valuable service since 1975.

The program management office for the Oil Analysis Program resides at Redstone. The office facilitates policies and procedures while providing technical assistance for Army units and the 26 laboratories around the world belonging to the Army. Two of these are mobile labs deployed in Kuwait supporting the military mission there.

"They are burning (analyzing) samples for that entire theater. Both for folks in Kuwait forward and in Afghanistan and Pakistan," Geoff Embrey, project manager, said. A Joint Oil Analysis Program operates between service branches and is also facilitated by the Redstone office. "For example an Air Force fighter jet has to land somewhere and there isn't an Air Force lab around, just an Army lab. Well, Air Force policy says a jet doesn't take off until a sample is burned. So they would go to the Army lab," Embrey said.

The Army program is slightly different from some of the other branches. The Army program tends to be more complex than those of others concentrating on ships and aircraft. "Because of the way our equipment is operated, including our helicopters taking off and landing. It's dusty, dirty environment and they're sucking it up and ingesting it into their engines, transmissions and hydraulic systems. We have more analytical tests than the other services in most cases," Embrey said.

"There are 1,400 to 1,800 components enrolled in the program. Components meaning oil wetted components: engines, transmissions and hydraulics," he said.

Results of these tests tell maintenance crews when to change oil and alerts them to potential problems before they occur. This cuts down on unneeded oil changes, which saves money across the board. Ensuring weapons systems, aircraft and other mission essential equipment is ready and reliable not only saves money in costly replacement parts, it also saves preparation time when the equipment is called into duty. Knowing that machinery is in good working order is invaluable to the soldier whose life may depend upon it and

to the mission which depends upon them both. Environment and usage differ from that of a regular car or vehicle, so should the maintenance and care. "When we briefed (AMC commander) Gen. (Paul) Kern, he asked why we do oil analysis. He said 'I don't do it on my family vehicle and I've got 108,000 miles on it.' I answered that he doesn't use it in the same environment we use our equipment in," Embrey said. "It doesn't sit for long periods of time. It's being used everyday, whereas lots of Army equipment sits in a motor pool or sits in an installation." These periods of inactivity can spell disaster for equipment in the forms of condensation and rusting inside the crucial parts. Checking for these contaminants and others which are not visible to the naked eye is just part of what oil analysis does.

"We take the elements in oil and compare them to what is normal for that component. We look for wear and what type of wear is occurring," Jimmie Kingsolver of the Oil Analysis Program office said. Several of the testing machines and techniques come from the medical field. Results of every test for every component and machine are compiled and kept in a data base so that trends can be compared. Based upon these trends, a lab can pinpoint a problem within a machine and instruct the maintenance crew how to fix it. It is a way to take a detailed look inside a component without taking it apart. Analysis equipment is tested monthly by a technical support center in Pensacola, Fla., to ensure that the most consistently accurate results are being received. Thanks to the improved OASIS software redeveloped in the Redstone office, trends and results are now charted automatically as well as being archived for future use and comparison across the fleet. Online availability to maintenance and support teams is being developed.

The Redstone office hopes to implement streamlining initiatives, including restructuring contracts — a move which could mean big savings to the Army.

"Our main goal under the restructuring program is to leverage and exploit technology," Embrey said. "The technology is coming that, instead of these labs around the world, you could embed sensors on both legacy systems and new systems in design so that oil runs through the sensor in the vehicle so that it gives you a print-out or reading, the same as our labs do today. It's not here today, but in nine to 10 years it may be. We're thinking we can work ourselves out of a job and make it easier on the units."

Appreciation for the efforts and benefits of oil analysis is not in short supply. "It is well liked by maintenance folks and aviators who look at it and see what is going on with their gear boxes," Embrey said. "It gives them a feeling of comfort that someone is looking at their oil and helping them make maintenance decisions."

On March 27 Col. Kurt Weidenthal, commander of Logistics Support Activity, presented both Embrey and Kingsolver with Meritorious Service awards on behalf of Col. Steven Vincent and the

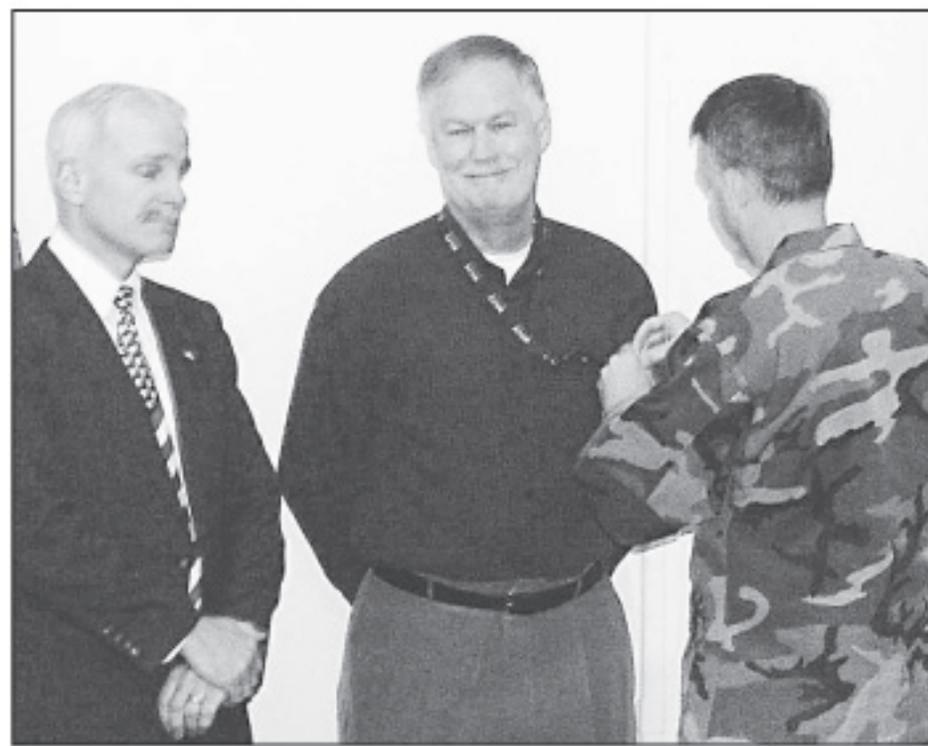


Photo by Kelley Lane

**AWARD—** Geoff Embrey, left, looks on as Jimmie Kingsolver receives the LOGSA Commander's Award from Col. Kurt Weidenthal.

South Carolina Military Department for their work with the mobile analysis labs and continued efforts to support the Army mission. Kingsolver also received the LOGSA Commander's Award from Wei-

denthal for his dedication to the program and support of the mobile labs.

Embrey expressed their mission simply. "We support the soldiers in the sand," he said.

# Top instructor jumps at high incentive



Photo by Sgt. Dave Wheedy

**GERONIMO—** OMEMS instructor SSgt. Sheldon Travick, bottom, and SFC Billy Van Saol of the Golden Knights are earthbound after leaving aircraft.

*Staff sergeant represents school in tandem with Golden Knights*

By Spec. EVAN MORROW

Staff writer

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Military and civilian personnel descended on Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., for the Golden Knights Tandem Jump Incentive Program, March 3-7.

The tandem jump incentive program was designed to not only help the Army Parachute Team's jumpmasters train for the upcoming air show and demonstration season, but also to reward soldiers operating under the TRADOC, USAREC, and Cadet Command umbrellas. Recruiters of the year, instructors of the year, soldiers and drill Sergeants of the year all had priority for selection.

"There were seven in my original group. We were told we could do as many or as few jumps as we wanted during our stay. Five jumps were slated for Monday through Friday," SSgt. Sheldon Travick, OMEMS Instructor of the Year for 2002, said. He represented the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School.

Nine Golden Knights, ranging from sergeant major to sergeant, were involved in the jump. They had prepared a briefing for all the participants that was augmented by a video.

"The Golden Knights acted in a very professional and accommodating manner in terms of welcoming the participants on board the program and making us feel that we were a part of the team," Travick said.

The first of the two jumps on opening

day was 1:30 p.m. The jumps were captured on video and through stills by a photography team.

"The first one was a little scary, but the second one went down much more smoothly. I almost hyperventilated from yelling so much on the way down the first time," Travick said.

On the second day, the first jump was 3:30 p.m. for a new group of seven jumpers. On the third day, another group of jumpers arrived. Travick went along on a media flight and took pictures as they jumped out. He jumped again at 3:30 p.m. By the fifth jump that Friday, he was the only one from his original group of seven. "The jumps were getting progressively more enjoyable," Travick said. "The last few were out of sight. The surroundings were beautiful. There were palm trees and mountains as a backdrop, and the weather stayed clear and about 70-75 degrees.

Overall, it was a new experience and a positive one that everyone should get involved in if and when they get the opportunity."

Travick was the first OMEMS soldier to participate in this incentive program.

He joined the Army Reserves March 24, 1986, graduated basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and completed advanced individual training as a food service specialist. Travick enlisted for active duty in July 1987, and served as a cook for three years before re-enlisting and reclassifying into his current specialty of Integrated Family of Test Equipment operator/maintainer. He has been at Redstone Arsenal since 1999, and is assigned to the NCO Academy as Basic NCO Course instructor.

## ■ Iraqi regime seen out of options for survival

# Baghdad

continued from page 1

Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard Myers would forecast future operations. But, Rumsfeld said, while the regime has been weakened, it is still lethal. "It may prove to be more lethal in the final moments before it ends," he said in clear reference to the Iraqi regime's chemical and biological arms arsenal.

Rumsfeld said no one knows what the regime will do. "What we do know is the strategy is working. The coalition has secured the majority of Iraq's oil wealth for the Iraqi people, secured key roads and bridges leading to Baghdad and is now arrived near the regime's doorstep, all in just two weeks," he said.

Iraqi troops should turn on Saddam Hussein and help the forces of Iraq's liberation, according to Rumsfeld. "I must say, however, that given the conduct of the Iraqi regime, it increasingly seems that Iraq is running out of real soldiers, and soon all that will be left are war crim-

inals," he said.

Rumsfeld and Myers both slammed rumors of third countries trying to broker a deal for the Iraqi regime. "There is not question but that some governments are discussing, from time to time, cutting a deal," he said.

"The inevitable effect of it ... is to give hope and comfort to the Saddam Hussein regime and give them ammunition to retain the loyalty of their forces with the hope that maybe he'll survive. One more time, maybe he'll be there for a decade or so, for another 17 or 18 U.N. resolutions. There's not a chance that there will be a deal," the secretary continued. "It doesn't matter who proposes it, there will not be one."

Myers said that if other governments are giving hope to the regime, "it has the potential to prolong the conflict, and it has the potential for both Iraqi civilian casualties and coalition casualties to increase."

*Editor's note: Jim Garamone of American Forces Press Service contributed to this story.*

## ■ Youths 11 and older can take baby-sitting class

# Sitters

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who works with the Child Development Center and Family Child Care. Both McDonald and Carnes are training and curriculum specialists.

"We conduct baby-sitting classes for children 11 years old and up," McDonald said. "We've had boys in every class we've taught, although I would guess about 70 percent of the participants have been girls."

The baby-sitting classes cover such topics as feeding and diapering, what to do in an emergency, safety issues, basic first aid, and interviewing tips, among others. All participants receive a certificate of completion after the two-day course.

"We do a lot of hands-on bottle feeding, changing diapers, role playing, what to do if such-and-such happens — things like that," McDonald said. "We have boy and girl dolls that we use for teaching the participants how to change diapers, as well as mannequins so the kids can practice rescue breathing. We don't teach CPR, however."

"Not all the class participants have a brother or a sister," Taylor said. "This sometimes leads to humorous incidents that happen during a class, such as learning how to put a diaper on a baby."

"That's true," McDonald said. "Sometimes the kids try to put the diapers on backwards. Also, I remember the time when a participant was attempting to burp the 'baby,' and one of the legs fell off. You can just imagine the reaction from the rest of the group!"

"There was the time, too, when the kids were practicing abdominal thrusts on each other, and they all burst out into almost uncontrollable fits of laughter," Taylor added.

"All the kids really enjoy the classes

because the classes are interactive and fun, but they take the training very seriously," McDonald said. "Some of the kids do complain a little bit afterwards, though. They get a little upset because they go through all this training, and then afterwards they 'don't get as much business' as they'd like to have. That's one reason we're trying to get the word out about this great service."

The newly-trained baby sitters do not have a set fee that they charge for their services. Rather, the fee is usually left up to whatever amount the baby sitter and the family can agree on. The going rate is about \$2.50 per hour, according to McDonald.

Attending baby-sitting classes has several advantages. It provides young people with a way to earn extra money. It helps them learn something about parenting. And it helps prepare them to save a life by knowing what to do in certain situations.

"There are a lot of parents who send their children to our class just because they want them to be trained so they, the parents, can feel safer about letting their older children look after their siblings," Taylor said.

Trainers receive their training from the American Red Cross and are required to update their training each year. "The Babysitter's Handbook," produced by the American Red Cross, is used by the trainers to teach the classes.

"We just want the Redstone community to know that we have this service available to them," Taylor said. "By this, I mean we not only teach baby-sitting classes, but we also maintain an active referral list of qualified baby sitters for those who want to avail themselves of this service. We are anxious to help the community in any way we can."

The next baby-sitting classes are scheduled June 24-25 and Aug. 4-5. For more information, or to get a copy of the referral list, call 313-6909 or 876-7952.

# Striped shirt and whistle bring plenty of heat

*Referees take abuse from fans, coaches*

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Every call they make is unpopular with somebody. They have to follow the action on the court despite the verbal abuse from the fans and coaches. They make split-second decisions that can determine the game's outcome.

They are the basketball referees — the few, the proud and the unappreciated.

Rod Johnson and Vernon Daniels are among the many Redstone workers who spend some of their nights and weekends calling games from high school through college level. Johnson and Daniels are working together again for the 10th annual Hoop Mania, April 12-13, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Joe Davis Stadium to raise money for the local Red Cross. They've helped control the courts at every local Hoop Mania, originally called Hoop it Up, since the first in 1994.

"Vernon's my right-hand man when it comes to that," said Johnson, referee coordinator. About 30 referees will work the half-court games involving teams in various divisions. Each ref will receive \$8 per game, Johnson said. If interested — some experience is needed — call Daniels at 876-1062 or Johnson at 876-1294.

Johnson, 41, is in his 16th year of officiating women's college basketball and seventh as a Division I official. He has been a logistics automation specialist in the Integrated Materiel Management Center for 17 years. His father, Davie, is a retired non-commissioned officer; and his mother, Dessie, works in Red Cross disaster services. The family arrived from Fort Hood, Texas, in 1977. Johnson graduated from Butler High in 1979 and Auburn University in 1983. At 6-foot-5, he played recreational ball at Auburn. He tried to make the basketball team but, during that Charles Barkley era, "I was too skinny," he said.

There's no such restriction for referees. They just have to know the rules and be

willing to take the heat from the experts in the stands.

"You have to be able to block out everything else and focus on your area of responsibility," Johnson said. "The better referees can handle that pressure — dealing with that pressure and still being able to do your job."

Daniels — who said he's "40ish" — has been calling men's and women's basketball for 15 years and has worked at the Division II level for at least seven years. He has worked for the Army for 23 years and arrived in Huntsville in 1989. He's a support services specialist in the management operations and business directorate at Research Development and Engineering Center. At 6-1 he played basketball for Charles Henderson High in Troy, including a few state tournament teams, where he finished in 1973.

"I know we've gone through extensive training to get to the point we've reached," Daniels said of referees. "You have different techniques and philosophies on how a game should be played and that's all dictated by the players, not the coaches or the fans. You have to make a judgment within a split second. You have to be able to get it right and show confidence that you have gotten it right. We, in most cases, have the best look at the play — being on the court and in the proper position."

"And knowing the rule," Johnson added. "And the rules change every year. Referees know the current rules and apply them in the game, whereas the fans know the rules 10 years ago."

With the travel and the demanding schedule, it helps for referees to have an understanding family at home. Johnson has a son, Nicholas, 14, an eighth-grader at Davis Hills Middle, and a daughter, Taylor, 10, a fourth-grader at Jones Valley Elementary. His wife, Jackie, died last Christmas. Daniels and his wife, Evelyn, have a 20-month-old son, Jaron.

"If you put everything in refereeing, something's going to suffer," Johnson said, putting God, family and his job before that avocation.

"You have to have a love for the game to become a referee," Daniels said, "and true desire to put in the work."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**COURT RULERS**— Rod Johnson and Vernon Daniels referee games from high school through college level.

## Islanders prevail in volleyball

The Islanders and 5-Alive were a good match for the final night of the season in the Redstone Arsenal Volleyball League.

And the Islanders got the best of it. The Islanders beat 5-Alive 25-22, 18-21, 21-18 on April 2 at Redstone Fitness Center. Pam Anderson's Team 4 won the night's first match by forfeit over the LOGSA Vols.

"These were the last games for this season but we'll start another in the near future, depending on the interest of starting and having individuals or teams call Paul Banks at 842-6131 or Felix Milar at 313-6091," Felix Milar said.

In matches March 26, Team 4 beat 5-Alive 25-23, 25-11, 21-15; and the LOGSA Vols beat the Islanders 25-14, 28-26, 21-6.



## Sports & Recreation

### Stars baseball

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is sponsoring the annual Team Redstone night at Joe Davis Stadium, April 26. Bring your family and friends to the ballpark to watch the Huntsville Stars take on the Greenville Braves at 7:05 p.m. There will be extra attractions and military displays for the evening. Look for your free general admission tickets at popular locations on the Arsenal, such as the Sparkman Center, other office complexes, PX and Commissary. You can also contact your CWFC representative for other free general admission ticket locations.

### 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/bike/run

3D Research Corporation will sponsor a duathlon April 26 in Hampton Cove to benefit the Huntsville Hospital Foundation. The race includes a 5K run/25K bike/5K run 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>.

### King pins tourney

Redstone Lanes will hold its first King of the Hill Tournament at noon April 19. Signup begins at 11 a.m.; and the fee is \$15 per bowler. Current ABC league averages or 2001-02 book averages will be used (10 pin rule in effect); bowlers without an established average will bowl scratch (200 average). The tournament is limited to the first 64 bowlers, so show up early to reserve your spot. There is a guaranteed first place (King) of \$100 dollars donated by Regal Auto Place and many door prizes donated by Redstone Lanes. Based on 64 entries, the prize fund breakdown is: King \$450, second \$200 and \$50 for third and fourth place. For information call Patrick Hunt 837-1834 or 527-1173, or Redstone Lanes 876-6634.

### Golf benefit

The annual American Society of Military Comptrollers benefit golf tournament, in memory of ASMC member Pepper Takayama, is April 25 at 8 a.m. at Redstone Golf Course. Sponsors include Quantitech, Paradigm Technologies Inc., BAE Systems and Sparta. Proceeds will be donated to the American Diabetes Association. The individual cost is \$32 (including \$5 donation to charity). Contests include closest to the pin and longest drive. Call Bob Popour 313-2689 or Rick Lindsey 955-0064 by April 21 to sign up.

### Fund golf tournament

The 2003 AER Golf Tournament, a four-person scramble, is May 9 at 7:30 a.m. at Redstone Golf Course. Rain date is May 16. Entry fee is \$23 for members, \$35 for non-members. Call Nadine Manderson 842-8714, Austin Watson 313-2422, Jim Dabbs 842-0170 or SSgt. White 876-5399.

### Boating safety classes

Boating safety classes are this Thursday through May 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at building 3305 (Stillwell Hall) on Zeus Drive, room 215. A \$22 fee covers the cost of the text and binder which is provided to all students. For more information or registration, call Tom Kunhart 885-7096 work or 830-6621 home.

### Conference golf tourney

In conjunction with the Army T&E Days 2003 Conference, a golf tournament will be held June 3 at 8 a.m. at the Canebroke Country Club in Athens. Fee is \$60. Registration information is on the web site: [www.testevaldays.com](http://www.testevaldays.com) or call Sherry Hilley 842-6715.



## 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

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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.

#### Test and evaluation days

The Test and Evaluation Management Agency will sponsor its sixth Army T&E Days 2003 — "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. Scheduled speakers include Claude Bolton Jr., ASA(ALT); Walter Hollis, DUSA(OR); Maj. Gen. Robert Armbruster, CG ATEC; Dennis Muilenburg, vice president-FCS, Boeing; and more to be announced. 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 Mike McFalls 876-3462 or Sherry Hilley 842-6715. The web site is [www.testevaldays.com](http://www.testevaldays.com).

#### 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 Comp-trollers will hold its monthly meeting Friday 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.

#### Alcoholics anonymous

An Alcoholics Anonymous group meets each Thursday at 11 a.m. in Sparkman Center building 5304, room 4309. For informa-

tion 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.

#### 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.

#### Alabama State alums

The Alabama State University, Rocket City Alumni Chapter will have its monthly meeting April 19 at 8:30 a.m. at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in Madison Square Mall.

#### Command town hall

The AMCOM Town Hall, with commander Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, is April 16 from 9-11 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. It will feature a progress report on the AMCOM war effort, an update on reorganization and personnel business management topics. Badges must be worn by all attending. The Town Hall will be broadcast on Team Redstone Television Channel 42, and via Internet Portal Television to computer desktops equipped with the IPTV application. Ten seats for the hearing impaired will be reserved in Section 7 of the auditorium.

#### Airborne association

The Vulcan Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association will meet Saturday



Photo by Kimberly Danford

## Launcher seat

Roderick Rogers, an Alabama A&M University mechanical engineering student, examines a Multiple Launch Rocket System launcher on display at the Research Development and Engineering Center's Software Engineering Directorate. Students from universities throughout the Southeast visited SED April 1 as part of their participation in the Technological Excellence in Aviation, Missiles and Space (TEAMS) Week 2003 Conference.

at 11:30 a.m. at the Barn Restaurant in Jacksonville. The officers for 2003-04 will be installed with officials from the national association in attendance. Membership in the association is open to anyone who is airborne qualified, as well as anyone who has served in a unit assigned or attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. For more information, call Barry Simpson 533-3000 or Dennis Camp 883-7488.

#### Military care group

Whitesburg Baptist Church has formed the Military Care Group that meets Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30 in room 114. This group meets to support the military and their families, whether active duty, Reserve or National Guard, with Christian fellowship, hope and encouragement. The church, 6806 Whitesburg Drive, invites all military and families. For information call Tina Tindle 704-5678, ext. 205.

#### Federal retirees

National Association of Retired Federal Employees will meet Saturday at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. Refreshments start at 9:30 a.m. and the program at 10. Scheduled speaker is Al Whitaker, media and public relations manager for the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. For more information, call 881-4944 or 881-3168.



## 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.

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

#### Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, is open for shopping Wednesdays 9-5, 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. The shop is now accepting homemade craft items for consignment, and spring and summer items. The shop accepts donations. Bring us your yard sale leftovers; tax slips are available. For more information, call 881-6992.

#### 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. Jenny Nolen will speak on "Effective Communication Skills," and Tommy Halfen, South East Crime Prevention, will

speak on "Crime Prevention/Safety Awareness." The training is available in TIPs under course number F32APW or vendor name IAAP. In addition, attendee names should be provided to [arnita.lee@redstone.army.mil](mailto:arnita.lee@redstone.army.mil). The Redstone Arsenal Chapter is happy to offer this course at no cost to you. The course is not restricted to administrative professionals; if you have an interest in the subjects, you are invited to attend. For more information, call Arnita 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](http://www.volunteerhsv.org).

## 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.

## 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 unveil-

ing of the Zora Neale Hurston Literary Postage Stamp at 11 a.m. Saturday 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."

## Kids festival

"KidsFest 2003" is 11 a.m. Sunday 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.

## IMMC AER 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 at <http://immc.redstone.army.mil/aer/>.

## Retirement events

A retirement buffet luncheon in honor of Col. Gary Jerauld, TOCs/AMDCCS project manager, is Thursday 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 Friday 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, 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 experi-

ence 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. 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.

## 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.

## Youth job fair

The annual youth job fair is April 19 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 session 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.

## Church crusade

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

## Benefit book sale

The Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief is April 21 through May 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Sparkman building 5300 on the second floor by the elevators. "As in the past, we accept donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes," a prepared release said. "We will be able to receive donations from April 3 until April 29." If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 842-9909 to arrange delivery and pick up of those items.

## Property tag sale

The Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities will hold a non-appropriated fund Property Tag Sale May 6-8 at building 7436. The sale is 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 6-7 and ends at 1 p.m. May 8. All sale items have a two-part, pre-priced tag attached. The bottom of the tag will be carried to the register to purchase the item; simply present your receipt to clear the building. All items must be removed the day of purchase. This sale is open to all members of the Redstone community, including contractors. For more information, call 876-1418 or go to [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

## Master's degrees

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information meeting on its Master of Business Administration degree program at 6-8 p.m. April 17 at Calhoun Community College, conference room 101E, 102 Wynn Drive. Weekend classes meet in Huntsville on an 18-month alternate weekend format. For more information call Bill Spade 800-672-7223, ext. 5046, or by e-mail to [bill@huizenga.nova.edu](mailto:bill@huizenga.nova.edu).

## Housing office

Personnel shortages, increased work requirements and the need for additional training have made it necessary for the Housing Office to change its hours. Effective immediately the office will close daily 11:30-12:30. For administrative and training purposes, the office will be closed Thursdays 12:30-4:30 p.m.

## Gifts from homefront

Americans can now make a significant contribution toward the morale and well being of a loved one, family member or dear friend associated with the U.S. military, regardless of where they are stationed — at home or overseas. These "Gifts From the Homefront" CertifiChecks come as a result of a new partnership between the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and CertifiChecks, America's hometown gift certificate resource center. Sending CertifiChecks is a way for people to show their support of servicemembers. CertifiChecks are redeemable for merchandise at all AAFES post exchanges and base exchanges throughout the world. Details are available on the AAFES web site, [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and by phone at 1-877-770-GIFT (4438). Sold by CertifiChecks, they can be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, and come in denominations of \$10 and \$20. Each order includes a festive envelope.

