

Redstone Rocket

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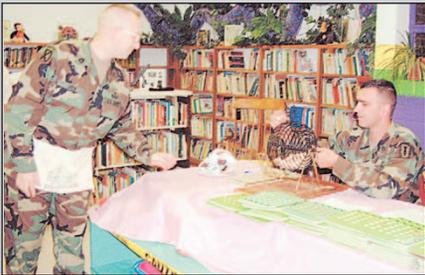
Survey says

Annual vaccine
a shot in the arm

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Helping hands



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honors janitor's
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Supporting cast



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Win or lose

Dragons
prevail in
showdown

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Serving those who serve

Dining facility prepares
for Thanksgiving feast

By KIM MASON

Staff writer

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For more than 20 years Sarah Hardin, cook 2, has helped prepare the Thanksgiving meal at Redstone's dining facility.

"We try to get everything just right and overall it is a good dinner," she said. "That day is more fun, everybody has their family with them. Folks are happy and pleased with the meal."

This year will be no exception. The dining facility has been planning for this year's Thanksgiving feast since last year's. To prepare for the large number of people, the food has to be ordered two months out.

"We are always looking to see how we can better it for next year," Hal Weatherman, the installation food adviser/contracting officer representative, said.

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Photo by Kim Mason

WRAPPING IT UP— David Oden, cook 2, does prep work in the dining facility's kitchen. The staff is preparing for more than 500 servicemembers, retirees and their families this Thanksgiving.

Program helps children see past differences

Disability dolls teach
empathy, understanding

By SANDY RIEBELING

Staff writer

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Sitting on the carpet among a sea of preschoolers, teacher Janie Loadholt gently places her hands over 3-year-old Jordan Parker's ears and talks to the class.

"Lately we've been talking about what it means to be handicap," Loadholt said. "Class, if a person can't hear, what do you think could help her?"

"A hearing dog," one confident boy offers as he rises to his knees from a sitting position. Realizing he misspoke, he gives his head an animated smack and smiles. "I mean a hearing thing that goes in your ear."

That one answer opens the floodgates for suggestions from the young students. "You could talk louder," one child said.

While they're on a roll, Loadholt continued her questioning. "Who can tell me what might help you if you're blind?"

Again the students shout out random answers. "Glasses ... a walking dog ... a cane ..." Four-year-old

Laurel Hatfield chimes in about her personal experience with her blind dog, Oscar, and how he bumps into a lot of things and how she helps him.

"And does anyone remember about a special book?" Loadholt prompts.

"The bumpy book," 5-year-old Dai-von Lewis said. "The one with the bumps that when you touch it you know what the letters are when you're blind."

The discussion among the 3-5-year-olds at the Child Development Center is part of an enhanced curriculum provided by the Exceptional Family Member program at Army Community Service to increase awareness and education about disabilities as well as publicize the EFM program at ACS.

The CDC had a few books about disabilities in its library already but EFM program manager Natalie Taylor loaned the class "disabilities dolls" and a supplemental book to introduce the youngsters to the idea that all people are different. Some differences may affect how a person looks or moves or sees or hears. It also points out that while some people are different because of an accident or illness, others are born that

See **Program** on page 15

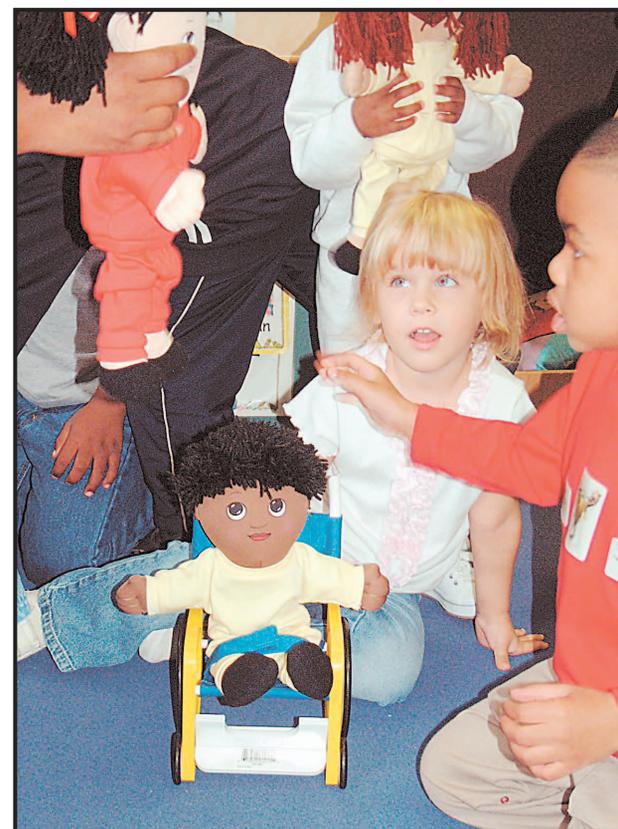


Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HANDS ON LESSON— Three-year-olds Alexis Oliver and Harold Legrear enjoy learning about differences using disability dolls at the Child Development Center.

Class help from academy

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the NCO Academy's Advanced Class from Redstone Arsenal for their help and participation with Owens Elementary School's Harvest Festival. I was impressed with their kindness and eagerness to help with any situation. These grown men in military fatigues were painting children's faces and helping little ones with games. They walked our hallways where children watched them in awe and never showed the slightest indifference toward anyone. Their presence also had a positive effect on the behavior of our visitors.

The NCO Academy's Advanced Class also went above and beyond our expectations by staying after hours to help clean our school. If you have any idea what a school looks like after Harvest Festival, then you should know that one action of staying late to help meant a great deal to all involved. I am proud to have met and worked with the men of NCO Academy's Advanced Class. They represent our country well and deserve our respect and support. Well done, gentlemen!

Marla Mucci Williams
Sixth-grade teacher,
Owens Elementary School

Flowers to the florist

I would like to take the time to thank the ladies at the Main Exchange Florist Shop (Kathi and Irma), for always taking the time to make freshly arranged flowers for me on many occasions. They are very caring and professional in what they do. I wish their shop was in the front of the Main Exchange instead of the back so that everyone can really see how hard these two ladies work to make someone special in our life

smile. But since it's not, I like to encourage anyone who has free time to just stop by and pay them a visit and allow them to show you how creative they can be. Thank you, Kathi and Irma, for making my family smile on each arrangement sent to them by your shop. God bless you both.

Gloria Dorsey
retired sergeant first class

Amazed by gate traffic

Can somebody please straighten out the rat maze that happens every morning at Gate 3? Why are there three lanes of traffic funneling into one lane to go through the barricades?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for your concern for making Redstone a bet-

ter place. Gate 3 transitions from three to one lane because of the space and barricades available, and other force protection concerns. After we received your letter, we reanalyzed the traffic flow to see if we could increase the flow while meeting our force protection concerns. We developed a new configuration that you will see over the next two weeks that will improve the transition."

Managers endure policies

Surrounded by the lush Alabama countryside, there is a Redstone organization that routinely sends mid-level, functional managers to countries which consistently appear on State Department travel advisories. Great personal risk is associated with travel to these places. Because of the disparity in the region's work-week in relation to that of the U.S., coupled with the extremely demanding nature of the countries involved, TDYs often become seven-day-a-week, 16-hour-a-day marathons. Yet

these managers have been unfailingly denied even a reduced level of compensatory time. Recently, after a functional manager returned late on a Saturday from what amounted to a three-week endurance test, working numerous overtime, weekend and holiday hours in the process (as well as the pleasure of 24 hours "in transit"), the division chief warned the manager, in response to a request to take the following Monday as

See Policies on page 17

Veteran changed by experience

Now that I am an old man, I see things differently. I am no longer bullet proof. I have good and bad memories. The good memories come from loved ones and when I did right and the bad ones came from when I did wrong.

During my life span, war has changed. My first training weapon was an M-1. We wore the old helmets. Except for when we wore jungle fatigues in Vietnam, our fatigues went inside our pants.

Fortunately of the year I spent in country, I only spent five months in a forward unit and two in some heavy (stuff). If I had done more, I am sure I would be dead or maimed. My battalion had 800 combat medical evacuations out of a total strength of 500 personnel for the year I was in country.

"Up north" in the U.S. Marine Corps, we wore the jungle fatigues until they rotted off our bodies, ate C-rations, scratched our jungle rot, shook with malaria, burned leeches and suffered with dysentery. Unless we were at death's door, we took our medicine and kept humping. The only baths I took for the last several months that was not in a hospital was when it rained, stepped into a shell hole, or we crossed a creek. I did

not have a roof over my head. Our regimental command said that Marines fight from holes and not bunkers so we tore the bunkers down and dug holes. Even on operations in the fields, we dug holes every night. I made the mistake of digging in a graveyard one night.

There is a thing called the monsoon. Sometimes the holes would fill with water. If it had stopped raining by morning we would shake off our ponchos and go to work or continue patrolling. If not, it would be a little warmer and we'd still be wet. We did not carry rubber air mattresses because they added weight to our 90-100 pound packs. Unless you have humped a base plate for a mortar, tube, mortar rounds, extra ammo, night sights, and/or a radio, you probably don't know why the packs weighed so much. The only personal gear was our letter writing material, toothbrush, razor and a towel for the necks of our flack jackets. We may have been sick, but we would be shaved. We drank creek or well water and watched the planes kick orange stuff across the distant hills.

The people in the military have changed also. They are smarter and are

See Experience on page 17

Quote of the week

'It's not what's on the back of the jerseys. It's what's on the front.'

— *Karl Malone, Los Angeles Lakers*

An open lane random survey

How do you feel about annual flu shots?

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



Sonja Shiflett
DoD civilian

"I think it's good. It's nice for me to be able to take it here."



Maj. Ken Merwin
reservist

"I think the flu shot is a great idea. Everyone should get one every year."

Lt. Col. Phil Bragg
AMCOM Operations Center



"I take it every year and have been. The only year I didn't take it is when I got the flu."



Patricia Schleigh
contractor

"It's a great solution to the flu season. It's very helpful and I've already had mine."

Redstone Rocket

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Getting to know you

By KIM MASON
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Name: Bobbie Jordan

Job: Contract specialist/contracting officer Multiple Launch Rocket Systems Division, Acquisition Center

Where do you call home?
Birmingham, Ala.

What do you like about your job?
Providing soldiers with equipment that is vital to ensuring their safety and our freedom

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Spend time with my family and friends, shopping and reading.



What are your goals?
To raise a happy, healthy and productive family.

Crimes, accidents and other occurrences

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

Oct. 31 — An individual stopped for speeding on Redstone Road was also found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license. He was issued two violation notices and released.

Oct. 31 — A soldier reported that someone damaged his vehicle when they poured oil into his gas tank and on his vehicle while it was parked and unattended at his Redstone Arsenal residence. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Oct. 31 — An individual was found to be operating his motor vehicle with a suspended driver's license during an inspection at Gate 9. He was also found to have two arrest warrants outstanding from the Madison Police Department. He was issued a violation notice and released to the Madison police.

Nov. 1 — An individual reported that someone removed her cellular telephone from her locker at the Commissary. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 4 — An individual reported that someone removed his Alabama registration tag from his trailer which was parked and unattended in the trailer storage lot on Mauler Road. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 4 — An individual reported that

someone had called his cellular telephone multiple times making threatening statements. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Nov. 6 — A student attending college on Redstone was found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia during an inspection of his vehicle at Gate 9. He was issued two violation notices and released. Investigation continues by the Provost Marshal Office.

Violation notices issued: speeding, 42; possession of controlled substance, 1; possession of marijuana, 1; possession of drug paraphernalia, 1; no driver's license in possession, 1; failure to make a complete stop, 2; expired registration, 7; and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended/revoked driver's license, 2.

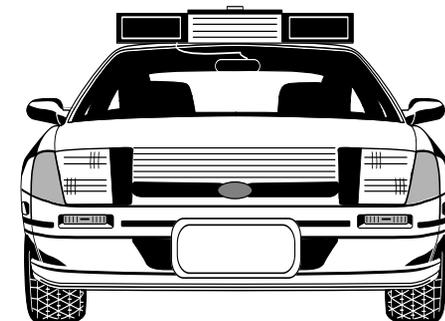


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Impact resistant

Blake Fordham, supervisor for Solar Security Films, installs safety film on the perimeter windows of the third floor of building 5301. This fragment retention project is designed to prevent the glass from flying inward in the event of an explosion. The security effort began Nov. 4 and will continue several months for all the perimeter windows in the Sparkman Center.

NCO Academy soldiers salute America's veterans

Downtown parade continues tradition

By MSgt PHILLIPS LABOY
For the Rocket

Once again the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School and 59th Ordnance Brigade spent Nov. 11 paying special tribute to veterans.

Like many organizations around the country, OMEMS was out in full force honoring our veterans for their selfless sacrifice, personal courage, and lasting devotion to duty and country. Nov. 11, OMEMS gave real meaning to this year's Veterans Day parade by bringing its soldiers out to march in the parade.

In doing this the school honored not just local veterans, but all veterans around the world for their past and present dedication and bravery. Present and future soldiers should remember that "freedom isn't free." Many of this nation's veterans have fought and died, from Korea in the Asian Pacific to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. America is still the greatest country in the free world and we must also remember that the freedom we enjoy today came at a great price to others.

For many years, OMEMS has supported the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home, located at 2701 Meridian St., through the NCO Academy. Many years ago the academy adopted the home and



Photo by Sgt. Danielle Ellis/NCO Academy

VINTAGE RIDE— MSgt. Phillips Laboy and World War II veteran Roy Hall show the 1962 Chevy Impala which Hall rode in the Veterans Day parade.

has since supported the home's efforts. Classes passing through the academy are required to do some type of community project before graduation; and many classes select to spend their time at the local veterans home. Many years ago a resident from the veterans home was chosen to be honored and rode in the Veterans

Day parade as guest of the academy. This tradition started in 1997 with Charles Carleton. Carleton, a Navy veteran of the Normandy invasion and an inductee into the Madison County Hall of Heroes, has since died. In 1998 Jack Love, a four-year Navy veteran of the Korean War was honored. In 1999 Tommy L. Moore, a mem-

ber of the Alabama Army National Guard, during the 1950s, was honored for his past service. In 2000 Benjamin Martin, who enlisted in the Army in 1941 and served with General Patton as his jeep mechanic in the Third Army in Europe through 1945, was honored.

This year Roy Hall was chosen by the staff of the veterans home to be honored by the academy and rode in the local parade in a 1962 Chevy Impala. Hall enlisted in the Army in 1943 and served in the South Pacific during World War II as a second class Navy petty officer until December 1945. Hall was later honorably discharged from the Navy and returned home to Alabama to become a salesman. Hall, 78, resides in the veterans home.

After the parade, CSM Carlos Fernandez, the NCO Academy commandant, presented a plaque and this year's poster to Hall for his past service to this nation.

We would like to thank Tony Culberston, the home administrator, and staff members of the veterans home for their loyalty and devotion in taking care of local veterans. We want to thank all the OMEMS soldiers for coming out and marching in this year's parade. Finally, we want to thank all our veterans for all they have done to ensure that we continue to enjoy the one thing that matters most to us all: our freedom.

Editor's note: MSgt. Phillips Laboy is deputy commandant of the NCO Academy.

Excitement builds toward Rustic Lodge open house

Annual event slated Nov. 20

CIVILIAN WELFARE FUND RELEASE

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council will hold the annual Rustic Lodge open house Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Admission is free.

Come to the lodge and enjoy food, refreshments and live DJ entertainment by Ted Cannon. There will be door prizes from local companies and the vendors who will have their displays throughout the lodge. You must be present to win the door prizes that will be given away throughout the day. As an extra bonus, Beanie Babies will be given to the first 100 persons who enter the Rustic Lodge at the opening time.

This year's CWFC event will be a shopper's extravaganza with interesting things for all ages. With Christmas coming soon, this will be your opportunity to get some early shopping done. There will be items for everyone on your shopping list.

You'll be able to browse and shop Cindy Stitt (arts and crafts), Weekenders Fashions, Avon, Pampered Chef, Watkins Distributors, Create-A-Basket, Poor Woman's Paradise, Frame It, Creative Baskets, Nikken, Southern Living At Home, Ellen's Creative Cakes, Tasty Delights, Taylor & Associates, Gold

Canyon Candles of Alabama, Huntsville Achievement School, and the African American Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few. There will be hardware vendors for the guys, too. This is also a chance for you to view the Rustic Lodge and all it has to offer in the way of parties, weddings, family reunions and office events.

A shuttle bus will make continuous runs to the Rustic Lodge from the parking lot by building 5309 in the Sparkman Center starting at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 2:45 p.m. If you drive your vehicle to the Rustic Lodge, building 8998, you will park at the bottom of the hill at Raiford and Beech Roads and ride the continuous shuttle to the lodge door. Vehicles with handicap identification will be allowed to park at the lodge. Handicap transportation can be arranged with an advance request with the Transportation Office.

The Civilian Welfare Fund Council is a volunteer, governing council concerned with determining the morale, welfare and recreation need and desires of the civilian community at Redstone. The CWFC develops, funds and directs those programs to satisfy the desires of the civilian community. The lodge open house began four years ago and has grown into a major event. The CWFC appreciates the community's response and once again, extends an invitation to the Redstone family to participate in this event.



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Star officer

CWO 3 Keith Stilwell receives the Bronze Star Medal from Lt. Col. Tom Epperson, commander, 184th Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment. Stilwell was recognized for serving as aviation safety officer with Combined/Joint Task Force-180 in Operation Enduring Freedom. Epperson is an instructor at the Hazardous Devices School, while Stilwell is a contractor in support of Program Executive Office for Aviation.

Students think it's cool to have soldiers at carnival

NCO Academy members serve community project

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

Calling bingo numbers, pouring sodas, helping children with carnival games. Perhaps not the hair-raising excitement these explosive ordnance disposal soldiers are used to but for the students and community they served, it certainly left an impression.

"These guys are great," Shari Watson, Owens Elementary PTO vice president, said while visiting with the soldiers after the Harvest Festival at Owens Nov. 1. "This is our biggest fund-raiser of the year. Having them here was terrific. The kids loved it. Their eyes lit up when they saw the soldiers. And it was great having the extra help. We can't thank them enough."

The 15 EOD soldiers of Advanced NCO Academy class 431-55D40-002-04 plus small group leader SFC Lonnie Havens, arrived early at the school to assist with last minute preparations, worked games and activities throughout the evening and then stayed late to get the school back in order for Monday morning classes.

"They were so very polite and helpful," Ann Robinson, second-grade teacher at Owens, said. "It was good for the community to be able to interact with the soldiers in this kind of environment. It was good for the kids to see the soldiers showing an interest in them. And it gave us all a chance to say thank you to a soldier in person for what they're doing out there in the world."

The soldiers arrived at Redstone Oct. 13 and will graduate Nov. 14. Part

of their training at the NCO Academy includes participation in a community project. Havens said they had a choice of several events but decided on this one because, "it was the best choice for us. We had a great time."

"It was good to see everybody having fun. They started to get carried away with the face painting," said SFC Mike Benton, who spent much of his time with a brush in hand. Benton, in the Army 12 years, has a wife, Melissa, and two sons, who are at his home station, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

"For some reason, the kids thought it was more fun to hit me with the bean bags than the holes on the ghost," SFC Dean Smith said with a smile.

The other Smith, SFC Joseph Smith, spent his time helping with the 3-point shootout basketball game in the gym. "I had a great time out there. It was very competitive. The guy with my last name won it."

Smith plays in the over 30 league at his home station, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla, where his wife Darlene, and their 10-year-old son, Dillon, await his return. "They (his family) went to a carnival last night."

Many parents spoke of the positive influence the soldiers' presence had on the event. "I think everything was calmer," parent Ginger King said. "Having them in the hallways made everyone behave a little better. I think the parents who worked with the soldiers had a great time, too."

"My son thought it was so cool to have the soldiers," said parent and teacher Marla Williams. "His eyes were so big looking up at them. He was in awe."

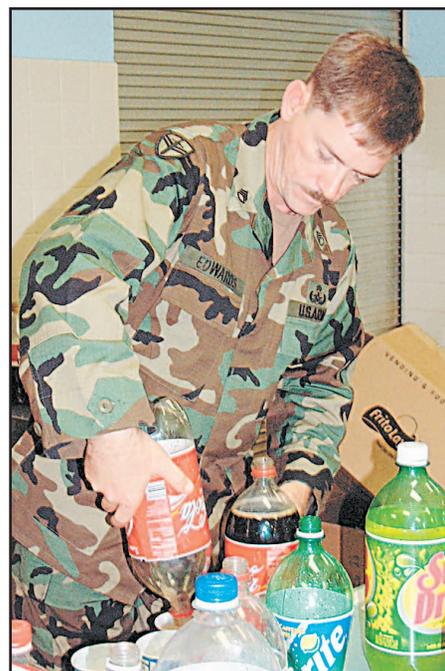
Photos by Sandy Riebeling



RING LEADERS— SSgt. Kenneth Miller, left, and SSgt. Michael Cassin of NCO Academy work the ring toss game at Owens Elementary's Harvest Festival Nov. 1.



SOLDIERS ON CALL— NCO Academy's SFC James Wise, left, and SSgt. Joseph Cullingford help run the bingo game as part of the elementary school's fund-raiser.



LAST CALL FOR COKES— SSgt. Brian Edwards mans the drink table at the school's Harvest Festival.



DUCK AND COVER— "I think the students liked hitting me as much as getting the bean bags through the holes," SFC Dean Smith said of his time working the bean bag toss at Owens' Harvest Festival. "It was a lot of fun."

Janitor on first name basis at command headquarters



Huntsville native receives award from Rehabilitation Foundation

By SKIP VAUGHN
 Rocket editor
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Sparkman Center janitor Stuart Turner is a rare person.

He's an honest-to-goodness Huntsville native in a city where it seems most folks came from elsewhere.

He's also a winner. Turner won this year's William Whatley Significant Achievement Award from Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation.

"It's our company's biggest award every year that we give out," said Ricki Hasting of Phoenix Service, project manager for the postwide janitorial contract. Phoenix Service is a division of Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation.

Turner, 33, who has worked here since May 2002, has cerebral palsy. He received his award Oct. 28 at the Von Braun Center north hall in a banquet attended by about 400 people, including Mayor Loretta Spencer.

"I feel honored in getting this award," Turner said. "I have cerebral palsy and it just goes to show that people with cerebral palsy can do whatever 'normal' people can do."

"Since being assigned as a janitorial worker on Redstone Arsenal, Stuart has excelled in every way," Tracy Burgess, his supervisor, said in her written nomination.

The Whatley Award is presented each year to a person or persons who have demonstrated courage and determination to overcome substantial obstacles to achieve their life goals. The award is named in honor of William Whatley, founding Huntsville Rehabilitation Foundation board member and himself a person with a disability who continues to inspire those around him each day.

Turner started working in his father's drug store, Turner Pharmacy, when he was 14. He would empty the trash and do other chores; and his father gradually gave him

more responsibility. His father, Mahlon Turner, died in March 1999.

"I give him the credit for teaching me good work ethic," said the youngest of three sons of Mahlon and Janice Turner. He expressed his appreciation to Burgess for the award nomination and to his co-workers for their support.

An avid Auburn fan, he works on the fourth and fifth floors of building 5300. He remembers the first names of the people in those offices.

"I enjoy working up here. All these people are nice people," Turner said. "I haven't met many people in the Sparkman complex that I don't like, and especially these people up on the fifth floor. They're just as nice as they can be."

Hail and farewell

Twenty-four soldiers arrive for duty

Redstone units added 24 soldiers, including 10 officers, during October.

The Garrison provided the following list:

- PFC Sarah Hjalmarson, MED-DAC; Sgt. Maj. Freddie Curry, Delta Company; Pvt. Rashad Jackson, MED-DAC; SSgt. Redro Delgado, Headquarters & Alpha; Sgt. Marcus Rushing, Garrison; PFC Valerie Esquivel, MEDDAC; SSgt. Connie McClure, MEDDAC; SSgt. Amelia Marshel, Delta Company; Sgt. Del Williams, Delta Company; SSgt. Nieves Sarraga, NCO Academy; Pvt. Robert M. Harris, Delta Company; SSgt. Felix Knight, 832nd Ordnance Battalion; Spec. Sharoder Faulk, Delta Company; and

Spec. Charlene Pippens, Garrison.

- Capt. Michael Alsbrook, Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School; Capt. Sean Hicks, OMEMS; CWO 4 Thomas Gerish, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Maj. Maurice Stewart, STRICOM; Maj. Ty Weaver, Headquarters Aviation and Missiles; Maj. James Bledsoe, Longbow Apache; CWO 3 Kimball Almour, Corpus Christi, Texas; Maj. Kathaleen Moses, Missile Defense Agency; Lt. Col. Susan Gahagan, Headquarters Aviation and Missiles; and Maj. Ronnie McDaniel, AMCOM.

Photo by Skip Vaughn
MOP UP— Stuart Turner mops a break room on the fifth floor of building 5300.

Law enforcement agencies get general orders

Provost marshal general established at Pentagon

By SFC MARCIA TRIGGS
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — "I've been called a lot of things, but never the provost marshal general, and it sounds good," said Maj. Gen. Donald Ryder, the Army's first PMG in almost 30 years.



Photo by Aaron Westbrook

TAKING OFFICE— Maj. Gen. Donald Ryder addresses the crowd at a ceremony in the Pentagon Hall of Heroes establishing him as the Army's provost marshal general.

During a re-establishment ceremony for the office of the Provost Marshal General, Ryder was sworn in to uphold the position. He now serves as the 11th general officer to ever be the PMG.

"This is a major milestone ... the PMG will be a single source for the Army staff on all key law enforcement elements and security issues. We are here to support the soldiers in the field," Ryder said.

"As we sit here, a military police team is getting in an armored vehicle to go on patrol in Iraq or an agent with CID command is in the desert looking at mass grave sites to see if there was an atrocity," Ryder said during the ceremony. "In this environment, it's not if our MPs are attacked, it's when."

"However, they continue the mission, and the Office of the Provost Marshal General will never forget that," he concluded in his speech.

During the re-establishment ceremony, Ryder accepted the flag to represent the PMG with retired Maj. Gen. Lloyd Ramsey, the last serving PMG.

"When I held the position, Ryder still had a year before he would be commissioned in the Army," Ramsey said.

While on the Army staff, Ramsey said he did a number of things to improve the morale of the military policemen after the Army made the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command a separate entity.

"One of the first things we did was design a badge for the MPs, then we got them better vehicles," Ramsey said.

"There was also a problem with investigating small crimes because the provost marshal no longer had control over CID. So we organized the military police investigator.

"I think the Army has made a good decision in bringing all the law enforcement agencies back under one command," Ramsey said.

The position of the PMG was first established in 1776 during the Revolutionary War, but was abolished after the war. During the position's history, it was usually established during major combat, but discontinued shortly after the conflict was over.

In line with history, former Secretary of the Army Thomas White approved the re-establishment of the Office of the Provost Marshal General effective Sept. 26, 2003 during the war on terrorism.

There's a reason the PMG is essential in wartime, said Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, director of the Army staff. "There are 16,000 military policemen and we are the most rotated, deployed and used units in the Army."

The MPs are the first and last soldiers people see when they enter and leave the post, Lovelace said. They are the ones who keep the environment safe and peaceful, he added.

Ryder will be "dual-hatted" as both the PMG and the commander of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. Sgt. Maj. Brian Deorocki was also named as the provost sergeant major.

Army casualties identified by DoD

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense has announced the deaths of five soldiers who were supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. The soldiers were on board a CH-47 Chinook helicopter when it went down on Nov. 2 in Al Fallujah, Iraq.

Killed were:

- SSgt. Daniel Bader, 28, of Colorado Springs, Colo. Bader was assigned to Air Defense Artillery Battery, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fort Carson, Colo.

- Spec. Steven Conover, 21, of Wilmington, Ohio. Conover was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, based in Fort Sill, Okla.

- Spec. Brian Penisten, 28, of Fort Wayne, Ind. Penisten was assigned to Air Defense Artillery Battery, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, based in Fort Carson.

- Sgt. Joel Perez, 25, of Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. Perez was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, based in Fort Sill.

- CWO Bruce A. Smith, 41, of West Liberty, Iowa. Smith was assigned to Detachment 1, Company F, 106th Aviation Battalion, Army National Guard, based in Davenport, Iowa.

The cause of the incident was unknown and an investigation was under way.

Teledyne Brown awarded NASA service contract

Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc. has been awarded a minimum value \$35 million contract, over five years assuming all options are exercised, to provide propellants, pressurants and calibration services in support of Marshall Space Flight Center.

Teledyne Brown has been operating

and maintaining MSFC's propellant, high-pressure and cryogenic systems for the past 32 years. Teledyne Brown employees have worked more than 1.6 million continuous hours over the past 11 years without a lost-time accident, according to a Teledyne release.

■ Largest meal of year served Thanksgiving

Feast

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The Thanksgiving meal has been a tradition at Redstone since the dining facility opened in 1957.

The dining facility will be open to all active duty and retired military, their immediate family members and one guest. The Thanksgiving meal is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 27 with single servicemembers dining 11-12:30, servicemembers with family 12:30-1:30 and retirees 1:30-2:30. Reservations are not permitted.

The cost of the meal is \$5.25, and \$4.55 for dependents of soldiers E-4 and below. All servicemembers must have their military identification card. Only cash will be accepted for the meal.

"This is our largest and most expensive meal of the year," Weatherman said, citing one of the reasons it is not open to the public. "We have to stay within our budget. We only get \$6.80 a day to feed the soldiers three squares. We really have to plan for this. All of our meals are great, but this one we really put on a show."

Weatherman has been working closely with Dan Tyree, product manager for K and K Food Service, to prepare for more than 500 people this Thanksgiving. Together they have 45 years of food service experience.

"You've got to have a good relationship with the contracting food service

office," Weatherman said. "We've been working together for five years."

Normally it takes 17 workers per meal to operate the dining facility; for Thanksgiving it takes 20-25.

"They really are the reason this meal goes off so good," Tyree said. "The pastries are baked fresh every day. We've got some dedicated employees that have great experience. They're very special people who try to give the servicemembers that feeling of coming home for dinner."

The menu for this year will include Steamship beef (150 pounds), turkey (350 pounds), Cornish hens (132 pounds), ham (216 pounds) and shrimp (136 pounds) along with the traditional fixings including cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes, giblet gravy, candied sweet potatoes, buttered green peas with mushrooms, cranberry sauce, corn, broccoli, tossed green salad, cole slaw, fresh fruit, fruit salad, hot rolls and beverages. For dessert there will be four to five pastries to choose from including mincemeat pie and sweet potato pie.

Next year the traditional Thanksgiving meal will be served in a new location. The new dining facility is expected to open by spring 2004. The current dining facility, competing for an Armywide award in December, seats 265. The new facility will seat 383. Those planning to attend the Thanksgiving meal should be aware of the ongoing construction and should enter the dining facility (building 3438) from the Aerobee Road side.

Cover bases before changing health coverage

Ensure that you know who you're dealing with

By KELLEY LANE

Staff writer
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We've all had calls at home from companies promising better rates and better service for our money than the companies we currently use for whatever type of service. We know to be cautious. We know to verify who we are dealing with. We even know, as the old commercial goes, to ask for it in writing. But do we use that same caution at work? Several reports have been made to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center of calls coming into individuals at work from companies that appear to be

affiliated with federal employee life insurance. They are not.

Sometimes the companies' names have led several people to believe they are official representatives.

"There is no caveat in the world that says a private company can't use 'federal' or 'government' in their company title," Kitty Williams, human resources specialist, said. "But just because it's there doesn't mean they necessarily have an affiliation with us."

Although these callers have not actually said they are official government benefits representatives, it is easy to be confused. "If you're approached by someone you need to use reasonable caution," she said. "If you're interested in being in an official federal insurance program you need to look at the Office of Personnel Management web site or contact any CPAC representative."

Williams said Office of Personnel Management is the authority for administration for federal program benefits. Companies not sponsored by OPM are probably private companies. "If you refer back to OPM and look under 'Employee Benefits,' they have all of their insurance information listed," Williams said. "You can look and see who is life insurance, who is health insurance and you can go back and double check it."

Williams also wanted to remind employees that the sponsored life insurance program, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance, will not call employees at

work to change their benefits or coverage. "If you're contacted by someone it's probably a private company," she said. "That's fine, but if you're not sure, look it up."

Williams said she got the impression from some of those who had reported calls that they had changed their coverage believing it to be a federally sponsored program. That is the CPAC's main concern, people basing such a decision on an incorrect assumption. Those knowing they are dealing with a private company should feel free to compare coverage and make the decision best for them. "I'm not saying a private company may not have better deals. Keep your options open," Williams said. "But if you're looking to

stay with a federally sponsored program, check it out before you commit."

The OPM web site is available at www.opm.gov. It has not only the names of officially sponsored companies and programs, but frequently asked questions and a wealth of information pertaining to employee benefits, as well as any scheduled open season dates for insurance programs. Questions can also be directed to Kitty Williams at 313-5889. She urges employees to use the same caution one would with any other purchase or decision when dealing with their benefits. "If you think it might be federal, but you're not sure, talk to the CPAC or go to the OPM web site before you commit," Williams said.



Photo by Kelley Lane

CHECKING TWICE— Kitty Williams points out how easy it is to check the Office of Personnel Management web site from your desk.

Community members get their shot at flu vaccine

Fox Army Health Center lists sites and schedule

FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER RELEASE

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

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

- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 12 from 3-6 p.m. for active duty and military ID card holders.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 13 from 9-11 a.m. for active duty and military ID card holders.
- Space and Missile Defense Command, Nov. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Research Development and Engineering Center, building 5400, SELA Auditorium, Nov. 17 from 8-10 a.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 17 from 2-3 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 18 from 8-11 a.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Building 4488, room A-311, Nov. 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 19 from 1-3 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Corps of Engineers, Nov. 20 from 8-10 a.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 20 from noon-2 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Sparkman Center, Bob Jones Auditorium, Nov. 21 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.
- Fox Army Health Center, Nov. 21 from noon-2 p.m. for active duty, military ID card holders and DoD civilians.

Military beneficiaries age 12 and

under need to get their flu vaccination from their health care provider.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Program

continued from page 1

way. And no matter what the differences are between people, everyone is the same on the inside.

Loadholt held up two of the soft dolls and asked what the differences were between them. Students first noticed that the color of their outfits was different. Then hair color, skin color, one wore a leg brace.

"We all have the same feelings though, don't we?" the teacher said. "We all hurt and we all laugh and we all feel good and we all have red blood. We're all the same on the inside."

The message has been engrafted into tender hearts of these children. Over the past few weeks, the seeds of understanding, empathy and compassion have taken root and are blossoming.

"Just yesterday we had a visitor on the playground in a wheelchair," Loadholt said. "Kids are always going to be curious about wheelchairs or seeing-eye dogs but now they have a better understanding.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HEAR NO EVIL— Preschool teacher Janie Loadholt covers Jordan Parker's ears and asks students what could help her if she couldn't hear. The lesson is part of an enhanced curriculum about disabilities.

They're more aware of what it means. And that different isn't better or worse. It's just different and that's OK."

Taylor is excited about sharing this innovative awareness program with the children on the Arsenal. "We had the book and dolls over at School Age Services for the past few months, letting them work with the program," she said. "It's been very well received and the teachers have been great."

'All people shine, as jewels in a chest; Born with our gifts, each person is blessed.'

— from *Special People Special Ways*
by Arlene Maguire

Taylor's goal isn't just a better understanding of disabilities among the military populous but it's about getting the word out to families that the Exceptional Family Member program is alive and well and ready to help.

"We have lots of resources," Taylor said. "There's a fairly new web site out there for military families and we want people to know about it. It's www.efm-connections.com. It is a family connection line that allows families to hook up with other families that share the same illness or disability. It's confidential online. There's a ton of resources on the web for disabilities but this is a great place to start and it's a military-based resource.

The monthly publication *Exceptional Parents* is also available at the post library. "They publish an annual resource guide every year," Taylor said. "If anyone is interested in getting a subscription that comes to their home, let me know. If we can get 10 people, we can get a better rate. It's \$20 a year without the discount."

Enrollment in EFM program is mandatory for the military if a spouse or child has a medical or educational special need.

"We want to get them enrolled in EMF and get them resources. Early intervention is our big thing," Taylor said. "The CDC is really working well with us in identifying needs and getting referrals. It helps parents to get their children that extra help to get them ready for kindergarten."

For more information on the program, call Taylor at 876-5397.

Competition grows in annual awards program

Support to soldiers remains priority

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Twelve people attended a surprise award breakfast in 1991 for the lone nominee, Ernie Young. What a difference 12 years makes.

The 2003 Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Awards had a record 32 nominees and more than 190 people attended the luncheon Thursday at the Officers and Civilians Club.

"So competition has really stiffened this year," quipped Rick Turner, deputy executive director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center. He served a master of ceremonies for the event which had winners in two categories.

O.V. Bonner and Marsha Lawson shared the professional and technical award; and John Chapman was the management/executive winner.

"It's the greatest award that I've ever received in my logistics career," Lawson said. "It means a lot to achieve this award knowing that I've succeeded in supporting the soldier in the field, which is my number one concern."

She serves as the Air Defense Directorate's primary representative for the Patriot Ground Support Equipment spares availability. The Athens native works daily with warfighters, contractors and readiness representatives identifying needed parts, then tracking and locating those critical parts - resulting in an unprecedented 100 percent worldwide readiness rate.

"I work with a very great group," Bon-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

LOGISTICS WINNERS— From left are Marsha Lawson, O.V. Bonner, Ernie Young and John Chapman.

ner, team leader for the Maintenance Directorate's newly established Fort Rucker Fleet Support Branch, said. "You couldn't work with a better group of self-starters. They can make anybody look good."

Even before becoming leader of the branch, the Texarkana, Texas native began pulling together a command-wide team to ensure the pilot program's success. Under his leadership, the Aviation and Missile Command team surpassed expectation to the point where the command and control date could be moved up by nearly a year.

"I'm really overwhelmed," Chapman, executive director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center, said. "I'm truly honored to first of all just having been nominated."

Chapman's service in the armed forces, the logistics center, program management offices, executive leadership positions and now as a senior executive and leader of IMMC exemplifies his long and distin-

guished career. The Port Arthur, Texas native served in the Army 1969-71 and began his government civilian career in October 1975 as an Army Materiel Command intern at Red River Army Depot. He is dedicated to the customer, the command and is focused on weapon system and warfighters' readiness.

Young, former deputy to the commanding general of the Aviation and Missile Command, retired in 1998 and resides in Huntsville.

"He treated people with fairness and dignity and respect," Turner said.

This year's nominees included Art Ather, Bonner, Chapman, Kathy Elfrink, Thomas Fitzgerald, Judith Gerley, John Henrikson, Manuel Jones, Lawson, Mitchelene Pryor-Betts, Elaine Rucker, Dennis Urhahn and Bernhard Wiegand, all from the Integrated Materiel Management Center; Sheri Baskins, Cheryl Moore Davis, Charles Miller and Brian Wood, from the Acquisition Center; Ronald Dalton, Michael Haragan, Capt. Bryan Phillips, Barbara Quick and Ralph Smith, from the Program Executive Office for Aviation; Anthony Grayson, Ani Powers and Terri Schwierling, from Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems Project Office; Hallie Dubia and Carol Bullington, from Letterkenny (Pa.) and Corpus Christi (Texas) Army Depots; James Hatchett of Missile Defense Agency, Gifford Lee of Lower Tier Project Office, Lisha Adams of PEO for Tactical Missiles, Lt. Col. Robert Steward of Space and Missile Defense Command and William Holliday of the Garrison.



Photo by Bill Trevey

House warming

Members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers completed their annual home winterization partnering project with CASA, a local community service organization, Nov. 1. From left they include: front row, Karen Trevey, Kay Patton, Freida Waits, Deb Chambers, April Brooks and Susan Hickam; and back row, Bill Trevey, Russ Hickam, Mit Merritt and Dennis Summers.

Policies

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comp time, he would be carried in a leave-without-pay status if he did not report to work that day.

The compensatory time requested (nine hours) represented less than 10 percent of the total uncompensated holiday and overtime worked during the manager's TDY. Yet, there was absolutely no consideration given. To my knowledge, there is no regulatory or statutory authority prohibiting manager compensation when job or mission requirements dictate extraordinary hours, especially in very high risk areas. It is certainly not within supervisory authority to usurp a congressional mandate (i.e. designation of nation holidays) when mission requirements dictate holiday work (I am positive this particular issue will soon be resolved).

Because of the dubious nature of this and other ill-conceived policies, clearly

intended to control rather than inspire, this high-performing organization's competitive edge is vanishing. Morale is suffering. The spark is slowly disappearing from the eyes of many of the functional managers whose enthusiasm was previously boundless. Talk of retirement, looking for other jobs, or doing only that which is necessary is becoming the norm. Apathy and resignation are taking hold in the very people who must assure the job gets done. Product quality from that 20 percent that routinely carries out 80 percent of the work has become corrupted. It would seem elder leadership does not understand they are contributing to the eradication of the organization's initiative, allegiance and drive ... or they simply are not concerned.

If I could pass a message to these functional managers, it would be not to give up; do not be driven into becoming the stereotypical civil servant. Weather the storm; storms exhaust themselves. Do not coddle your people; push their

capabilities to the limit while protecting them against the arbitrary rendering of "policies." Mentor them; lead as you would like to be led. Teach that good leadership is not founded in absolute devotion to the bureaucracy gods; processes serve to achieve the goal; the goal does not serve the process. A person's worth is driven by their character. And above all, set the example that common sense, fairness and an appreciation for their efforts will never be ignored. You owe this to your government, to your organization, but most of all, you owe it to those performers who look to you to lead the way.

Christopher Chavez

Editor's note: The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center provided the following response about travel, overtime and holiday pay. "The Fair Labor Standards Act controls premium pay and compensation for overtime worked. Employees are divided into two groups reference the FLSA. The first group is the employees who are subject (nonexempt) to the provisions of the act. Generally, that group is GS-1 through GS-12 or equivalent. Employees in this group must be compensated for all hours they are required or allowed to work beyond 40 hours in a week or 80 hours in a pay period if they are working an Alternative Work Schedule/Compressed Work Schedule. The second group of employees is the group that is not subject (exempt) to the FLSA. Generally, these employees are GS-13s and above or the equivalent. This group of employees may donate time to the job without com-

■ Guilt comes to combat survivor

Experience

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for the most part a more decent lot. In my day, some draftees only had third-grade educations. Many recruits were recruited from jails. One of the guys in my basic platoon could not read or write. Still that was an improvement. At the time of the Civil War, sergeants used to have soldiers put straw in one of their shoes or boots so they could march. Because many of the soldiers did not know their right from their left, cadence was not counted as "Left, left, left-right-left" but was counted as "strawfoot, strawfoot."

We were just like Caesar's soldiers on deck while he and Cleopatra sailed along the Nile. We sang dirty jodies. Soldiers since the beginning of time have done so. They would make a woman blush. The creativity behind some of the words was amazing. They were laced with sexual humor. It was male bonding. With the addition of women, there is no place for them in the military today.

Women have changed the military. I think they do well in certain jobs and are certainly as smart as men, but no matter how much legislation may be passed, they are not as physical as their male counterparts. The services have had social engineering forced upon them. If women were as strong, if they could do the same physical training, and do everything else that size and strength require, they should be allowed in combat in separate, all-women units. Unfortunately, I went through jump school with the second bunch of women taking the training. It was a joke for them: no pull-ups, bent leg sit-ups, half-mile run, etc. and still five of the six dropped out. The men had to run two miles, do seven pull-ups and regulation push-ups. The six women had six instructors while there were six instructors for the 530 men. We rolled with laughter and disdain as we heard them chant "Airborne, airborne, all the way!"

After 35 years, I have yet to find one woman who can pull the combat load of an average man.

A woman gets breaks. She gets time off with pay to have kids. Somehow it doesn't seem fair to me for a man to be at the DMZ in an infantry unit while someone else is off duty having a kid and getting the same promotion considerations. There are places a woman cannot be sent but a man does get sent. I'll guarantee that these are not R&R centers. While they get commands and may work hard, I'll bet none of them ever gets the command stress of a commander of Ranger unit in combat.

Someone's sexuality doesn't bother me as long as they keep it to themselves. That being said and me being a hetro, I don't want to be hit upon by some man. I had it happen once and it made me feel creepy and somehow challenged my martial spirit. That called for some major modifications to his health and dental records. Speaking from when I was single, it is not the same as a man making a gentle advance on a woman. While possibly annoyed, a woman could be flattered that someone finds her desirable. If she says no, that should be the end of it. There is room for only one color and one race in the military: green. Anyone with a uniform is worthy of respect and has probably demonstrated some expertise in his job.

Many people I served with were killed. Some of them died within a few feet of me. I watched them blown through the air, fall, bleed and die. I have picked up their broken bodies and felt their bones rattle and have had their bloody bodies stick to my clothing as I dragged them out of fire. For some reason, none of it killed or seriously injured me.

I guess what has really changed in my perspective of life is that I feel guilty — guilty for being alive and not having done more good with my life.

I am not a better man for it, but I am a changed man.

Name withheld by request

penation, however when they are required to work more than their normal tour of duty they should receive overtime compensation. This compensation can come in the form of premium pay or compensatory time off. Overtime work should be scheduled and approved ahead of time in order for the employee to receive compensation. However, employees who are subject to the FLSA must be compensated if they work whether it was scheduled and approved ahead of time or not.

"Federal holidays are paid holidays and if an employee is required to work on a federal holiday such as the Fourth of July or Veterans Day they are entitled to holiday premium pay over and above the normal paid holiday they would receive. This is a legal entitlement and cannot be waived by either the employee or management. It is not considered overtime because it is not time worked beyond the employee's normal tour of duty.

"AMCOM Regulation 690-2, Appendix F, Excused Absence, allows management to excuse employees after prolonged overtime or travel. This may be exercised when it is not possible or reasonable to reschedule an employee's duty or travel time and regular scheduling would require the employee to travel and/or serve in a duty status for more than 16 hours. The employee may be excused without charge to leave or loss of pay for a reasonable time to recuperate from fatigue or loss of sleep. Excused leave under this authority will not normally exceed four hours."

Flag-flying showdown on Patton Road

Delta wins battle of unbeaten teams

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Two unbeaten rivals battled on the final night of the season Nov. 6 with the play-offs set to kick off Thursday night.

Delta had beaten HHC 59th three straight times, including last year's championship final and twice in the preseason tournament.

The Devastating Dragons still rule in flag football.

Del Williams caught a 35-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Laquaine Bess with 34 seconds left as Delta beat the 59th 20-14 at the field off Patton Road. Bess also connected with Williams on a 6-yard score in the final four minutes.

"I think we've got the best (players on) both sides of the ball in the league, definitely the most talented," said Williams, who arrived Oct. 20 from Fort Polk, La. "So we'll be looking for another championship."

The 32-year-old Williamstown, N.J., native played for Rowan University, a Division III school in Glassboro, N.J., from 1994-97. He was a wide receiver/kick returner for the New Jersey Red Devils in the Eastern Arena Football League in 1998.

On his first touchdown catch of the night, Williams saw the cornerback playing up and beat him on a post pattern. On the game winner, the cornerback was staying back.

"He was playing deep so we made the adjustment and took it to the house," Williams said. "I came toward the quarterback. (The cornerback) was playing me deep and he just threw it over his head. We made the adjustment."

Bess gave Delta a 6-0 lead at 10:52 in the first half with a breakaway 62-yard run. That was the score at halftime.

The 59th answered at 16:26 in the second half when Patrick Perry caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Lee Diaz. Subbing for regular quarterback Jerry McIntyre, who was in Florida for a conference, Diaz ran in the two-point conversion for an 8-6 lead.

Williams' touchdown at 3:53 put Delta up 12-8. The 59th regained the lead at 1:03 when Perry caught a 15-yarder from Diaz. But the 59th couldn't hold its 14-12 advantage in the final minute. After Williams' second TD, Bess added a two-point conversion pass to Bruce Hollis.

Bess, who had a pass intercepted by Diaz in the first half, returned the favor with 18 seconds left and Delta ran out the clock.

"They just got the break when it counted," Perry said. "It was a good game."

"We're just defending champions, we're still defending our title," Delta center/defensive back Stanley Lewis said. "We were fortunate enough to get another victory. The 59th's a good team. But it's just more momentum for the playoffs."

After clinching the top seeding, the Delta players decided to forfeit their suspended game against Headquarters & Alpha. The game was suspended because of weather Nov. 4 with Delta leading 22-14 with 9:22 left.

Other results last week included: Nov. 3 — AMCOM won by forfeit over NCO Academy, Headquarters & Alpha won by forfeit over Marines and HHC 59th defeated 2117th 22-8; Nov. 4 — MEDDAC edged AMCOM 22-20 and the NCO Academy and Marines had a double forfeit; Nov. 5 — Charlie beat Bravo by penetration in overtime, MEDDAC won by forfeit over Marines and Headquarters & Alpha won by forfeit over NCO Academy; Nov. 6 — AMCOM nipped Charlie 8-6 and 2117th beat Bravo 20-14.

"We've just got to play tough," 2117th quarterback Bryan Christa said of entering the playoffs. "We played Delta and the 59th tough. We just got down to the end and let it slip away. We've just got to play a complete game."

The playoffs start at 6 p.m. Thursday and the championship is scheduled Nov. 20. Eight teams will compete in the double-elimination event since the NCO Academy and the Marines both withdrew.

Here are the final standings from the regular season: Western Conference — Delta (8-1), MEDDAC (7-2), 2117th (4-5), Charlie (4-5), NCO Academy (0-9); and Eastern Conference — HHC 59th (8-1), AMCOM (6-3), Headquarters & Alpha (4-5), Bravo (3-6) and Marines (0-9).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

STRETCHING OUT— Delta wide receiver/cornerback Christopher Frazier, left, and defensive lineman Ian Cutting stretch before playing HHC 59th.

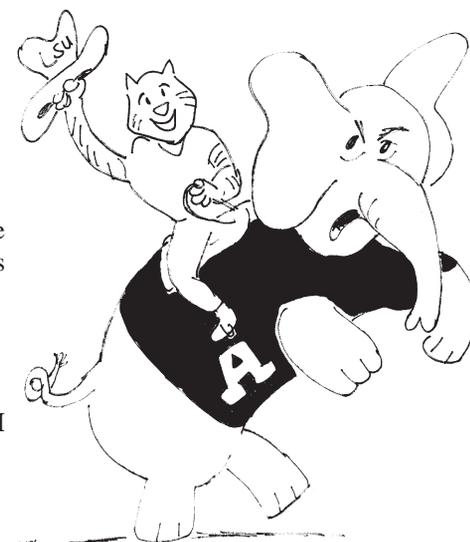
Louisiana State Tigers should tame Tide

Auburn picked over Georgia

By SKIP VAUGHN
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My college football predictions are 217-82 after 12 weeks. Here are Skip's Picks for selected games this week:

- LSU at Alabama — **LSU**
- Auburn at Georgia — **Auburn**
- Alabama A&M at Alcorn State — **A&M**
- New Mexico State at Arkansas — **Ark.**
- Florida at South Carolina — **Florida**
- Kentucky at Vanderbilt — **Kentucky**
- Miss. State at Tennessee — **Tenn.**
- Air Force at New Mexico — **Air Force**
- Southern Cal at Arizona — **USC**
- Houston at Army — **Houston**
- BYU at Notre Dame — **Notre Dame**
- Baylor at Oklahoma — **Oklahoma**
- Boston College at Rutgers — **BC**
- Washington at California — **Wash.**
- Duke at Clemson — **Clemson**
- Colorado at Iowa State — **Iowa State**
- N.C. State at Florida State — **FSU**
- Arizona State at Washington State — **Wash. State**



- Kansas State at Nebraska — **Nebraska**
- Minnesota at Iowa — **Iowa**
- Memphis at Louisville — **Louisville**
- Virginia at Maryland — **Maryland**
- Michigan at Northwestern — **Mich.**
- Purdue at Ohio State — **Ohio State**
- Texas Tech at Texas — **Texas**
- Pittsburgh at West Virginia — **W. Va.**
- Syracuse at Miami — **Miami**
- Wyoming at Utah — **Utah**



Sports & Recreation



Conferences & Meetings

Monday night football

Come out and enjoy Monday night football with friends at Firehouse Pub. Each Monday night throughout the NFL season, they're serving up free hot dogs and hamburgers with beverage purchase and watching MNF on the big screen. They'll also have door prize drawings. Come early for a good seat. The Firehouse Pub, located in building 114 on Hankins Road (north off Goss Road, near the pool), opens at 4 p.m. For more information, call 842-0748 or 830-2582. Upcoming games include Nov. 17, Pittsburgh vs. San Francisco; Nov. 24, N.Y. Giants vs. Tampa Bay; Dec. 1, Tennessee vs. N.Y. Jets; Dec. 8, St. Louis vs. Cleveland; and Dec. 15, Philadelphia vs. Miami.

Bowling center

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

Closest to pin

Harvest Hills Golf Course, 791 Harvest Road, is having a closest to the pin contest every weekend in November. Chances cost \$3 and you must pay for 18 holes each time. The par-3 ninth hole is 160-170 yards. One driver is given away to the closest person each weekend. The course is off Highway 53 at the blinking light near the BP Station. For information call 890-0705.

Deer hunting

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

Protestant women

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

Property and contracts

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

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Nov. 20 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at the Soldatenstube. For more information, call retired CSM Jean Rose 313-1659.

Resource managers

American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Trinity Personal Growth Center on Airport Road. John Johns, deputy to the commander for systems support, is to speak on the Army reset program at AMCOM. For tickets — \$9 members, \$10 non-members — call Virginia Moore 955-6262, ext.165.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League detachment will meet tonight at 7 at American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue.

Blacks in government

Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of

Blacks in Government will meet Nov. 18 at 11 a.m. in the Regimental Room at the Officers and Civilians Club. "Members attending who use the buffet line in the club for lunch should plan to arrive early," a prepared release said. For more information, call chapter president Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Admin professionals

Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its monthly meeting at 11 a.m. Nov. 18 at the Officers and Civilians Club. Each year the chapter adopts a charity to support and this month's meeting will provide support to the Volunteer Center. Heather Johnson from the Volunteer Center will speak about the volunteer opportunities in North Alabama. The center is affiliated with many organizations that are in need of toys, canned goods, clothing or money. IAAP members will bring these items to present to Johnson after her presentation. Members and guests will go through the buffet for lunch. For more information, call June Pockrus 842-9888.



Miscellaneous

Merit awards

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

Reserve unit

A local Army Reserve detachment doing weekend drills on Redstone Arsenal is looking for prior active duty soldiers who want to return to duty, or soldiers who wish to transfer from other Reserve /National Guard units with a specialty of 74B information systems operators, and 75B/H unit administration. For 74B, the unit will con-

sider reclassification/waiver action to 74B if you can document with resume your Civilian Acquired Skills to include your education/experience in the following computer skills: data base management, PC programming languages, networking/systems administration and telecommunications skills. Minimum of a secret clearance is required. And you must possess the character and personal qualifications to pass a SBI Investigation check to obtain a top secret clearance required by the specialty. Specialties 74C and 74F are now authorized to convert to 74B as well. For MOS 75B/H, you must be MOS-Q prior service or transfer from another unit. For information call Charles Vartan 876-0604 (work) or 883-8891 (home).

Civilian deployment

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

Surplus sales

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

Thrift shop

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

Education week luncheon

The American Education Week luncheon is Nov. 17 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Lucy Baxley, lieutenant governor of

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Alabama. Tickets are available at the club for \$16 per person or \$150 for a table of eight. Deadline to buy tickets is Nov. 7. For information call 830-CLUB.

Education open house

In conjunction with American Education Week, the Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road, will hold an Open House. Everyone is invited to see what is available at the center Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A number of colleges and universities will have representatives at the center to answer questions about programs available and others that are anticipated.

Job fair

The Job Fair is Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a new location — the Challenger Community Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Drive. This event is sponsored by Army Community Service. For more information, call 876-5397.

Crafts show

Northeastern Craftmen's Association will hold its Christmas show Dec. 5-7 at the Von Braun Center. Show times are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

Astronomical society

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

West Point applications

Each year, approximately 150 Regular Army soldiers are offered admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Although some soldiers are offered direct admission to West Point, the majority attend USMAPS. The prep school provides the appropriate academic, military and physical instruction to qualify and motivate soldiers for admission to and graduation from West Point, and for commissioning as Army second lieutenants. Maj. Cliff Hodges, from the West Point Admissions Office, will be at the Heiser Hall, Redstone Arsenal Nov. 18 at 5:30 a.m. to give an admissions brief to all soldiers on the process of making application. Interested soldiers should contact their chain of command and arrange for a time to attend the briefing. All interested soldiers are encouraged to attend regardless of high school academic performance. For more information, call Hodges (845) 938-5780 or DSN 688-5780.

Dining out

Col. Richard De Fatta, project manager for Short Range Air Defense, would like to invite all former SHORAD employees to attend the annual SHORAD Dining Out, Friday at 6 p.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. This is an opportunity to see old friends, catch up on what's going on, and enjoy a fine dinner. Several former project managers have already agreed

to attend. Cost is \$34 per person. For more information, call Capt. Jason Shepard or Bonnie Coleman 313-3171.

Master's degrees

Nova Southeastern University will hold an information meeting on its master of business administration program Nov. 20 at 6 p.m. at Calhoun Community College, conference room 101-E, 102 Wynn Drive. The program offers classes in Huntsville on an 18-month alternate weekend format. For more information, call Bill Spade 800-672-7223, ext. 5046.

Benefit concert

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

Village volunteers

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

Army family team building

Join Army Family Team Building for "Survival Techniques" (or "What To Do While Your Soldier is Out Seeing the World"), Nov. 18-20 from 6-9 p.m. at building 3338 on Redeye Road. This AFTB Level I course includes: Military Customs & Courtesies, Benefits, Entitlements & Compensation, Chain of Command/Chain of Concern, Family & Military Expectations, Military & Civilian Resources, Impact of the Mission on Family Life, Army Family Action Plan, Basic Problem Solving, Operation READY, and Supporting Your Child's Education. Call 876-5397 to reserve your seat and arrange for free child-care. Space is limited.

Post Exchange news

The Redstone Church's Chicken drive-through is now open for your convenience.

Charity dance

The Alabama Hispanic Association will hold a Latin dance Saturday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Senior Center auditorium, 2200 Drake Avenue. There is a free dance lesson from 8-9 p.m. Music will be provided by Latin Rhythms Band and disc jockey Signey Hernandez. Cost is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Buy \$10 tickets at La Michoacana Store, 2007 University Drive (across from Toy-R-Us). Proceeds

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