

## Brown, Hogan Selected For SES Positions

William J. Brown, chief of the Program Integration Division (PPI) has been selected for a Senior Executive Service Position as chief of the Data Services Department at the DMA Hydrographic/Topographic Center in Brookmont, Md. The change is expected to take place during the summer. Brown previously served in the Programs, Production and Operations Directorate at HQ DMA.

William N. Hogan has been selected for an SES position as chief of the Data Services Department at the Aerospace Center. He is now chief of the Program Integration



Brown

Hogan

Division at Headquarters DMA. Before going to Washington in May 1984, he was assigned to the Program Integration Division at the Aerospace Center as chief of the Integration Branch (PIIP). He received a DMA Outstanding Personnel Award in that position. The change is expected to take place this summer.

Other SES selections, announced by the DMA Director, Maj. Gen. Robert A. Rosenberg, are:

- Maurice S. Stuckey, as Technical Director/Deputy Director of the Combat Support Center.
- Curtis B. Ward, as chief of the Program Integration Division at the Systems Center.

## Director's Award To Be Presented At Awards Day

A new award — the Director's Award — will be given for the first time at the DMA Awards Day Ceremony May 29. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on the Parade Ground, with the presenta-

# Orienteer

DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY AEROSPACE CENTER

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## Efforts To Get Contract Competition Bare Fruit

By Paul Hurlburt

The Aerospace Center's acquisition staff were singled out for praise by DMA Acquisition Director Mordecai Labovitz.

In a statement released to DMA component newspapers, Labovitz noted that AC's Directorate of Acquisition made a special effort to find competition for a contract that had been renewed noncompetitively for seven years.

"The eighth year promised to be no different," Labovitz declared, except for the action under taken by the acquisition staff. "And the result? The Government was able to buy an even larger requirement than in prior years — for less money."

While appreciating the praise from Headquarters, officials here in the Directorate of Acquisition (AQ) maintain they were just doing their jobs. They also give credit to the Directorate of Facilities Engineering for its help in securing the more favorable contract.

The contract calls for hardware maintenance to be performed on

contracts," he explained.

By law acquisition officials are required to justify sole source contracts. "I felt that the justification, as submitted in previous years, was no longer accurate," LeGrand said. "I would have been embarrassed to submit a similar justification without making an effort to find an alternate source for the contract."

With the agreement and support of the Directorate of Facilities Engineering, AQ did a background study on a firm with similar contracts to determine whether any other firm was capable of performing the contract. Curtis Martin, chief of the Environmental and Utilities Branch, acted as technical representative for the investigation, and the conclusion was reached that competition did in fact exist.

AQ next advertised for the contract. As a result, 13 firms expressed an interest in the contract, but only one firm, the previous sole source contractor, submitted a proposal. At least one firm indicated that they lacked the



## Kretsch Awarded Wild Heerbrugg Fellowship

Cartographer Jeffrey L. Kretsch (DPIT) was presented the 1986 Wild Heerbrugg Photogrammetric Fellowship by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) during its annual convention in Baltimore last month.

The \$4,000 award is given to encourage candidates to pursue a graduate education in photogram-

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Campaign Ends May 21

A. Rosenberg, Director of DMA. All employees are encouraged to attend.

The Director's Award was developed to recognize those individuals who have performed their assigned duties, or special assignment, in a professional manner that merits recognition. It may include individuals who have made significant contributions to Aerospace Center or government sponsored activities in their communities.

The Director's Award will be presented quarterly and yearly to one supervisory and one nonsupervisory employee. The individuals selected to receive the quarterly award will be recognized by an article in the *Orienter*, a photograph displayed in the lobby of Building 36, a certificate of award, a reserved parking space for three months, and a cash award. The individuals selected to receive the yearly award will receive, in addition, a plaque.

DMA Awards will be announced in the May 29 *Orienter*.

## New Career Enhancement Seminars To Be Held as Aid to Employees

The Directorate of Civilian Personnel is developing a one-day program to help employees become familiar with the merit promotion process at the Aerospace Center.

Titled "Career Enhancement Preparation Seminar," the program will be first offered May 26. Another offering will be held June 12 for hearing-impaired employees.

The application process will be discussed, and there will be sessions

mental Control System. The system's central control unit, located in Building 18, monitors heating, ventilation and air conditioning at the Center, as well as the alarm system. Control points are connected to the central control unit via underground fiber optic cable at 2nd Street and via telephone modem at South Annex.

In the past, the contract had been awarded noncompetitively because it had been determined that the contractor was the only firm capable of providing the service, said William M. Nelson, acting director of AQ.

"We could have made that assumption again this year, but we had a hunch that, if we could get somebody else to compete for the contract, we might be able to get prices down."

The "driver" behind AQ's effort to find competition for the contract was the Competition in Contracting Act of 1985, according to contract specialist Jeff LeGrand (AQF). "The Act tightens the guidelines for 'sole source' (noncompetitive)

on self-esteem, stress management and self-presentation, as well as a panel discussion by officials from Civilian Personnel and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office. Future sessions will be planned depending on the response to the first two sessions.

The seminar is open to all employees, with nominations submitted through organizational channels. For information, call employee development specialist Rubbie McPeters (POD) at 4976.

time to gear up for the contract. But the effect of opening up the contract to competition was to reduce the price dramatically, Nelson believes. "It spurred the company that had the contract to do some realistic figuring."

Nelson observed that the cost of providing the hardware maintenance on the Environmental Control System had been \$5,551 a month in 1985 and \$6,220 in 1986. "With the expansion to E-Wing, projections had pointed to a cost approaching \$10,000 a month for 1987. But the actual cost for 1987 is \$4,935 per month.

"The contractor knows now that other firms can also maintain this equipment."

A lot of people were involved in the effort to achieve competition, said LeGrand. Contracting Officer Mike Freer was eager to "get the price down," providing leadership and encouragement in the effort, he said.

Agreed Nelson, "Jeff and Mike decided we should try to get competition, but there were lots of others in AQ and FE involved in setting up the negotiations for it. It was a

Continued on page 2.

## Director's Hotline

The Director's Hotline is available for employees who have questions or suggestions for improvements in all areas. Some suggestions/questions that are received will be printed in the *Orienter*, along with an answer. Call 3-4178 24 hours a day. An answering machine will take your call.

development of photogrammetric science. Kretsch is on leave of absence while he attends Purdue University as a Ph.D. candidate. The Fellowship is sponsored by the Wild Heerbrugg Company.

Graduate student members of ASPRS throughout the U.S. are eligible to compete for the fellowship, which is based on academic record and demonstrated ability in innovative research. Kretsch is concentrating on the use of knowledge-based systems in digital photogrammetry.

In a letter to AC technical Director Paul L. Peeler, Purdue University Professor Dr. Edward M. Mikhail wrote, "Mr. Kretsch has been able to take full advantage of the different aspects of his quality graduate training here by integrating them in an effort to solve current problems of interest to the DMA Aerospace Center."

Kretsch previously attended Purdue under the long-term, full-time training program. He has a B.S. in astronomy from Northwestern University, an M.A. in physics from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and an M.S. in photogrammetry from Purdue. He is a native of Northbrook, Ill.

The ASPRS Western Great Lakes Region also selected Kretsch to receive its Student-of-the-Year Award. He won \$400 and an expense-paid trip to the society's meeting in Racine, Wis., to present his paper called "Application of a Prototype Knowledge-Based System to On-line Photogrammetric Triangulation." Kretsch has been a member of ASPRS since 1979 and has held elective offices in the St. Louis Region as secretary and as a member of the regional board of directors.



## Talking Point

by

**Col. Robert J. Lemon, USAF**  
Director, Aerospace Center

### Savings Bond Campaign

The DMAAC Savings Bond Campaign is underway until May 21, with LTC McGinley, SO, as chairperson.

I would like to add my personal endorsement of Savings Bonds as an investment, not only for yourself, but for the country. Bonds have several advantages over similar investments: adjustable rates, a 6-percent floor, exemption from state and local taxes, federal tax deferral, and free replacement if lost or stolen.

When the Savings Bond representative contacts you, give him a listen. Review the materials and carefully consider how bonds can help you achieve your savings goals. Don't overlook the payroll deduction option; if you never see it, you won't miss it.

### Security

Based on recent press releases, it seems we all need to be reminded of our collective security responsibilities.

First, it is everyone's collective responsibility to take all reasonable measures to safeguard classified information entrusted to us. Yes, there are security regulations, classification guides, double checks, and inspections, but no system, no matter how well conceived or implemented, can work effectively without your personal commitment, to make it work.

We have a dedicated, well-trained, professional security organization at DMAAC, but no security force is large enough to replace your personal involvement. The real assessment of how good a job we as a Center are doing is based on how good a job YOU are doing.

### Visitor

*The director of operations for the Colombian Air Force, Maj. Gen. Alfonso Amaya, checks the detail in a video radar display during his tour of the Aeronautical Information Department April 23. Dalia Marin (left), chief of the Aeronautical Source Acquisition Division (ADL), was the interpreter, as well as a briefer, during the general's visit. In the center is Capt. Fernando Medrano, who accompanied the general, and at right is Gene Sturm, video editor in the Air Facilities Production Division (ADA).*



Photo by Jim Stepanik

## DMA Liaison Officers To Serve U&S Commands

In an effort to enhance DMA's vital support to U.S. operational military forces, full-time liaison officers are being placed at selected Unified and Specified Commands. The purpose of these new positions is to improve communication and cooperation between the Defense Mapping Agency and its most important customers, the men and women serving on the front line of



### In Sympathy

Word has come of the death May 3 of Frank A. Heritz, negative engraver, who retired in August 1978. A veteran of World War II, he was employed at the Aerospace Center for more than 25 years. He leaves his wife Anna. Interment was in Resurrection Cemetery, 7301 Watson Road.

\* \* \* \*

Word has come of the death April 21 of Delbert "Bud" Reiter, retired aeronautical information specialist.

He was a navigator in the Army Air Forces during World War II and went on to complete 20 years in the Air Force. He came to the Aerospace Center in 1967. At the time of his retirement in May 1986, he was an analyst in the Data Reduction Division's Europe and Mideast Branch (ADDE).

He leaves his wife Kitty, two daughters and two sons. Interment was in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery.

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Word has come of the death April 12 of Gregory "Tex" Yokum, insulation contractor for E-Wing and pioneer in cave mapping. He was the subject of a feature article in the Aug. 23, 1985 Orientor.

Mr. Yokum spent most of his weekends over a period of 30 years charting "hundreds" of Missouri caves, many of them previously undiscovered, let alone mapped. He was a founder of the Missouri Speleological Society. Cave mapping methodology and symbolism he helped to develop was among the first of its kind in the



## Checking Blood Pressure a 'Must'

All DMAAC employees are invited to participate in the hypertension screening program by the Medical Care Division during the month of May. Come to the dispensary at 3200 South 2nd St. May 19 or 21 or to the dispensary at 8900 South Broadway May 21 or 26. Hours are 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a silent disease that kills. Approximately 58 million Americans — almost 30 percent of the adult population — have an increased risk of illness and early death due to high blood pressure.

High blood pressure is the major factor underlying the 500,000 strokes and 155,000 stroke deaths occurring annually in the U.S. It is a contributing factor in 1.5 million heart attacks and 567,000 heart-attack deaths each year.

Blood pressure is the force that exerts against the walls of your blood vessels during each heartbeat. The narrower the blood vessels, the harder your heart has to

work to move the same amount of blood to all parts of your body. Narrower arteries mean higher blood pressure. When high blood pressure continues for a long time, the heart and arteries may not function as well as they should, and other body organs may be affected, such as the kidneys.

Anybody can have high blood pressure. It can exist for years without symptoms, and most cases arise for no known reason. Factors that increase your risk are family history of hypertension, aging, and race (Black Americans have it more often than whites).

Other factors involved in high blood pressure are salt and alcohol consumption, cigarette smoking, obesity, and the use of oral contraceptives.

The only way to find out whether you have high blood pressure is to have your blood pressure checked, and there's no better time than during May — National High Blood Pressure Month. Come and see us!

## ...Efforts To Get Competition

Continued from page 1

group effort." Nelson singled out Curtis Martin for "bending over backwards in providing technical assistance" and LeGrand for "being adamant about trying to find another source."

Because of the actions of AC

officials, "the mere threat of competition resulted in DMA receiving the same service, from the same contractor, for a larger system, for less dollars," Labovitz concluded. "Competition puts money back into your pocket to be used elsewhere. Competition does work for you."

This month, DMA Liaison Offices at the Strategic Air Command, Omaha, Neb., and the U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, West Germany, will be open for business. Irvin Buck, formerly of Plans and Requirements at the Hydrographic/Topographic Center, has been named DMA Liaison Officer with HQ SAC and the Joint Strategic Planning Staff. David Hawkins, also from Plans and Requirements at HTC, has been appointed to the HQ EUCOM post.

Both men will report to the Plans and Requirements Directorate at HQ DMA. They will be working closely with their respective commands in the definition and prioritization of requirements and the supply and distribution of DMA products. They will also be involved in the development and fielding of new or modified products and in the coordination of mapping support to advanced weapon systems. Their charter extends to all issues of common concern between DMA, SAC and EUCOM.

Irv Buck and Dave Hawkins bring a wealth of experience to these new positions. Hawkins began his career at the Army Map Service in 1962 as a negative engraver and has worked in progressively demanding positions in photogrammetry and geodesy, as well as on the staffs for programs/production and plans/requirements at both HTC and Headquarters. His contributions to the Agency include management of Pershing II production support and development of standardized Mark 90 product specifications.

Buck joined the DMA Topographic Command in 1974 as a map compiler; he has worked in source preparation and in the production

and management of topo, hydro, aero and digital products. A graduate of the Naval War College, he has held positions on the Air Staff and at Headquarters and HTC(PR). His particular area of expertise is the design of MC&G products for military operations.

Major Gen. Robert A. Rosenberg, DMA Director, has placed great importance on the establishment of these liaison positions, describing them as "DMA's and my own personal representatives to the CINCs." General Rosenberg added, "With the cooperation and support of the entire DMA community, these liaison officers will greatly improve the quality of DMA support to our military forces."

## Secretaries Study Upward Mobility

A total of 118 secretaries at the Aerospace Center learned about the Underutilization and Upward Mobility programs during special sessions scheduled during National Secretaries Week.

Employee development specialist Lillian Schoellhorn (POD) presented the talks, which were sponsored by the Equal Employment Opportunity Office. Sessions were held over a three-day period.

Guest speakers were employees who had advanced their careers through one or both of the programs: aeronautical information specialist Eileen Connelly, cartographer Joy Foster, electronic technician Shelley Maher, lithographic specialist Pat Nowicki, and cartographer Locha Scott.

Federal Women's Program manager Hazel McEwen was coordinator for the event, as well as for a Secretaries Week display by

other national organizations. In a White House ceremony in 1985, Mr. Yokum and the current president of the Missouri Speleological Society accepted from President Ronald Reagan a President's Volunteer Action Award. The society, honored for its contributions as a group of volunteers, was the first organization to receive the award from Missouri.

Mr. Yokum leaves three sons and their families.

\* \* \* \*

The obituary of Edward G. Nowalk in the April 17 *Orienter* was accompanied by a photo of Edward J. Nowak, not the late Mr. Nowalk. The editor regrets the error.

visual information specialist Jane Wilkinson. The exhibit, on display at both 2nd Street and South Annex, showed "the hands of secretaries doing the things that secretaries do," McEwen explained. Photos were by the base photographer, Jim Stepanik.

## Military Departures

Major James O. Black left April 30 on a permanent change of assignment to Scott AFB, Ill.

Major John W. Dix is scheduled to depart May 29 on a permanent change of station to the U.S. Southern Command, Quarry Heights, Panama.

\* \* \* \*

## Military Promotion

First Lt. Bruce Bishop is scheduled for promotion to captain May 17.

# Federal Employees Retirement System

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the second of a four-part series on the new Federal Employees Retirement System. It deals with basic benefit plan. The first part dealt with Social Security benefits. The third part will deal with the savings plan and the final part with enrolling in the system. FERS automatically covers employees hired after Dec. 31, 1983. Others can transfer to the new system or remain under the Civil Service Retirement System.

Under FERS, you pay full Social Security taxes and a small contribution to the basic benefit plan. In addition, you can make tax-deferred contributions to a savings plan and a portion—up to 5 percent of your salary—will be matched by the government.

## By the American Forces Information Service

**Eligibility.** Under the Federal Employees Retirement System, you are eligible to receive retirement benefits from the basic benefit plan if you have at least five years of creditable civilian service. This is service for which retirement contributions have been made/deposited.

You are eligible to receive survivor and disability benefits after 18 months of service under FERS.

Creditable service also includes military service, subject to a deposit requirement. To receive credit for post-1956 military service, you must deposit 3 percent of your military base pay if you

*Your contribution to the basic benefit plan is the difference between 7 percent of your basic pay and the current Social Security old-age, survivors and disability tax rate.*

**Retirement options.** There are three categories of retirement benefits in the basic benefit plan: (1) immediate, (2) early, and (3) deferred.

In some cases you must have reached the minimum retirement age to receive retirement benefits. The following table shows the minimum retirement age for different birth years:

Birth Year	Minimum Age For Retirement
Before 1948	55
1948	55 + 2 months
1949	55 + 4 months
1950	55 + 6 months
1951	55 + 8 months
1952	55 + 10 months
1953-1964	56
1965	56 + 2 months
1966	56 + 4 months
1967	56 + 6 months
1968	56 + 8 months
1969	56 + 10 months
After 1969	57

If you meet one of the following sets of age and service requirements, you are entitled to an immediate retirement benefit.

Age	Years of Service
62	5
60	10

major reorganization or reduction in force. To be eligible, you must be age 50 or older and have at least 25 years of service. There is no reduction for being under 62 years of age in this case.

If you leave federal service, you may be eligible for deferred retirement benefits; that is, you may defer your retirement benefits until a later time, when you meet a combination of age and service requirements. To be eligible, you must have completed at least five years of creditable civilian service. You may receive benefits at one of the following ages:

Age	Years of Service
62	5
60	20
Minimum retirement age	30
Minimum retirement age	10*

\*Reduced benefit

\* \* \* \*

**How Your Benefit Is Calculated.** Your basic benefit is based on your "high-three average pay," which is figured by averaging your highest basic pay over any three consecutive years of creditable service.

If you are eligible for immediate retirement before age 62, your



"Career Management" is the subject of the briefing by Asa Washington (standing), DMA Logistics officer. Among those attending are, from left, Lt. Col. Joseph R. Szwarc, AC director of Logistics; Col. Stephen F. Burrell, AC deputy director, and officials of the Directorate of Logistics and Graphic Arts Department.

## Career Guide Briefings Begin

DMA Logistics Officer Asa Washington briefed officials in the Directorate of Logistics and Graphic Arts Department on the content of the career management program guides for the fields of logistics and supply management.

The briefing was the first to be received at the Center on the job-specialty career guides, which are being published by DMA to

enhance career development for civilian personnel.

As the new career guides are distributed throughout the Agency, career briefing sessions are being held for employees to explain the new career development program and how to use the career guides in developing individual career plans.

At the Aerospace Center, Lillian Schoellhorn (POD) is the Career Management Program coordinator.

you transfer to FERS with less than five years under the Civil Service Retirement System.

If you transfer to FERS with five years of service or more under the Civil Service Retirement System, you must deposit 7 percent of your military base pay if you wish to receive credit for post-1956 military service.

Creditable service does not include:

- Military service if you are receiving military retired pay, although there are limited exceptions;
- Leaves of absence for performing military service or while receiving workers' compensation;
- Unused sick leave — it is not converted into creditable service for any purpose, with the limited exception of Civil Service Retirement System employees who transfer to the new system;
- Civilian service after 1988 if no retirement contributions are withheld.

\* \* \* \*

**Contributions.** Your contribution to the basic benefit plan is the difference between 7 percent of your basic pay and the current Social Security old-age, survivors and disability tax rate. In practical terms, that will come to 1.3 percent of salary in 1987, 0.94 percent in 1988-89, and 0.8 percent after 1989.

You may withdraw your FERS contributions if you leave federal employment. However, if you do, you will not be eligible to receive benefits based on service covered by the refund. Nor can you redeposit contributions that have been refunded.

\* \* \* \*

Minimum Retirement Age ... 50  
Minimum Retirement Age ... 10\*

NOTE: Reduced benefit means that if you retire at the minimum retirement age with at least 10, but less than 30, years of service, your benefit will be reduced 5 percent a year for each year you are under age 62. The exception: when you have 20 years of service and your annuity begins at age 60 or later.

The early retirement benefit is available in certain involuntary separation cases and in cases of voluntary separations during a

by multiplying your years of creditable service by 1 percent of your high-three average pay. If you retire at age 62 or later with at least 20 years of service, a factor of 1.1 percent is used rather than 1 percent.

Remember, the total could be reduced if you elect to retire at the minimum retirement age before completing 30 years of service.

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Continued on page 4.



Members of ADAA, pictured with AC Deputy Director Col. Stephen F. Burrell (standing, right) and Lt. Col. Russel A. Nogouchi (standing, left), chief of the Aeronautical Information Department Quality Assurance Office (ADQ), are, seated from left, Patrick McEnaney, John Killecullen, Richard Jackson, Joan Hunter and Andrew Foster. Standing, from left: Joseph Purk, Lewis Phillips and Cecil Cutler. Branch Chief John Crawford is absent.

## Efforts of ADAA Members Cited

Members of the Air Facilities Production Division Quality Assurance Branch (ADAA) were honored for enhancing the quality of Flight Information Publications produced in-house. In doing so, they "overcame numerous production demands, problems and challenges," officials said. "They are to

be commended for this example of motivation and professionalism."

To encourage greater awareness of Quality Assurance, the Aeronautical Information Department has launched a "Quality Assurance Campaign." The theme for the campaign is "Think Quality."

## Science Fair Awards

The St. Louis Section of the American Society For Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) presented cash awards of \$50 each to two students who entered the regional science fair sponsored by the Monsanto Co. and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

All entries that had relevance and impact in the area of photogrammetry and remote sensing were considered by the judges, Gary Kirwin, Bobbi Lenczowski and Bob Meinhardt. "It took us two and a half hours to complete the judging," said Kirwin.

The winners were Maria Chen of Westminster Christian Academy, 10900 Ladue Rd., for "Poissan's Dot" and Hoa Le of the Academy of Math and Science, 4275 Clarence Ave., for "The Effects of Various Types of Lenses on Light."

## More Open Parking

More parking will be available for single-occupant cars beginning Monday.

The Facility Security Division has announced that the part of C-Lot west of Building 18 and D-Lot will be available for single-occupant cars. D-Lot is next to 2nd Street between the gates. The part of C-Lot south of Building 18 will remain a car-pool lot.

The change will be in effect for one month as a test. Motorcycle operators and persons who have reserved spaces in this area must use the main gate.

## Council Presents Six Flags Day and Picnic

Saturday, June 13  
10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

YOUR DAY INCLUDES:

- A full-day admission price to Six Flags
- All-you-can-eat fried chicken and bar-b-que beef meal
- Meal to be served at 2 P.M. in the brand new Six Flags Reserved Picnic Area located within the park
- Free parking pass (\$3 value)

All this for only  
**\$10.00**  
(A \$25 value)

See your CWC representative for tickets.





## Bowling

### At Shrewsbury Lanes

The 1986-87 champions of the Arsenal Mixed Doubles League are the Handicaps. Congratulations to the winning team members: Rita and Joe Chalupny, Gwen Jones and Frank Holba.

The Long Shots were second in the standings, followed by the Newcomers, Hot Shots and 1st Street Alley Cats.

Completing the standings, in descending order, were Balls and Bags, the Roller Coasters, Gutterbusters, Hardliners, Blazers, Gutterly Ridiculous, Two+ Two, the Hitters, and We Four.

In the sweepstakes, the best single games, with handicap, for women were Anne Konecnik (267), Barb Fank (253) and Arline Anderson (237). Best series, for women: Barb Speiser (680), Dorothy Kelley (657) and Karen Rone (616).

For men, the best single games, with handicap, were Ray Hric (256), Frank Holba (249) and Dale Crittenden (234). Best series, for men, were Bob Preston (665), Earl Stephens (655) and Ed Fank (646).

Hope to see all the bowlers back next season

—Ginny Woehrle

\* \* \* \*

### At DuBowl Lanes

In a battle that came down to the last game, the Ducks hung on, defeating The Right Stuff, to win the championship of the DMAAC Mixed Trio League.

Individual awards for women were: highest average — Debra Ehrlich (185), highest series — Betty Townsend (567), highest game — Ginny Kraemer (221), and

*When your last  
Day is past  
From afar  
Some bright star  
O'er your grave  
Watch will keep  
While you sleep  
With the brave.*



**Memorial Day—May 25**

## Military Fitness Center Is Open in Building 25

The Military Fitness Center in the basement of Building 25 is now open. Although the center was installed to aid military personnel in meeting their service physical fitness standards, it is open to civilian employees on a space-available basis.

"Before using the center, be sure to read the instruction book, which is provided with the equipment," said Maj. John Dix, who was in charge of purchasing the equipment. "And be careful!"

The equipment includes an

exercise and weight-lifting machine equipped with an abdominal board, bench press, and thigh-knee exercise station. There are also three exercise bicycles and a ballet bar.

Locker room and shower facilities are also available for men and for women.

"The new equipment didn't get in there around Colonel Lemon; it got in there because of him," Major Dix commented. "He's the reason it's there because he wants to improve the quality of the work environment for AC employees."

## The Heat Is On in Power League

The 1987 competitive league

Homers powered the Panthers

# Federal Employees Retirement System

Continued from page 3

**Survivor Benefits.** The basic benefit plan provides benefits for survivors of federal employees and retirees.

For a spouse, a retiree's annuity is automatically reduced 10 percent to provide spouse survivor benefits, unless those benefits are jointly waived in writing by the retiree and the spouse before retirement. If survivor benefits are not waived, the surviving spouse receives an annuity of 50 percent of the retiree's unreduced benefit plus a special supplementary annuity payable until age 60 if the surviving spouse will not be eligible for Social Security survivor benefits until age 60.

A former spouse may receive survivor benefits as provided in a retiree election or a qualifying court order.

If you die while you are an active employee, are married and have worked for the federal government for 18 months, your surviving spouse receives a lump-sum payment equaling \$15,000 (indexed to the cost-of-living adjustment for annuitants) plus one-half your annual pay rate at death or one-half your high-three average pay, whichever is higher.

If you had 10 years of service, your spouse also receives an annuity equaling 50 percent of your accrued basic retirement benefit.

These benefits are paid in addition to any Social Security, group life insurance or savings plan survivor benefits.

or injury. However, you will not be considered disabled if you decline your agency's offer of a position that accommodates your disability and is at the same grade or pay level and is within your commuting area.

You may also qualify for Social Security disability benefits if you are unable to work in any substantial, gainful activity.

Your benefits in the first year will amount to 60 percent of your high-three average pay minus any Social Security disability benefits to which you are entitled. After the first year and until age 62, if your disability prevents you from performing your job and you do not qualify for Social Security disability benefits, your benefit will be 40 percent of your high-three average pay.

If you qualify for Social Security benefits, your disability benefit will be reduced by 60 percent of the initial Social Security benefit to which you are entitled. The resulting total benefit will be equal to at least 40 percent of your high-three average pay plus 40 percent of your Social Security disability benefits.

If you are a disability retiree and your total income from work in a calendar year exceeds 80 percent of the current pay level of your former job, the disability benefits will be discontinued. In addition, you may be required to prove periodically that you have not recovered from your disability.

**Cost-of-living Adjustments.** As

(+14) and Kelly Stohl (+14).

The WIBC High Series Award went to Debra Ehrlich (625).

Individual awards for men were: highest average — Tom CorCoran (199), highest series — Todd Anderson (733), highest game — Marion Moehrle (258) and most improved — Tim Peplaw (+13).

After the Ducks, the King Pins were second in the final standings for the second half. They were followed by the Pin Heads, Bears and Rollades, to complete the top five.

Rounding out the standings, in order, were the Duck Hunters, followed by Right Pin-Wrong Lane, Weebles, Pin Busters, Road Apples, Misfits, Gators Again, and The Right Stuff.

Congratulations to the Ducks and all the individual award winners. Thanks to the entire league for a great season. See you all in September!

—Nancy Bender

## Mower Blades: Fast and Dangerous

Rotary-type power lawn mowers have blades that revolve at speeds of 1,800-3,000 revolutions per minute. This means the cutting edge of 20-inch blade is traveling at speeds of 100 to 180 miles per hour. Imagine what could happen if a person was struck by a steel blade traveling that fast or by a stone or piece of wire thrown by the blade.

All persons who operate power lawn mowers should be familiar with equipment and read the manufacturer's instructions, the Health and Safety Office advises.

teams are competing for two playoff spots in the closed industrial Amateur Softball Association city championship in August.

Last year's league and industrial city champions, the Scorpions, opened their season with a 10-10 tie versus the Dust Devils (Dirt Divers in 1986). Trailing 9-7 in the seventh, with two out, the Scorpions scored three to go ahead. The Dust Devils scored one in their half on a triple down the rightfield line by Kurt Schulz to tie. Another inning was played without score.

Last year's DMAAC tournament champion and city runner-up, OT Hodges (Warriors), eased by Raleigh Hills Swim Team 8-7 in nine innings on Brian Ronning's game-winning RBI. OTH's Vic Woellner and Steve Pruett combined for six hits with Pruett also tripling. Pat Lynch supplied the offense for RHST, going 3 for 4 with a triple.

Be sure that the area to be mowed has been policed of all stones, cans, wires or any debris prior to mowing. If the terrain is rough, set the blade high to prevent it from striking the ground. Keep children and pets away from mowers at all times.

When mowing, use the slowest speed possible, consistent with good work. Mow across steep slopes, never up and down. Wear hard-toe safety shoes.

Always disconnect the spark plug wire before working on the mower or when you are not using it.

next game. Danny Tate's artist slam, along with Larry Hudson's three-run shot, provided most of the offense, as the Panthers rode the arm of big number 10 (George Truss) to victory.

The Lopes edged the Mustangs 9-5 behind the pitching of Rick Norgaard, with offense supplied by Mark Duncan and George Johannigmeier, who had three hits apiece.

—Tom Dufford

## Wonies Start Lousy

The odds-on favorite to top the rec league this year would be the Wonies because of their quality playing and uniforms. However, they started off on the lousy side getting swatted by the Disorientors 18-4.

The Disorientors did the job with help from Rick Lewandowski on the mound, a home run from Don Marohl, a triple from Mike "No Stripes" Doss, and good defense from Craig Brown at first. After the game, the Disorientors dispersed in different directions, getting into wrong cars, and drove to unfamiliar surroundings.

The only other reported game was the Zeroids win over the G.A. Bluecollars 11-2. Give Bill Small credit, though we're not sure for what. Kyle Rhodes pitched three and two-thirds innings until getting promptly bopped in the eye by an infield pop-up. That guy Les came in relief to gain his first save after switching to short relief artist from last year's starting rotation. Tim "The Blodge" Blodgett had a couple of key hits in his preppy outfit, while all the other Zeroids, dressed in purple, watched on. Eveyln returns this week.

—Les Wielgos

months of civilian service and die while you are an active employee or if you have retired. This benefit is payable to each unmarried child:

- up to age 18 if unmarried;
- up to age 22 if unmarried and a full-time student;
- at any age if the child became disabled before age 18.

The amount of the benefit depends on the number of children and whether the children are orphaned. In 1987, the surviving child benefit is approximately \$2,884 per child for each of three children; \$3,502 if orphaned. This is reduced dollar-for-dollar by any Social Security children's benefits that may be payable.

**Disability Benefits.** To qualify for disability benefits, you must be disabled and have at least 18 months of creditable civilian service.

You are considered disabled under FERS if you are unable to perform useful and efficient service in your position because of disease

of-living adjustment if you are age 62 or older.

Survivors and disability retirees receive a cost-of-living adjustment regardless of their ages.

The amount of the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increase is based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI):

Increase In CPI	Annual COLA Percentage
Up to 2 percent	Same as CPI
2-3 percent	2 percent
3 percent or more	Increase in CPI minus 1 percent

\* \* \* \*

**Forms of Payment.** FERS basic benefits are generally paid in the form of an annuity. Non-disabled retirees may withdraw their own contributions in a lump sum and receive a reduced annuity.

\* \* \* \*

NEXT: The FERS Savings Plan.

## Orienteer

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