

# Redstone Rocket

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## Forces for freedom



Pilot Capt. 'Shaq' flies over Iraq  
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## Eyes on Pentagon



Broadcast engineer recalls Sept. 11  
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## Win or lose



59th rises again in tournament  
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## General asks for workers' patience

More reorganization expected during 2003

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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2002 was a year of change which had a positive impact on how this command supports soldiers, according to Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen.

"I think our workers became much more attuned to what happens at the tip of the spear at the units – the aviation units, the field artillery units," Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said. He saw this as a result of the good will and patriotism after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

"In the past I'd call people in and we were just beginning to address the issue. And I call people in now and they already have the issue solved," he said. "And I'm pretty proud of that."

Last year there were reorganizations throughout AMCOM and Redstone, including creation of the Research and Development Command and formation of the Garrison. "At one time or another, every piece of AMCOM and almost every piece of Redstone has been the focus of some kind of relook," Dodgen said. "That puts a tremendous amount of turbulence on the work force."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**IN OFFICE FOR NEW YEAR**— Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal, arrived in September 2001. In his first mostly civilian organization, he says he's been impressed with the workers' dedication.

And the changes continue into 2003. "To the work force, I would just say be patient," Dodgen said. "As we work through these reorganizations, what's fore-

most in the mind of AMCOM leadership is mission and taking care of the men and

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## Research Command wants quick turnaround for technology



Harold Garner/Photo Lab

**FORMING CONCEPT**— Maj. Gen. John Doesburg directs a task force establishing the Research Development and Engineering Command by October.

Getting equipment to soldiers the goal for new organization

By AL SCHWARTZ  
Public Affairs chief

Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, commander of the Soldier & Biological Chemical Command, leads a transition team that will create a Research Development and Engineering Command as a major subordinate of the Army Materiel Command.

The intent is to bring together in a single organization the Army Research Laboratory, parts of the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command, the Materiel Systems Analysis Activity and each of the AMC research development and engineering centers. Planning began in December 2001; and the command is to become fully operational Oct. 1.

Doesburg was interviewed by the *Redstone Rocket* before he spoke in Huntsville with Army contractors and employees about the new command.

**Q: What is the objective of the RDE Command?**

A: "The objective can be put in one sentence... put technology in the hands of soldiers quicker. As we move into the future, the

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# Helicopter crews getting approved personal life support equipment

## Product office members finish operational test

Members of the Air Warrior Product Office have successfully completed operational testing of the Air Warrior system. The Air Warrior system is an integrated, modular ensemble of personal life support equipment designed for helicopter aircrews.

Over six months, Army aviators and aircrews from Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Wainwright, Alaska, executed the four operational test phases in the UH-60 Black Hawk, the OH-58D Kiowa, the CH-47D Chinook, and the AH-64D Apache helicopters. The Air Warrior test team monitored approximately 83 test

subjects as they completed 177 day, night and simulator flights totaling more than 469 flights hours.

Testing evaluated the Air Warrior system not only during day and night combat mission flights, but evaluated the system from the perspective of cockpit effectiveness, maintenance operations, effects upon ingress and emergency egress and the aircrew's ability to conduct survival and evasion tasks.

The Air Warrior Product Office is one of two product offices under the command of Col. Ted Johnson, project manager for Soldier Warrior, and Col. James Moran, Program Executive Office, Soldier. Both the program executive office and Project Office Soldier Warrior are located at Fort Belvoir, Va.



Courtesy photo

**AIR WARRIOR TEAM**— Members of the Air Warrior Test Team include, front row from left, Bill Grubbs, Cathy Farless, Linda Smith, Lud Newton and John Jolly; and back row, Sgt. Derrick Davis, Don Harp, John Heywood, Tim Jones, Clayton Pitts, Lt. Col. Tom Bryant (product manager), Jim Payne and Perry Smith. Not pictured are Maj. James Delaney (APM for Air Warrior), Betsy Dart, Richard Luechtefeld and Mark Murray.

# Pakistani border guard wounds U.S. soldier

By JIM GARAMONE  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A Pakistani border guard shot and wounded a U.S. soldier Dec. 29 during an incident on the Afghan border with Pakistan, Joint Task Force-180 officials said.

The soldier received a grazing wound to the back of the head. He was evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany and is listed as stable.

The incident occurred near Shkin. U.S. soldiers were observing Pakistani border guards destroy inert missiles found in the area. The border in the region is in dispute, but U.S. officials said the American soldiers were within Afghanistan.

Officials said one of the border guards approached the U.S. patrol. The American soldiers asked him to go back to his side of the boundary. As he walked back, the

border guard turned, dropped to one knee, and fired on the Americans. The U.S. soldier was wounded at this time. American officials said the other Pakistani border guards in the area helped the U.S. forces.

The border guard ran into a nearby abandoned madrassa, or local religious school. He was the only person observed entering the structure, but U.S. soldiers said they took more fire from the building and called in close-air support. An AV-8B dropped a 500-pound precision guided bomb on the building. The structure is inside the recognized borders of Afghanistan.

Officials said the border guard is in Pakistani custody.

American officials said U.S. and Pakistani troops continue to work closely together to patrol the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## 2002 brought technical improvements for war on terrorism

### Reorganization

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women that have done the job for so many years here at AMCOM."

Construction projects begun last year included the Von Braun Complex, the first of several segments to move the Space and Missile Defense Command and the rest of the local defense work force onto the Arsenal from leased buildings off post. Officials see this as a way to enhance force protection. Other projects started in 2002 included a new military dining facility and an expanded training facility for bomb technicians. The first of 118 new housing units opened for military families. A car wash is opening on post.

"And then there's a lot of construction being planned for the out years," Dodgen said. "So I think the quality of life is getting better on Redstone Arsenal."

Other accomplishments in 2002 included opening the Prototype Integration Facility, a record year in contracting by the Acquisition Center, another big year for foreign military sales by the Security Assistance Management Directorate, aviation engineering efforts by the Research Development and Engineering Center, and Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment strides by soldiers in the field. Spec. Justin Brown, a 95th Maintenance Company (TMDE) soldier stationed in Germany, was named the Department of Army's first soldier of the year.

"I think maintaining the readiness of our weapon systems in an environment of

funding shortfalls" was a major accomplishment last year, Dodgen said. "It took a lot of diligent planning."

There were also technical improvements for the war on terrorism, including mounting Hellfire on unmanned aerial vehicles.

"It's just been a year of superlative mission accomplishment, at the same time we've actually shrunk the work force. And that's a major accomplishment," Dodgen said.

Some initiatives begun last year will come to fruition in 2003. AMCOM will take over aviation maintenance at Fort Rucker, home of 35 percent of the Army's flight hours, on Feb. 1. RDEC engineers will continue their work in aviation technology. Work will continue on the rotorcraft technology agreement signed last year with the University of Alabama-Huntsville. And Dodgen sees more Aviation Corridor efforts this year.

"So the Rocket City is going to become the Rocket and Aviation City," he said.

As a new year begins, the commanding general expressed his best wishes to the work force and their families during the holiday season.

"I want to thank them for just being good workers," Dodgen said. "I think they have done their job diligently. I think they're in here to get the job done efficiently and not just punch a clock. I appreciate their patience in reorganizations. And I think they're a great work force. I'm always impressed with their dedication to their job."

"Tell them to enjoy the end of the year (2002) because they earned it."

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